



20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024



# High Firs Primary School



# NEWSLETTER

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## Message from Mr Kilbride

I am going to start with an apology for including only half of the necessary information needed to claim the 15% discount with Brigade, one of our school uniform suppliers, in last week's newsletter. Full details at the end of this publication. Another really busy and productive term draws another calendar year to a close. Your children have kept working so hard all the way up to the holidays – whether it has been learning songs and rehearsing or with their everyday lessons – they have really made us all in school very proud of them this year.

The end of term performances this year were once again superb tributes to what the children and staff working together can achieve. We have had some lovely feedback from all three performances, where children acted and sung their hearts out and looked like they were genuinely enjoying every minute of being in the spotlight and performing with their friends. Finally, as we break for the holidays, I would like to express my thanks for the wonderful school community that we have. We enjoy such great support from you – our families, which makes a massive positive difference to children's education. But most of all, I would like to thank our tremendous staff, whose care, creativity and commitment to the cause are second to none. Under their watch, your children have continued to make wonderful progress this term, with developments in work and learning, in self-regulation, in general maturity and in confidence.

From all of our staff and school governors, I wish you all a wonderful festive season of happiness, kindness and cheer. See you all back on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** (remember Monday 6<sup>th</sup> is an INSET day).

## KS1 Production

Well done to our KS1 children who finished off our Christmas production season in real style with "The Big Little Nativity!" this week – they all spoke and sang up so clearly and were so well-acquainted with the cues in the script – we were all very proud!



## Our Christmas Charities

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas performances this week for donating so generously to our chosen charity for KS1 which was **Ellenor** who provide specialist palliative care for children and adults, at home and in their hospice, supporting and enriching the lives of individuals facing life-limiting illnesses. The total raised was **£127.66**.



## Father Christmas visit

We had a lovely surprise visitor in school on Monday morning. Father Christmas paid a visit to each of our seven classes and gave out a sack of presents for all the children to enjoy. Thank you to FHF who arranged this.



## Panto Experiences

Most of KS2 enjoyed a terrific afternoon seeing Snow White at the Panto in Bromley on Wednesday afternoon. With an exciting train ride as part of the trip, everyone came back buzzing with the live theatre experience. In school meanwhile, KS1 and Reception were entertained by a super performance of Dick Whittington. In an exciting and interactive performance, the audience were cheering, booing, shouting and standing to dance – all in the traditions of pantomime at this time of year.



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Friday 10th January

is our



Children are invited to wear their pyjamas (or other suitable nightwear) to school in return for a donation to the FHF of any unwanted:

- Christmas gifts
- Toiletries
- Toys

Children should wear normal school footwear (not slippers or trainers!) and Coats, please. Representatives of the FHF will be on the gate to collect your donations –  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

## Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education  
Registered Charity No. 1137633

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported the Friends' fundraising in 2024.

We have raised lots of money to support the children's learning in school – as well as having lots of fun along the way! Events would not run without the support of those who volunteer to help out and we are very grateful to everyone who has given their time, either on the day or with preparations and admin. Thank you also to all those who also make donations, either monetary or with goods. *We look forward to more fun ahead in 2025....*

Our Christmas activities this year raised an amazing £1690 – **THANK YOU** if you supported the Bazaar and/or the Secrets Room.

### HOUSE POINTS

**CONGRATULATIONS CHESTNUT!**  
**HOUSE POINT CHAMPIONS**  
**AUTUMN TERM 2024**

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	62	1557	Daisy F, Ziggy G, Harrison C
CHESTNUT	61	1587	Oscar P, Lily L
OAK	44	1505	Isla W, Tallulah C, Harrison W, Daisy W, Alyah E
ASH	67	1433	Sadie J, Darcie D



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### Asking again for items that promote creative and imaginative play

Following our initial request back in May, we collected a great many unwanted items that were repurposed to really enrich children's play experiences over the subsequent months.

We would welcome anything from the list below – the children really loved the suitcases and buggies – however most of these are now no longer useable.

We did not manage to obtain any cable drums or large card tubes last time, so these would be most welcome.

We also need to refresh our sensory garden with unwanted pots and pans and wooden spoons.

As a reminder, the purpose of all this can be explained in the video below, but essentially, we are exploring ways of promoting play at lunchtimes by increasing the free-choice play opportunities on offer to our children so it's not all just bats and balls:

<https://www.hernhill.kent.sch.uk/OPAL-Outdoor-Play-Learning/>



Have you got any unwanted items at home in good condition that we could use for free play? We are looking for...

- *large cardboard tubes (for mailing posters / carpet inners etc – not kitchen rolls!)*
- *bedsheets / curtains*
- *cable reels*
- *“Umbrella fold” buggies (real ones not for dolls!)*
- *crutches / zimmer frames*
- *tarps / ground sheets*
- *dressing up / hats – child or adult!*
- *drainpipes / guttering*
- *suitcases*
- *crates*
- *mixing bowls / jugs / sieves (plastic or metal, please – no china or glass)*
- *saucepans / frying pans*
- *Kitchen utensils – large spoons / ladles / spatulas etc (no knives or forks!)*
- *old household phones (not mobiles)*
- *wallpaper*
- *large plastic bottles*
- *small paddling pools / sandpits*
- *Tuff trays*
- *Astroturf*

We will be collecting items at the gate in the new year so please bring your donations in – please ensure they are in good condition and safe for our children to use. If you have any queries then please ask Mrs Kumah or Mr Kilbride on the gate.



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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 yesterday in recognition of their efforts this term –



- Annriya A – settling well into school life with the biggest of smiles. She is kind and caring and does her best at any task set.
- George K – a super first term – he tries his best in all areas of his learning and is a polite and kind boy to all his peers and adults.
- Billy D – developing confidence and having a positive attitude towards his learning.
- Eva O – her commitment and enthusiasm towards her learning.
- Freya S – her commitment to learning and for always following our school values.
- Oscar P – always being his best and for being a role model with his behaviour and commitment to learning.
- Jack W – a brilliant term. We are really proud of you for the effort you have put in and we have seen a super improvement with engagement in your learning.
- Teddy C – a great term. Your learning has flown this term, especially in maths and reading. Keep up the positive attitude and the brilliant work.
- Darcie D – her kind and caring attitude and always working to a good standard and showing real resilience, when learning is challenging.
- Elias M – showing a consistent positive and hard-working attitude to all areas of learning and for always showing exemplary manners both in class and around the school.
- Isabella O – working hard in all lessons. You are always keen to improve and do your best and you always persevere when challenged.
- Rakshanaa S – always having such a positive attitude to learning. You are always keen to share your ideas and want to know how you can improve.
- Freya T – being a shining example of a pupil that adheres to all of our High Firs Values all of the time.
- Alfie L – his thoughtful and considerate nature, his supportive and caring attitude to others and his eagerness to contribute to our school community.

### Register Rabbit

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

**YEAR 1**  
**YEAR 5**

Both classes will celebrate with a reward day next term.

Our class totals were:

Year 5	96.8%
Year 6	96.2%
Year 1	95.3%
Year 4	95.1%
Year R	94.5%
Year 2	94.4%
Year 3	92.4%



### Our certificate winners enjoying their Golden Tea!



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