



10th Jan 2025

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

Welcome back to Term 3 – Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the break over the Christmas holidays and return to school this week raring to go!

After the crescendo towards Christmas in school leaves everyone feeling pretty exhausted – children, staff and parents alike – I have sensed a real energy and purpose at the start of term this week. Typically, it is in the Spring Term each year that children tend to make really great leaps forward with their learning – they are well settled into their year groups and routines and often we see the pennies dropping this term, building on foundations laid in the Autumn Term and in earlier years.

This week I want to signpost parents towards some information and resources to help keep children safe online. I am sure over Christmas that some children will have received gifts of new technology – most of which may well have internet access capabilities. This opens a world of possibility and opportunity, but also exposes children to a wide range of new risks that would not otherwise be present.

The Safer Internet Centre's parent guides are a really comprehensive walk through of all the issues surrounding internet access and tech use - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

The Internet Matters website is full of good advice - <https://www.internetmatters.org/> - in particular they have very detailed step by step guides about how to set up devices and how to ensure suitable settings across a range of games and apps like Whatsapp, Tiktok, Minecraft and Roblox.

Here is Top10.com's view of the best parental control apps for 2025 - <https://shorturl.at/xnho9>

Within the safer internet guides, there are clear age guides for use set by the providers. Where parents choose not to follow these age recommendations, it is essential that a high level of monitoring of child online activity takes place – for example, daily checking of activity or installing apps that enable child activity to be viewed directly on parent/carer devices. The above Top10 link is full of suggestions here.

I hope that by following some of this advice, parents can create the right conditions for children to get the maximum benefit from using technology, with risks being closely monitored and managed.



Comics needed!

Mrs Payne would be grateful for any donations of "traditional style" comics for Comic Book club. So, if you have any old copies of annuals or comics of "The Beano", "The Dandy" or similar please send them in!

Clubs

Don't forget our club sign-up closes at 4pm today!



Visit <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/clubs> to request your places. Clubs start week beginning Monday 20th January – we will confirm places allocated next week.

World of Work Week

As part of our commitment to supporting the children's understanding of economic well-being and the wider world, we are holding our "World of Work" week w/b 27th January. We hope to welcome a number of visitors into school to support this and would be very pleased to hear from any of our parents or friends who may be willing to share with the children information about their job or place of work. If you can help, please do let us know using the form at www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/worldofwork by Weds 15th January.



Staff News

We have welcomed Miss Durrant back to the teaching team this week as she returns from her maternity leave. We have also recently welcomed Ms Williamson to our Midday Team.



Achieving more together



Attainment Reports

Attainment reports were sent home earlier this week for all our pupils; please visit <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/reportfeedback> to confirm receipt and to leave any feedback or queries on your child's report. Parents Consultation meetings will next be held in March (with additional meetings later this month for children with special needs) but please do get in touch if you have any queries about your child's attainment and/or progress in the meantime.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and gifts to our staff at Christmas; your kindness and generosity in thinking of us was very much appreciated.

Are you having a post-Christmas clearout and decluttering for 2025?

Don't forget to save us any items for lunchtimes that we can use for free play!

We are looking in particular for the items listed below but are happy to take most things - please bring them to the gate one morning.

- *large cardboard tubes (for mailing posters / carpet inners etc – not kitchen rolls!)*
- *large cardboard boxes / packaging*
- *bedsheets / curtains*
- *cable reels*
- *Buggies (both real ones and 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*

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	88	88	Miraculous K, Daisy F
CHESTNUT	107	107	Oscar F, Arthur F, Thomas H
OAK	79	1584	Smilte M, Charlie F
ASH	82	82	George P, Scarlett T, Daisy GS, Iyah B



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Values sticker awards

Some children in school now have collected 2 of the 4 values stickers needed to be presented with a Values Cup. Well done to all of this month's winners.

	Be kind	Be your best	Be honest	Be safe
R	Nihaad Oscar F Ivy G Arthur H	Arthur F Frankie DJ Sadie J	Annriya Theo Daisy F Arthur Fu	George K Sazin Lady Darcie T
1	Tallulah Billy Jenson	Lola Ted Reyansh	Florence Francis Jeorge	Jessica Rania Bobbi
2	Nicole Oscar P George S	Anthony Isabella W Harry W	Brooke Charlotte Mikey	Gloria Harrison F Julia
3	Courtney William Logan F Henry T	Lenny G Anastasia Jaxon	Jake Albert T Abhyank Kaya	Willow Jack Henry RW
4	Morgan J Lennie Joshua I	Alan Daisy B Dylan	Millie Danny Darcie D	Leo A Ellis Annabelle
5	Maisie Sadiya Clark Emelia	Selena Omolade Ellie Faye	Demi Lily G Smilte Tunde	Iyah-Renae Cameron Josue
6	Michael Jacob Holly Connie	Alyah Ethan Freya T	Bethanie Samuel Isabella T	Fraser Harry M Sid

Class Assemblies and information meetings

Parents and carers are invited to join us for the following class assemblies and information sessions this term:

- Year 6 – Thursday 6th February at 10.10am
(followed by SATs meeting)
- Year 5 – Thursday 13th February at 10.10am
- Year 4 – Weds 26th February at 10.10am
(followed by Times Tables check meeting)
- Year 3 – Thurs 6th March at 10.10am
- Year 2 – Weds 12th March at 10.10am
- Year 1 – Weds 19th March at 10.10am
- Reception – Monday 24th March at 2pm

Register Rabbit

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

YEAR R
YEAR 3

Our class attendance this week was:

Year R 99.0%
Year 3 97.6%
Year 4 97.0%
Year 6 96.7%
Year 2 96.1%
Year 5 95.7%
Year 1 94.1%



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In our classes this week

- Reception – designed their own winter clothes to keep warm and dry!
- Year 1 – are enjoying their new book “Lila and the Secret of Rain”.
- Year 2 – can count money using notes and coins.
- Year 3 – enjoyed their first Forest School session of Year 3.
- Year 4 – have practised using punctuation for speech in their writing.
- Year 5 – learned to calculate using long multiplication.
- Year 6 – learned to use semi-colons.



INSET DAYS

- 30th June
- 21st July
- 22nd July

Coming up next week...

No clubs next week except FOSC Breakfast Club & After School Club.



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