



16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022

# 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

A long and busy term draws to a close today and it has been one of great hard work and endeavour and of new, exciting development. This term we have introduced Tilly to the school and she is now a fixture who the children feel real ownership of. It has been lovely to watch the children learn to live comfortably with her in school and for Tilly to become increasingly at home here. We have started using a trolley of Chromebooks to deliver the computing curriculum, leaving our former computing room available to be used as a nurture room, accessed by children when necessary. We have really enjoyed seeing children arrive on an array of scooters and bikes across this term and Y1 have had a great benefit from their own play space to support their growth and development. In addition to embedding some significant changes that were made to the teaching of reading last year, we have turned our attention to reviewing the way we teach creative writing and maths – so there has been a great amount for teachers and children to try out and get used to.



Our balance bikes in Y1/2 will be a regular part of the Spring and Summer term PE curriculum now we have had the training and rebuilt the bike shed on the playground.

Two days a week of Forest School has made a great contribution to pupil wellbeing in Y2 and Y4 – and this moves onto Y3 and Y6 next term.

Well done to everyone for their fine achievements this term – High Firs is a great and happy team of community minded people – it feels very special to be at the helm of such a great team effort.

Have a great Christmas break and stay safe in the snow and ice.



## Yr5/6 Production

Congratulations to Years 5&6 for their two fantastic performances of "Bah Humbug!" this week - and thank you to our audience for their understanding of our postponement of Monday's performance due to the snow.



**CONGRATULATIONS CHESTNUT! HOUSE POINT CHAMPIONS AUTUMN TERM 2022**

The final totals were:

**CHESTNUT – 1267**

**OAK – 1254**

**BEECH – 1208**

**ASH - 1044**

## Our Christmas Charities

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas performances and donated so generously to our chosen charities this year:



**KS1: Little Buds  
£181.72**



**Yr3/4: St Mary's Church / Home Start  
£114.23**



**ENCEPHALITIS SOCIETY**  
The brain inflammation charity

**Yr5/6: The Encephalitis Society  
£238.58**



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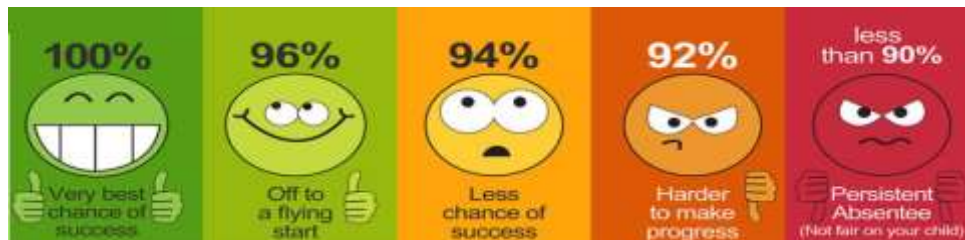
### Attendance Awards

Returning to pre-Covid attendance levels is a target for lots of schools this year. We know there have been some nasty viruses this term so we are pleased that the majority of our children have still been able to maintain excellent attendance records over the first few months of the academic year, and this was recognised in assembly yesterday with the presentation of certificates to all children achieving 98%, 99% and 100% attendance.

We also celebrated the achievements of Yr6, Yr3 & Yr5 who all achieved whole class attendance above our 95% threshold.

#### Autumn Term 2022

Yr6 – 95.9%  
Yr3 & Yr5 – 95.1%  
Yr2 – 93.7%  
Yr4 – 93.6%  
Yr1 93.2%  
Rec – 90.8%



### Authorising Absences

Our Attendance Policy currently states that parents should **notify the office by 9.30am** on the day(s) of their child's absence and then confirm the reason for absence in writing on their child's return. If this written confirmation is not received then your child's absence will remain as unauthorised. **Any parents who still have written confirmations outstanding for the Autumn Term are requested to return these as soon as possible so your child's absence can be checked to see if it can be considered for authorisation – this can be submitted by email to [office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk) or by letter.**

Our governors have recently agreed a change that this written confirmation is no longer required and this will be in place from January 2023; however, parents **MUST** still report absence by 9.30am – this can be done in person, by telephone to the office or by email to [office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk). The updated Attendance Policy reflecting this, and with further information about attendance / absences will be posted on our website in the new year.

### Staff News

We have welcomed Miss Allen back to school this week following her maternity leave. She will be teaching Year 2 one day a week, Year 1 for a morning and leading an afternoon of play therapy sessions. We have recently appointed Mrs Boreham and Ms Lopes as HLTAs to cover classes across the week. Mrs Schot has joined our Midday team in the past couple of weeks and Miss Hogger will also be starting at lunchtimes after the holiday.

Today we are saying goodbye and good luck to Miss Betts as she leaves us at the end of her college placement period working with our Reception children.



### Water Bottles



Please can we remind parents that we do ask that the children only bring water bottles to school that are of the type shown – these can be purchased directly from school or other retailers online. We are frequently experiencing that other bottles are much more fragile and are often breaking; the ones with “rounder bottoms” are particularly less stable in a classroom environment and are very prone to falling over, causing breakages as well as lots of disruption to lessons when they bang loudly against the table! Thank you for your support.

### In our classes this week

Reception – freezing and melting.

Year 1 – learned to name 3D shapes.

Year 2 – wrote guide books for London landmarks.

Year 3 – learned about different Christmas traditions around the world.

Year 4 – practised sewing blanket stitch and how to sew on buttons.

Year 5 – enjoyed rehearsing and performing their play.

Year 6 – learned about different codes and made their own Morse Code circuits to send messages!



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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 for their efforts and achievements throughout the whole of the Autumn Term –



- Alice H – continuous perseverance with her phonics.
- Marco P – his enthusiastic attitude towards his learning.
- Maddy K – always working hard and trying her very best.
- Jake B – being an enthusiastic learner and always trying his best.
- Annabelle B – for her hard work enthusiasm for learning and always being her best.
- Lewis C – for his working hard in all areas of learning and for being a good role model to the other children.
- Faye R – being focussed all the time and being a fantastic role model for other children.
- Thomas H – always working really hard and pushing himself to do better.
- Bella A – working hard to improve her writing and Maths, and for showing an interest and enthusiasm in all areas of learning.
- Walter A – sharing a positive commitment to learning and always trying his best to respond to advice.
- Lola H – always working hard in learning tasks set and wanting to do her best.
- Ronnie R – showing a positive attitude to work and never giving up on learning tasks set.
- Lucy E – consistently working hard and trying her best in all areas of the curriculum.
- Amelia B – always trying her best and working hard in every lesson.

### HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	131	Jonas C, Aayden C
CHESTNUT	142	Albert T, Anne-Grace G
OAK	159	Sabiha M, Elijah B
ASH	97	Imogen T, Lennie J, Emanuela M

## Monday 9th January

is our

  
**Pyjama Day**

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 2022.

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 2023....



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**INSET DAYS**

**No children in school**

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2023

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Coming up after the break...**

No school clubs except FOSC Breakfast Club & FOSC After School Club.

Weds 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children start school



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