



6th Sept 2024

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent BR8 8NR Tel: 01322 669721

Email: office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk Website: www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Message from Mr Kilbride

Today's newsletter is full of information and reminders needed at the start of the year so I shall say very little this week – leaving you time to digest all that you need to.

It has been a really positive start to the year. Children have settled into new classes very well and it has been lovely to welcome our new Reception children as well as a few other new children into other year groups this September.

We look forward to a fun-filled year of great learning ahead!

Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents to the following class assemblies taking place this term – all start at 10.10 unless stated:

Year 5 – Thursday 10th October

Year 4 – Thursday 17th October

Year 6 – Thursday 24th October

You are also invited to join us for the following assemblies for parents of children in all classes:

Harvest Festival – Wednesday 25th September



Meet the Teacher

We look forward to welcoming you all into class next week to find out more about routines for the year ahead. If you cannot attend, all presentation materials shared will be posted on the website by the end of next week.

Monday 9th – 9am-9.30am – Year 5

Monday 9th – 2.30pm-3pm – Year 6

Tuesday 10th – 9am-9.30am – Year 3

Tuesday 10th – 2.30pm-3pm – Year 4

Wednesday 11th – 9am-9.30am – Year 1

Wednesday 11th – 2.30pm-3pm – Year 2

Register Rabbit

Congratulations to this week's Key Stage winners of Register Rabbit for their excellent attendance:

Year 1 100%

Year 5 97.6%



In our classes this week

Reception – had a fantastic first day at school!

Year 1 – learned about portraits and had a go at drawing their own.

Year 2 – wrote postcards from the seaside.

Year 3 – acted out parts from their book "Stone Age Boy".

Year 4 – created their own "pop art".

Year 5 – learned about place value of numbers to 100,000.

Year 6 – started their topic about World War 2.



No dogs

No dogs, please!

Tilly has been trained specifically to be in school, and we are insured for her to be here, but this is not the case for any other dogs. Please could we therefore remind you that dogs (other than Tilly or disability support dogs) are not to be brought onto the school site – even if they are being carried! This includes Breakfast Club and After School Club drop-offs and collections. If you are waiting with your dog outside school can we please ask that you keep them under control and clear of the school gate.

Thank you for your support.



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Special Mentions

Well done to all of our children whose effort and achievement this week received a Special Mention and certificate from their teacher in assembly today:



- George P – great vocabulary describing portraits in art.
- Reyansh R – great facts about the portrait of the Mona Lisa.
- Leo W – for a good description of the life of Queen Victoria.
- Charlotte G – for a good description of the life of Queen Victoria.
- Joshua C – a fantastic start to Year 3: always listening, following instructions and completing his work brilliantly.
- Robert L – a great start to Year 3 and for his super diary planning.
- Morgan J – for working super well and independently this week; a great start to the year.
- Ruby A – settling into Year 4 so brilliantly; taking part in whole class discussions, participating fully and making new friends.
- Lily G – beginning the year with a positive attitude and drive to do well.
- Rakshanaa S – beginning the year with a positive attitude and drive to do well.
- Connie R – for her writing about how and why WW2 began. Great recall of events.
- Fraser Dow – for his great enthusiasm and contribution to lessons.

Year 6 Captains and Monitors

Congratulations to all our Year 6 children who were chosen to be this year's House Captains and Sports Captains:

	BEECH	CHESTNUT	OAK	ASH
House Captains	Olivia Samuel	Grace Sid	Beatrice Kenneth	Isabella Fraser
Sports Captains	Connie Ethan	Honey Harry	Holly Daisy	Freya Albert

Our other Year 6 children also hold special responsibilities –

Fruit – Alfie & Bella

Milk – Michael & Lily

Assembly – Bethanie, Laquisha, Hasmin, Jacob & Karina

Laptop – Harrison & Poppy



House Captains



Sports Captains



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School Council

Congratulations to all our children who were nominated by their class to be their School Council representatives:

- Year 1 – George/Isla
- Year 2 - Bella/Leo
- Year 3 – Sofia/Lenny
- Year 4 – Emily/Ellis
- Year 5 – Tunde/Smilte
- Year 6 – Agnish/Alyah



You can now find us at:
50 High Street, Swanley BR8 8PP



We also have new opening hours:
Tuesdays 10.30am – 3pm
Fridays 10.30am – 3pm

Please get in touch if you need help or
know someone that does.
07798 872 573

info@swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk
www.swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

If anyone would like a chair similar to this one, we have 9 going spare – please contact the school office if you are interested.



We have a huge amount of unnamed/unclaimed lost property in school at the moment. On the first available dry afternoons next week, we will lay out the school uniform to give away.



Water Bottles

Please can we remind parents that we do ask that the children only bring water bottles to school that are of the type shown – these can be purchased directly from school or other retailers online. We are frequently experiencing that other bottles are much more fragile and are often breaking; the ones with “rounder bottoms” are particularly less stable in a classroom environment and are very prone to falling over, causing breakages as well as lots of disruption to lessons when they bang loudly against the table! Thank you for your support.



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Health & Safety

Please may we remind you that:

- We ask parents and children to park and to walk around the local area with consideration for both our neighbours and other families. Please do not block our neighbours' drives when parking or stop on the yellow / zig zag lines.
- The school car park is for staff and visitors' use only at **all** times of the day (including during Breakfast Club and After School Club); please do not park or drop off in the school's car park.
- All children, including younger siblings, should be closely supervised when on the school site after school and at events. Please do not allow your children to play on any of our outdoor equipment, go to other areas of the playground or on our field.
- Children in Reception to Yr4 may only be collected by an adult (ie someone over 18).

School Office

Please remember that letters can be handed in via your child and do not need to be brought directly to the school office.

Similarly, your child's contact book or class email can also be used to request appointments with staff or passing on of other general information, rather than this going via the office. Thank you.



Class emails

Class emails are available for you to use to contact your child's teacher. These are monitored regularly but please bear in mind that our teachers have a full-day teaching commitment and so they may not be checked at set times or seen before school each day so the contact book is a better method of communication if your message is time-restricted. Due to safeguarding measures emails should only be sent from a parent's email address rather than the child's own if they have one. Our class email addresses are:

Reception – reception@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 1 – yearone@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 2 – yeartwo@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 3 – yearthree@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 4 – yearfour@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 5 – yearfive@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 6 – yearsix@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Please continue to use the office email office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk for any admin queries.

School Volunteers needed!

We welcome parents and adults from the local community to undertake a variety of roles in supporting the school & our children.

Could you help in school by –

- hearing children read?
- playing games with small groups?
- sharing a skill – gardening / sewing / painting / cooking / music?
- talking about or share your job or hobby?
- looking after the books in our school library?
- tidying our outdoor environment?
- helping at or running a lunchtime or after-school club?
- offering specialist skills – welding, plumbing especially helpful!
- anything else?

It would be great to hear from any parents, grandparents or family friends who would like to come and share their skills with the children in school. It doesn't matter how often or for how long – once a week, once a month or even just once. Please note that the school is required to undertake and receive a satisfactory DBS (Police) check on all adult volunteers undertaking voluntary work with the children in school. All volunteers will also receive and need to agree to the School's "Volunteers in School" policy, including safeguarding requirements.

If you can help then please complete the form at <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/helping> and we will be in touch soon.



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Uniform

Thank you to all those families who ensure that their children attend school in the correct uniform; it has been lovely to see all the children coming back to school so neat and tidy. Please may we remind you of the following requirements for uniform:

Smart black or grey trousers – long or short (not sports shorts or tracksuit bottoms)

Grey skirt/tunic *to the knee*

Summer dresses in yellow or yellow & white in simple style.

Gold sweatshirt/polo shirt

Gold cardigan

Black, grey or white **school style** socks or black/grey tights (plain)

Footwear

All children should wear black or grey sensible, flat-heeled shoes/sandals that are secure to the foot. Open-toed shoes are not appropriate. Trainers or sports shoes are not suitable for school day wear and are not part of the school uniform.

Jewellery

Jewellery may not be worn at school. If your child has pierced ears, small stud earrings may be worn at your own risk. However, on PE days, we ask that earrings are not worn. Children may wear watches to school, however, 'smart' watches that can send and receive text messages and can take photographs are not permitted. Please discuss with the school if there is any jewellery you would like your child to wear regarding religious observance.

Hair

Hair that is long enough should be securely tied back during the school day. Hair bands and over-bands should be plain 'school type' bands in yellow or black, without decoration.

PE Kit

House coloured round-neck t-shirt *no logos*

Black shorts *no logos*

Dark coloured tracksuit bottoms *no logos*

Plimsolls – (KS1 & KS2)

Trainers (for outdoor PE use in KS2 only)

Bags

Bags are part of our uniform and therefore only school-issued bags should be used throughout KS1 and KS2.

Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child's name.



Important Health Information – PLEASE REMEMBER!

We are a **NUT FREE** school – this is **ALL TYPES OF NUTS**. Please can we therefore ask for the support of all our school families in ensuring that none of our children or visitors bring any nuts or nut-based products (eg: Nutella spread / Snickers / peanut butter / nutty cereal bars etc) into school. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping to ensure the safety & wellbeing of those members of our school community for whom these products pose a serious risk.

NUT FREE



THANK YOU
for keeping our school safe!

Our Family Support Worker

Hello! My name is Mrs Kumah – many of you may already know me from my work at High Firs as a Midday Supervisor or offering support to our children and their families. My own children were also at High Firs a few years ago! I am here to support parents and children with any issues which are causing worry or difficulties either at home or at school. This could be concerning housing, finance, any challenging behaviour from your children or significant changes which may have taken place in your family, or other factors which are affecting you or your child. I would be happy to meet or to talk to you on the phone and see if I can help in any way so please do get in touch if I can help; I will be available on the school gate each morning if you want to chat to me then or please contact me via the school office.



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Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

Notice of Annual General Meeting

to be held on **Wednesday 25th September at 7.30pm at school**

All parents/guardians and staff are very welcome to attend – please come along!

I hereby give notice of the AGM of the Friends of High Firs Primary School to be held on Wednesday 25th September at 7.30pm.

Agenda:

- Annual Report
- Accounts
- Election of committee members –
(... would you like to join us?)
- Appointments
- Future planning for 2024-2025
- Any Other Business



INSET DAYS - 2025

6th January
30th June
21st July
22nd July

Coming up next week...

No after school activity clubs (start w/b 16th September)

Monday 9th September

Reception stay for lunch - collection at 1.30pm
9.00am - 9.30am - Year 5 Meet The Teacher
2.30pm - 3.00pm - Year 6 Meet The Teacher

Tuesday 10th September

Reception first full day in school
9.00am - 9.30am - Year 3 Meet The Teacher
2.30pm - 3.00pm - Year 4 Meet The Teacher

Wednesday 11th September

9.00am - 9.30am - Year 1 Meet The Teacher
2.30pm - 3.00pm - Year 2 Meet The Teacher



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Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

President: Mr A Kilbride
Chairman: Sam Officer
Deputy Chair: Sam Taylor
Secretary: Rachel Lee
Treasurer: Theresa Kelleher
Safety Officer: Mark Barnes
Other trustees: Jo Roper
Sarah Simmonds
Laura Mauldon



Court Crescent
Swanley
Kent
BR8 8NR

THE ORCHARD WEST THEATRE DARTFORD 2024/25 CHRISTMAS PANTOMINE Sleeping Beauty

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Christmas is getting closer, and once again we are offering you the opportunity to treat the family to a great Christmas production at a discounted school rate. The Friends have obtained a reservation on a block of tickets for **Thursday 2nd January 2025 at 5 p.m. at The Orchard West Theatre.**

With our discount the cost to you will be £17 per person, ice cream no longer included in the price.

Please note it has been confirmed that the show will be at the new Orchard West Theatre.

As before, all children need to be accompanied by their parent(s) or equivalent and families need to make their own travel arrangements to and from the theatre.

If you wish to purchase tickets for this event, please complete the order form below enclosing full payment for each ticket required. Please make any cheques payable to "Friends of High Firs".

Please complete the slip and return it to the school in an envelope clearly marked "Friends Panto" by **Friday 20th September 2024**, enclosing your payment to secure seats.

Tickets are non-refundable and non-returnable as in previous years.

FRIENDS OF HIGH FIRS – PANTOMINE TRIP – THURSDAY 2nd JANUARY AT 5pm

No. of Adult Tickets Required @£17.00 No. of Child Tickets Required @ £17.00

Name: Contact No:
.....

Address:
.....

Child's Name and Class:
.....

Amount Enclosed: Deposit: Cash: Cheque: Cheque Date:



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