



25<sup>th</sup> October  
2024

# High Firs Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

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

## Message from Mr Kilbride

Well done to everyone for getting to the end of a really busy 8-week term!

Year 3 enjoyed a lovely visit to Maidstone Museum this week where they handled artefacts and asked and answered questions relating to their learning about the Stone Age to the Iron Age periods. As you can see below, they had a terrific day!



Now we have a thriving bike and scooter park in school, encouraging children to travel to school in healthy and sustainable ways, I want to take this opportunity to remind parents of the expectations regarding safety for bike and scooter riders. As a minimum, all bike riders should **wear a cycle helmet** as they ride and they should have a **rear reflector** on the back of their bike. Ideally, scooter riders should wear a helmet too and bike riders should have lights on their bikes if they are riding on the road. After half term, I will be speaking with anyone seen not using the minimum safety equipment described here. Staff will also be enforcing that scooters and bikes are dismantled for safe carriage on school grounds – therefore, children will be expected to walk their bike or scooter on school grounds and to only get on for riding when they are outside of the school gate.

All KS2 children enjoyed taking part in the end of term inter-house competition, which this term was benchball. Well done to the sports captains for their role in helping organise the day – the results of the winning teams are printed below.

Wishing you all a lovely half term break with fun, rest and recuperation so we can all come back with bags of energy for Term 2 – probably the busiest term of the year as early term assessments, tours for Reception 2025 and Remembrance give way to preparations for Christmas towards the end of term.



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### Poppy Appeal

As well as paper poppies, a variety of other items will be on sale from Monday after half term, in return for the children's donations towards this year's British Legion Poppy Appeal. Items



available and the donation suggested by the RBL are shown here. Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile cause.

### Accelerated Reader news

As our children move into Year 2 and beyond, they bring home school library books that are on the Accelerated Reader system. This means that after they have read the book, they come into school and take a quiz, which then 'banks' the number of words from that book for the class. We then track children and class reading choices and performance as they move through Key Stage 2.

Current class totals are as follows:

Year 2 – 493 words (only a few children have started quizzing in Y2 so far)

Year 3 – 66,668 words

Year 4 – 342,770 words

Year 5 – 668,537 words

Year 6 – 1,596,945 words

### December performances

We know parents appreciate early information on our December performances so they can book these into their diaries! This year's performances will be on:

- Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 – Mon 16<sup>th</sup> & Tue 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm
- Year 3 & Year 4 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm & 6.30pm
- Year 5 & Year 6 - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm & 6.30pm



We will let you have booking information and more details after half-term.

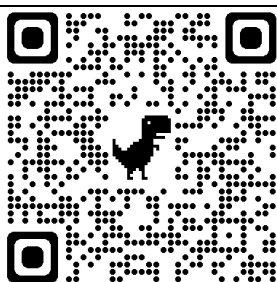
### Immunisation Service message

Following their recent visit to High Firs, 58% of eligible children were vaccinated – down from 66% at this stage last year. The Immunisation Service would like to invite parents to book an appointment at one of their Community Clinics if your child missed their Childhood Flu Immunisation on their visit to school.

Parents can book an appointment via their website on the link below, and clicking 'Book a Clinic Appointment': <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/immunisation-team/>

This link also provides other useful information regarding vaccinations and the Immunisation Service.

If your child was vaccinated on their recent visit, you are invited to complete the following surveys [Parent / Carer Survey](#) or [Young Persons Survey 11-19 year olds](#)



### Event Feedback

We hold lots of events and opportunities for parents over the course of the year including class assemblies, information sessions, open mornings, parents consultations and inclusion meetings. If you would like to leave us any feedback after these please do complete the form at <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/eventfeedback> or click on the QR code.

This year we did not run our Open Morning events due to the low turnout as last year went on.

This week we planned a maths workshop for Year 5 and 6 parents after the Year 6 class assembly, but no-one stayed or came for this event. We aim to put on these 'extra' events to keep you informed about the teaching and learning that your child experiences here in school. We increased our offer in response to past feedback that parents could confidently say their child was safe and happy in school, but felt less able to say that their child learned well and made good progress. If you would like to find out more about how children learn in school, please can you click this link and make some suggestions regarding the type of event that you would be interested in attending. We are happy to guide and inform, but we want to put on events that enable as many people as possible to attend and benefit.



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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 –



- George P – for his super blending of sounds.
- Ella B – for her fantastic independent writing.
- Drew D – for a fantastic starting half term in Year 1.
- Bobbi H – for fantastic maths this week.
- Freya S – for her detailed postcard written in the past.
- George N – for his great use of descriptive language when describing where he would go in a magic bubble.
- Anastasia P – for her super behaviour on the Stone Age trip.
- Sabiha M – for her super behaviour on the Stone Age trip.
- Alan G – for always trying his best in maths.
- Natasha F – for always trying her best in maths.
- Poppy C – for a lovely final piece of artwork based on William Morris.
- Scarlett T – for a fantastic poster about Victorian children.
- Alfie L – for his listening and engagement in maths this week learning the order of operations.
- Holly P – for her effort and enthusiasm towards her writing.

### Register Rabbit

Congratulations to this week's winners of Register Rabbit for the best attendance this week:

#### Year 3 & Reception

Our class attendance was:

Year 3	94.1%
Year 6	93.7%
Year R	93.0%
Year 2	92.3%
Year 1	92.0%
Year 5	91.8%
Year 4	83.1%



### Inter-house benchball competition

KS2 classes part in inter-house benchball tournaments this week.

Below are the winners:

Year 3 – **Ash & Chestnut**

Year 4 – **Beech**

Year 5 – **Chestnut**

Year 6 – **Beech**

The overall winners were: **Chestnut**



### In our classes this week

Reception – created two dimensional monsters.

Year 1 – have written weather themed poems.

Year 2 – used expanded noun phrases to describe a setting.

Year 3 – looked at Stone Age and Bronze Age artefacts on their trip to Maidstone Museum.

Year 4 – have written shape poems.

Year 5 – completed William Morris prints.

Year 6 – learned the order of operations – BIDMAS.



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# HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	116	846	Lola F; Rakshanaa S
CHESTNUT	110	850	Esme B; Ellie R
OAK	91	870	Isla W; Cameron D
ASH	107	898	Bella B; Natasha F



## 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

## Coming up...

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Half Term holiday  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – children return to school  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – 9.30am – Reception 2025 Tour (by booking only)  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – 1-3pm – Y5 Victorian Swanley Walk.  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Y4 residential trip to Blackland Farm.

**Got to drive?**

**Park and stride!**

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

**No Parking**

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

... and please show consideration to our neighbours.

## PUMPKINS FEED WILDLIFE

**Squirrels**, foxes, birds & badgers absolutely **love** pumpkins so don't bin yours - take them to the bottom of **your** garden, the local **woods** or **park**. Imagine how **YOU** can be a **wildlife HERO** by helping them & not adding to the rubbish thrown away. Do it and you become a true **WILDLIFE HERO** for **FREE**!



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