



20th September
2024

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

With term well underway now, timetables are well established, clubs are up and running and the weeks begin to gather pace and fly by.

We had a couple of new scooter pods delivered this week, which brings our capacity up now to 30 scooters in the pods, as well as room for 20 bikes. We really hope that this provision will continue to encourage children to scoot or bike to school regularly – bringing health benefits for children, making the journey to and from school more fun for children and helping to ease traffic congestion around the Court Crescent area at the beginning and end of the school day. With this in mind, all seven classes are now entering daily data into our Living Streets WOW travel tracker website. In some classes children enter this data themselves into a laptop, in others there is a 'hands-up' survey with the register each morning and in other classes a paper tick-list is kept and then a monitor enters the data onto the computer later in the day. Come the end of September, we will see how many children earn the first badge of the year for travelling to and from school in sustainable and healthy ways.

There is likely to be some more unsettled weather next week, but please remember that you can make use of our new welly rack for under-cover changing, so that children could continue to come to school on foot or by wheels even during inclement weather. With unsettled weather, please do send your children in wearing coats labelled with their name inside – that way they can be kept dry and comfortable and if coats are lost, they will be easily returned.

It is a really busy week next week with individual school photos taking place, a girls and a boys football tournament, our annual Harvest Festival offering and assembly, followed by our Macmillan Coffee morning and also our Friend of High Firs Annual General Meeting, where amongst other things, final plans will be drawn up for the upcoming speed bounce event.

We had a lovely celebration assembly this week, showing that children have adapted really well to new year groups and are really now kicking on and making great strides with their learning. Well done to all of this week's winners – we look forward to seeing who will get a special mention or be a top house-point achiever next week.



Harvest Assembly and Macmillan Coffee Morning

All our parents & carers are invited to join us at **10.10am** on **Wednesday 25th September** for our Harvest Assembly. Our Harvest contributions this year will be donated to Swanley Foodbank. Please send your child into school with your donation on **Wednesday 25th September**; this should be **tinned or packeted food only**, please. Our assembly will be followed by refreshments & cakes for a donation in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support so we would welcome any cake donations too. We will sell any surplus at the end of the school day! We hope you can join us to enjoy our Harvest celebrations and to support these two very worthwhile causes.

Individual Photographs

The children will have their individual and school sibling photographs taken on **Tuesday 24th September**. Any non-school siblings are invited to come into school for photographs between **8am and 8.35am**. Children who are absent on the day will be given the opportunity to have their photograph taken when the photographer returns later in the year to take the class photos. **Breakfast Club will be in Year 1 on Tuesday 24th September.**



Achieving more together



Voluntary Fund

This week we are requesting parents to make this term's Voluntary Fund payment. We greatly appreciate these donations which are used to support many of the extra activities undertaken in school by the children. The suggested payment is £2.50 per child or £6 per family. Please return your donation by **13th October** – thank you. You can also pay via our SchoolMoney app.

What is the Voluntary Fund used for? The termly voluntary fund money is used to pay for lots of different things! Essentially, it is used for expenses which we are not allowed to allocate to government funding but which we believe lead to a broader educational experience for our children or which support our community & families links. This also means we do not have to charge parents every time! Just a few examples of this spending are:

- Concert & performance costumes
- Refreshments for parents & visitors at school events – Nativities / Assemblies / class meetings etc
- Cookery ingredients
- Celebration of commemorative events – Whole School Jubilee Day party etc.
- Expenses for Open Evening & events
- Visitors in to school
- Additional resources for school visits

We believe that visits and these other experiences are a vital part of our children's education – thank you to all those parents who support us in this way.



SEN COFFEE MORNING

Come along to our SEN Coffee Morning - everyone is welcome whether they have a child on our SEN register or just want to find out more...

Tues 1st Oct at 9am

There will be coffee and chat, along with the chance to ask any questions about our provision and support for your child. We will also be welcoming **Jeanne Afonso** from the Kent Emotional Wellbeing team to talk about ways in which you can support your child's mental health and wellbeing.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



Year 4 Residential

There will be a meeting for parents of children attending this year's Yr4 Blackland Farm residential on Monday 7th October at 6pm.

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



WE ARE HIRING
JOIN OUR TEAM

High Firs Primary School has vacancies for:

- Cleaner
- Keyholder

More information is available at:
www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/vacancies

THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

In our classes this week

Reception – learned to match objects.
Year 1 – wrote descriptions of "The Weather Monster".
Year 2 – tested materials to help fix Mrs Ford's

broken bucket!

Year 3 – learned about the food people ate during the Stone Age.
Year 4 – compared numbers on a numberline.
Year 5 – learned about children's jobs during the Victorian era.
Year 6 – studied negative numbers.



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Special Mentions

Well done to all of our children who received a Special Mention and certificate from their teacher in assembly today –

- Annriya A – for super independent name writing.
- Nihaad D – for always being helpful especially when tidying up.
- Rania C – for great reading and phonics work this week.
- Jessica B – for giving her best effort to all school activities.
- Julia R – for trying hard to improve her learning.
- Hannah N – for always being her best.
- Courtney B – her excellent attitude towards her learning and working really hard on her story writing.
- Willow W – her excellent attitude towards her learning and working really hard on her story writing.
- Beatrice J – for showing a positive attitude to learning.
- Elias M – for showing enthusiasm and a positive attitude to learning.
- Isabella O – for working really hard on her Shamus and Wotsits story.
- Emelia S – for persevering in maths this week with comparing and rounding numbers.
- Albert – for his infectious enthusiasm in music.
- Olivia – for her contributions to and confidence in class discussions.



Register Rabbit

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



YEAR 3 99.3%
YEAR 1 99.2%

Our class attendance was:

Year 5 98.9%
Year 6 98.5%
Year 4 97.3%
Year 2 96.6%
Year R 95.8%

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	132	249	Nicole Y2; Joshua Y3
CHESTNUT	128	261	Faye Y5; Marco Y2
OAK	123	262	Oscar Y2; Lily Y5
ASH	140	269	Lenny Y3; Bella Y2



INSET DAYS

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

Coming up next week...

Tuesday 24th September – Individual Photos
Tuesday 24th September – Girls football tournament - afternoon
Wednesday 25th September – Harvest Festival – 10.10-10.30am
Wednesday 25th September – McMillan Cake Sale – 10.30-11am
Wednesday 25th September - Friends Of High Firs AGM at 7.30pm
Thursday 26th September – Boys football tournament - afternoon



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**North West
Kent**

Charity Number: 1148298
Company Number 8112993

Volunteers Needed

- Do you want to make a difference to a family's life?
- Do you have parenting experience?
- Do you have 2-3 hours a week to spare?



We need enthusiastic volunteers in the Swanley area.
Of all ages, cultures, backgrounds and gender.
To offer emotional and practical support to local families
with pre-school age children.

Free 40 hour preparation course begins
Wednesday 2nd October in Dartford.

Please call 01322 225100 or email office@homestartnwkent.org.uk

Scan QR code for further information.



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