



27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024

# High Firs Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent BR8 8NR Tel: 01322 669721 Fax: 01322 615997

Visit our school website at [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

## Message from Mr Kilbride

It was fabulous to see so many people in attendance at our Harvest Assembly on Wednesday morning – the hall was really buzzing for our first big ‘get together’ of the new academic year. Thank you so much for your support.

Some of our children had a great day out at Horton Kirby on Wednesday to go and indulge their passion for writing with others who love writing from schools all around the area. We are really proud of the improvements children have made in their writing over the past couple of years, with a huge focus in school on pupils editing and improving their work as they go, just like published authors do! After the pandemic, writing has been the area in school that it has taken longest for children to rediscover standards reached previously – but last year most of our classes had over 70% of children reaching the national expected standards and in Y6 it 77% compared with a national average of 72%.

Next, a quick appeal from me to ask for more volunteers to help with Park and Stride and Forest School. Ideally, I would like staff to be available in the classrooms as much as possible. However, currently, every morning and afternoon, two support staff are taken away from this ‘core purpose’ to help with Park and Stride. Ideally, I would like especially the parents who use this service to offer themselves, even for one morning per fortnight, to enable this great initiative to run into the future in a more sustainable manner. For Forest School, we are looking for anyone who can make themselves available on Thursdays or Fridays and we would be willing to send any helpers on a training course if they were interested.

If you can help, please email [office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk).

The Autumn Census is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. On school Census day, the school is required to feedback data to the Government such as attendance figures and the number of pupils enrolled. The amount of funding a school receives increases in line with the number of eligible pupils taking a free school meal on Census day, so please can anyone in YR and KS1 and anyone who is eligible for a Free School Meals order a hot meal next Thursday. Chicken nuggets has been put on especially for the day and other items are available too – check out our website for details and the parent pay app to book.

Finally, look out next week for the chance to sign up for a parent consultation evening appointment.

## Dartford Schools FA football tournaments

Well done to our Y5/6 boys and girls who took part in the Dartford Schools football tournament this week. The girls had a mixture of draws and narrow 1-0 defeats and the boys drew two games and then lost to the overall winners. Both teams played very well and were really competitive – they just struggled to put the ball in the net of games where they were on top! All children behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the school. Well done, everyone! Watch this space for more news about sports teams in action. If any girls would like to join the Thursday football club for girls in Y3-5, please come and see Mrs Verge in school.



Achieving more together





### Harvest Assembly – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Assembly – it was a lovely occasion of shared thanks and thoughtfulness. Your kind donations of food meant there was a fantastic range of produce on display, which we have taken to Swanley Foodbank to distribute to those in need in our local community. Thank you also to the all our classes who contributed art work and children for reading, with a particular mention to our Reception children for doing so well in their very first whole school assembly!

### Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning & Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who came to our Coffee Morning following Harvest Assembly and the Cake Sale after school on Wednesday – we raised an amazing **£171.67** for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you also to the staff and parents who donated delicious cakes for us to sell.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING**



We raised...

### Black History Month

As part of our ongoing learning, all classes will be covering Black History Month in October in both lessons and assemblies – our focus this year will be “reclaiming narratives”. Once again, we would like to include relevant personal stories, personal heroes and book recommendations from our High Firs families. As an additional option to their “Learning Log” tasks during October all children are therefore invited to bring in information, prepare a talk, make a poster or anything else appropriate that they can share with their class and/or which we might be able to display to support this.



### Safeguarding concerns – how to contact us

Safeguarding our pupils is everybody’s responsibility and all those directly connected (staff, volunteers, governors, leaders, parents, families, and learners) are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for our children and have an essential role to play in making our community safe and secure. We have Designated Safeguarding Leaders who have responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems (including online safety) in school – these are currently Mr Kilbride, Miss Rennie, Miss Allin & Miss Selby. If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can make an appointment with one of our DSLs to discuss these. Alternatively, we have a dedicated form on our website at <https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/> or you can email [safeguarding@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@high-firs.kent.sch.uk) Any concerns sent by the website or email will go directly to our DSLs; please provide as much information as you can so that we have a full understanding of the circumstances. We will respond as promptly as we can; however, if you believe that a child is in immediate danger you should always call the police immediately on 999.

**Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility**

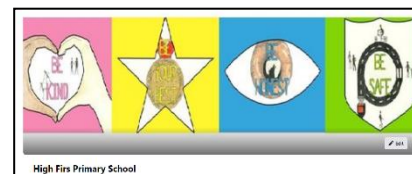
*How to contact us if you are concerned*

### Facebook

Are you a member of our school Facebook page? We use it to share “good news” alongside our text service and Newsletter updates. You can request to join the group using the QR code shown here or by searching for the group “High Firs Primary School”. There are a few similar group names so the one you are looking for is the one with our school values banner, shown in the picture here.

To ensure the page runs in a safe way for all of our school community, please note the following:

- Membership will be restricted to those 12+ who are known school contacts. Identifying information will be requested on application to join and will be checked by our administrators before admission to the group.
- Members will be removed when the associated child is no longer a pupil.
- Information and photographs posted on the site must not be shared, downloaded or forwarded.
- Failure of Members to agree and abide to the above conditions, or other conduct concerns, may result in removal from the group.



Achieving more together



### Special Mentions

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

- Aston A – for his super phonics learning this week.
- Olivia L – for her painting of numbers 0-5.
- Mikayla I – For her great perseverance with building shapes this week.
- Reggie T – for a great positive attitude to all of his learning this week.
- Logan G – for showing a positive attitude towards learning this week.
- Rose S – for being a kind and thoughtful member of the class.
- Luiza-Maria P – for working really hard on writing her story about Stone Age Boy.
- Jack W – for his super knowledge about rocks and working hard in science.
- Darcie D – for trying really hard with her understanding of 'rounding' and following instructions very carefully.
- Sadie B – for always being ready to learn and always trying her very best.
- Omolayo O – working hard in all lessons this week.
- Lottie A – for fantastic knowledge about friction in science.
- Blou D – for settling into Year 6 life well and showing great skills in rugby this week.
- Bella C – for showing excellent engagement and contribution in all lessons.



### Register Rabbit

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

**YEAR 6**  
**YEAR R**

Our class totals were:

Year R	99.6%
Year 6	98.5%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 1	97.7%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 4	96.2%
Year 3	94.4%

### In our classes this week

Reception – learned about the seasons.

Year 1 – learned about more than and less than.

Year 2 – learned about activities people did on holiday in the past.

Year 3 – made a dirt pudding to represent the layers of rock and soil.

Year 4 – learned about the French tooth fairy and the names of French animals.

Year 5 – measured friction.

Year 6 – learned about how we see things.



### HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	111	360	Harrison Y6; Meadow Y1
CHESTNUT	133	369	Marco Y2; Mason Y3
OAK	101	363	Oscar Y2; Lily Y5
ASH	91	360	Jenson and George Y1; Agnish Y6



### Coming up next week...

#### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September

No activity clubs today (except French)

#### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

9.00am – SEN Coffee Morning

**INSET DAYS**  
**No children in school**

6<sup>th</sup> January

30<sup>th</sup> June

21<sup>st</sup> July

22<sup>nd</sup> July



Achieving more together







#Stay Safe  
Get Active

Got to drive?

Park and stride!

Sign up to join us at -  
<https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/park-stride/>

The banner features a blue top section with a white shield containing the text '#Stay Safe' and 'Get Active' above icons of a person walking, a person on a bicycle, and a person in a wheelchair. Below this is a yellow section with a blue car icon and icons of a family walking. The bottom section is dark blue with white text.



No Parking

Think before you stop.  
Choose a safe spot...

... and please show consideration  
to our neighbours.

The illustration shows a blue car with two people inside parked on a street. A yellow 'No stopping' sign is on the car. In the background, there is a school building with a sign that says 'MY SCHOOL', trees, and a group of people walking. The sky is blue with a sun and clouds.



Achieving more together

