



2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2022

# 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

We have really enjoyed a busy week with the beginning of Advent and Christmas production preparations in full swing. Thursday was especially active, with our Christmas Tree assembly in the morning, Christmas lunch in the middle of the day and our Pre-school Christmas crafts event in the afternoon. In amongst all this, Miss Rennie and I met with KS2 teachers to look at the progress children have made with their learning this term and KS1 are next week. The children have worked incredibly hard this term and overall, we are really pleased to this being reflected in the progress being made.

Just a quick reminder that our new provider for Breakfast Club and After School Club are up and running with contact details to register and book in overleaf – and that we still have spaces to accommodate more children in our Park and Stride initiative – aimed at keeping the environment around our school as safe as possible at dropping and collecting times. We look forward to welcoming you into school next week for the KS1 productions and to St. Mary’s Church for the Y3/4 Carol Concert.

## Christmas Tree Assembly

We held our annual Christmas Tree Assembly on Thursday, which many of the staff and children hail as their favourite of the year! The whole school came together in the hall to sing Carols and each child and adult had a chance to add their own decoration to our Christmas tree. As is our school tradition, the youngest child in school put the angel on the tree and the eldest did the “switch on” of the lights. Well done to Hannah and Belle!



## Rugby Festival

Ten of our Year 5 children travelled to Horizon Primary Academy earlier this week to take part in this year’s District Rugby Festival. They had a fantastic afternoon and had the opportunity to play lots of matches and improve their skills.

## Christmas Lunch

The children and staff all enjoyed a fantastic Christmas Lunch together on Thursday. Nearly 200 hot meals were served! It was great to see the children wearing their Christmas & Winter jumpers to support FHF donations day, which added that special festive feeling! It was also our opportunity to thank the Midday Supervisors and catering team who work so hard each lunchtime to support our children.



## Reception 2023

We welcomed some of our prospective Reception 2023 children and families to a Craft Afternoon on Thursday. It was lovely getting to spend some time with them! Don’t forget that applications close on 15<sup>th</sup> January.



## Register Rabbit

Congratulations to this week’s winners of Register Rabbit for their excellent attendance:

YEAR R

YEAR 5



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### Christmas / Winter Card Competition

Well done to all the children who entered this year's card competition – there were some fabulous entries! We hope that those of you who came into school on Monday enjoyed looking at them too. Congratulations to these children in particular who have been chosen as class winners –

- Rec – Harry W & Gloria F
- Year 1 – Albert T & Anastasia P
- Year 2 – Dylan H & Annabelle B
- Year 3 – Josue P & Hannah C
- Year 4 – Karina C & Ethan P
- Year 5 – Ella V & Teddy H
- Year 6 – Francesca T & Amelia B



WINNERS this week	
<b>Chestnut</b>	<b>23 points</b> Top scorers: Amelia B & Ormalade O
<b>OAK</b>	<b>10 points</b> Top scorers: Eleanor A & Walter A
<b>ASH</b>	<b>17 points</b> Top scorers: Freya T & Scarlett T
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>2 points</b> Top scorers: Michael C & Edward S

### Our Christmas Charities

We do not make a charge for our performances so we are very grateful to everyone who chooses to show their appreciation through their support of our chosen charities for this year through our post-performance collections. Thank you to everyone who nominated charities for this year's performances. Our KS1 charity was chosen as we had lots of nominations for the same charity and we "lucky-dipped" for Yr5/6! Thank you for your support for these very worthwhile causes over the next couple of weeks, which have very close personal connections to some of our school families.

**Little Buds** is our KS1 charity for this Christmas – they support the babies in the Special Care Baby Unit at Darent Hospital, and their families.



Our donations from the Carol Concerts will be given to **St Mary's Church**, as a "thank you" to them for letting us use their lovely church, and their nominated charity **Home Start**, which supports families with young children who are living through challenging times.

**The Encephalitis Society** is our Yr5/6 charity. They provide information and support for those affected by encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, raising awareness and funding and collaborating on research on the condition.



### Performances

Please could we remind parents attending our performances that –

- Entry is by ticket only. Seats are numbered so you don't need to arrive too early! Please do not attend if you do not have a ticket. Pre-school children will not be admitted.
- We do ask that parents don't get out of their seats and move around during the performances in order to take photographs or to film, or to use flash photography, as this can block the view of other guests and it can be very distracting for our children on the stage - we want them to be able to show you their very best acting and singing skills throughout! We promise there will be "photo opportunities" after every performance.
- Concerns have been raised in the past by some parents that photographs are posted on Facebook or other social media showing children other than the postee's own; please could we ask that you do restrict publication of photographs on social media to your own children in order to respect the wishes of those parents who do not want their child's image to be published on the internet.
- Year 3/4 concert at St Mary's church – please note there is no onsite parking.



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## HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	54	1131	Harrison, Sophie, Freya, Scarlett
CHESTNUT	73	1198	George, Elizabeth
OAK	57	993	Oscar, Rose, Joshua
ASH	62	1009	Hannah, Scarlett, Belle



### Special Mentions

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

- Isabella W – trying really hard with her writing.
- Anthony L – being a kind friend to others.
- Kaya O – being and kind & caring friend.
- Mason B – working hard and doing super listening.
- Darcie D – settling in so well to her new class.
- Luca C – great understanding in maths, subtracting in 10s.
- Daisy S – always doing her best.
- Evie Ta – always putting 100% effort into her work
- Bella A – being a “celebrated author” for her fabulous character description.
- Poppy G – her fabulous map linked to Tudor exploration.
- Samuel S – brilliant sewing.
- Harry F – excellent effort with his report on yellow spotted lizards.
- Alan Z – always working hard in lessons.
- Casian C – an excellent postcard written with lots of detail.
- Belle L – fantastic work dividing and multiplying fractions.

### In our classes this week

Rec – learned to find “one more”.

Year 1 – found about different properties of materials.

Year 2 – practised different kinds of rolls in gymnastics.

Year 3 – learned how important Gods & Goddesses were in Roman times.

Year 4 – designed and cut out a paper pattern to make a Tudor pouch.

Year 5 – found about the witch trials in Stuart times.

Year 6 – learned about Anne Frank and the Secret Annex.



### Breakfast Club & After School Club

Our on-site Breakfast Club and After School Club is now run by Footh Cray Out of School Club and not the school. Further information about the new provision is available on our website at

<https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/breakfast-club-after-school-provision/>

or at <http://www.footscrayoutofschool.com/>

Please use the FOSC contact email / number in future if you have any queries –

[vivjohn3@gmail.com](mailto:vivjohn3@gmail.com)

or 07889 559872; please do not contact the school office.



### Children's Christmas Cards

We know that some of our children have already written their Christmas cards to their friends! Please could we ask that all the children follow the same arrangements:

- Cards to be brought into school from **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December** onwards only
- Please label envelopes with recipient's first name, surname and year group
- All cards to be put into the postbox outside Year R/1
- Cards will be distributed by our 'post elves' and then taken home to be opened

Thank you for your support – this will ensure that class time is not spent distributing cards and that they do not get lost around the school during the day.



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# Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

Registered Charity No. 1137633



## FHF CHRISTMAS AT HIGH FIRS

Don't forget Amazon will donate to FHF every time you shop!



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**STEP ONE** Go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1137633-0>  
**STEP TWO** Confirm Friends of High Firs as your charity  
**STEP THREE** SHOP! 0.5% of your spending will be donated to FHF  
**STEP FOUR** Access your Amazon account via [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) every time to donate



Weds 14<sup>th</sup> Dec

Secrets Room

Children can do their own "Secret Shopping" for family gifts in school time. Cost of gifts is £1 to £3 each and maximum of 3 gifts per child. Please bring money in on Weds 14<sup>th</sup> in a named envelope and don't forget to bring a carrier bag to take shopping home in.



*Coming up next week...*

**No school clubs until January except paid-for provision**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas post box opens for children's cards

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

KS1 Nativity – 2.15pm

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

No woodland activities today for Y4

KS1 Nativity – 2.15pm

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Yr3/4 Church Carol Concerts – 2pm & 6.30pm

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

KS1 Pantomime in school pm

KS2 Pantomime visit to Churchill Theatre – return 4.45pm (station) / 5pm (school)

**INSET DAYS**  
**No children in school**  
Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2023  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023



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