



5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025

# High Firs Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent BR8 8NR Tel: 01322 669721

Email: [office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk) Website: [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

## Message from Mr Kilbride

What a great week it has been! We have dodged the showers outside and the rain on the inside of the building (heavy rain and a half-finished roof is not a great combination!) to make a fantastic and settled start to the new school year. More so than I can ever remember, the start to this year has felt like *business as usual* – this is in significant recognition of the way everyone has settled into new routines and hit the ground running into the new year in only the first week of term.

As well as our existing children making a really strong start, our new Reception children began their seven-year journeys with us on Wednesday. They have been brilliant and brave at coming in in the mornings and their families ensured the best turnout for Tea and Tissues that I have ever seen! Mrs Everest and all of the team have been really impressed.

As of today, we will no longer be printing the newsletter onto paper. We will instead email it to you every Friday afternoon and it will continue to be published on the school website as well. This move will save staff time, physical school resources and of course will benefit the environment with less paper being consumed.

Our older children have adapted very well to life coming to and from school without smartphones. I have paid particular attention to watching them arrive and leave this week, and it has been refreshing to see the lively exchange of face to face conversation – rather than faces down and looking at screens. There is a great sense of the children being *in the moment*, helping them stay safe as they navigate their journeys to and from school – and perhaps it is no coincidence that Mrs Bridle has been bowled over by Y6's level of engagement right from the off, first thing in the mornings already this week. For long may it continue.

Please see below the Meet the Teacher dates and times next week – and also please have some of our Y6 children in your thoughts on Thursday next week, as over half of them undertake the Kent Test (11+).

## Register Rabbit

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

### Year 2 & Year 6

Year 6 100%

Year 4 99.0%

Year 2 98.6%

Year 1 95.2%

Year 3 93.8%

Year 5 92.8%



## In our classes this week

Reception – had a super start to their time at High Firs

Year 1 – have enjoyed doing different activities in their new 'challenge time'

Year 2 – have written postcards from the seaside

Year 3 – started reading their new text – Stone Age Boy

Year 4 – crafted their own metal characters

Year 5 – created Victoria silhouettes

Year 6 – started to learn about WWII



No dogs

## No dogs, please!

Tilly has been trained specifically to be in school, and we are insured for her to be here, but this is not the case for any other dogs. Please could we therefore remind you that dogs (other than Tilly or disability support dogs) are not to be brought onto the school site – even if they are being carried! This includes Breakfast Club and After School Club drop-offs and collections. If you are waiting with your dog outside school can we please ask that you keep them under control and clear of the school gate.

Thank you for your support.



Achieving more together



### Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents to the following class assemblies taking place this term – all start at 10.10am unless stated:

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

You are also invited to join us for the following assemblies for parents of children in all classes:

Harvest Festival – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September

### Meet the Teacher

We look forward to welcoming you all into class next week to find out more about routines for the year ahead. If you cannot attend, all presentation materials shared will be posted on the website by the end of next week.

See dates in *Coming up next week* section below...

### Special Mentions

Well done to all of our children whose effort and achievement this week received a Special Mention and certificate from their teacher in assembly today:

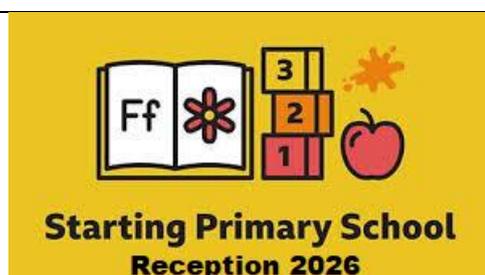


- Sadie J - her hard work in challenge time
- Arthur F - trying hard in phonics
- Meadow W - her good explanation in maths
- Lola F - trying her best in her first week in Year 2
- Frankie M - being a very kind member of the class
- Sophia M - her enthusiasm for our new topic
- Jack W - having a really good first week back
- Maddy K - having a really good first week back
- Oliver M - working hard in all lessons
- Albsey M - his positive start to the year
- Rakshanaa S - her willingness to answer questions in whole class sessions – having the courage to 'give it a go'
- Omolayo O - his impressive knowledge of WWII facts



### Clubs

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of exciting clubs for our children in Years 1-6 to join in the Autumn Term. Please visit <https://forms.office.com/e/KujzCb9MM> to find out what's available and to book your child(ren)'s place(s). Bookings close at 4pm on Tuesday 9th September. The member of staff running the club will then be in touch to confirm arrangements for starting; clubs begin w/b 15th September.



### Tour dates for prospective Reception children for September 2026:

- Tuesday 28th October at 9.30am
- Wednesday 5th November at 11.00am
- Monday 10th November at 5.30pm

We also offer a Craft Afternoon on Tuesday 2nd December from 2.00pm - 3.00pm where children and their parents/carers are welcome to join us.

Click the link to book on - <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/receptiontours>



Achieving more together



## Health & Safety

Please may we remind you that:

- We ask parents and children to park and to walk around the local area with consideration for both our neighbours and other families. Please do not block our neighbours' drives when parking or stop on the yellow / zig zag lines.
- The school car park is for staff and visitors' use only at **all** times of the day (including during Breakfast Club and After School Club); please do not park or drop off in the school's car park.
- All children, including younger siblings, should be closely supervised when on the school site after school and at events. Please do not allow your children to play on any of our outdoor equipment, go to other areas of the playground or on our field.
- Children in Reception to Yr4 may only be collected by an adult (ie someone over 18).



## 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.

## Our Family Support Worker

*Hello! My name is Mrs Kumah – many of you may already know me from my work at High Firs as a Midday Supervisor or offering support to our children and their families. My own children were also at High Firs a few years ago! I am here to support parents and children with any issues which are causing worry or difficulties either at home or at school. This could be concerning housing, finance, any challenging behaviour from your children or significant changes which may have taken place in your family, or other factors which are affecting you or your child. I would be happy to meet or to talk to you on the phone and see if I can help in any way so please do get in touch if I can help; I will be available on the school gate each morning if you want to chat to me then or please contact me via the school office.*



## School Office

Please remember that letters can be handed in via your child and do not need to be brought directly to the school office. Similarly, your child's contact book or class email can also be used to request appointments with staff or passing on of other general information, rather than this going via the office. Thank you.



## Class emails

Class emails are available for you to use to contact your child's teacher. These are monitored regularly but please bear in mind that our teachers have a full-day teaching commitment and so they may not be checked at set times or seen before school each day so the contact book is a better method of communication if your message is time-restricted. Due to safeguarding measures emails should only be sent from a parent's email address rather than the child's own if they have one. Our class email addresses are:

Reception – [reception@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:reception@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)  
Year 1 – [yearone@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yearone@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)  
Year 2 – [yeartwo@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yeartwo@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)  
Year 3 – [yearthree@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yearthree@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)  
Year 4 – [yearfour@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yearfour@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)  
Year 5 – [yearfive@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yearfive@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)  
Year 6 – [yearsix@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yearsix@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

Please continue to use the office email [office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk) for any admin queries.

Important Information

## Important Health Information – PLEASE REMEMBER!

We are a **NUT FREE** school – this is **ALL TYPES OF NUTS**. Please can we therefore ask for the support of all our school families in ensuring that none of our children or visitors bring any nuts or nut-based products (eg: Nutella spread / Snickers / peanut butter / nutty cereal bars etc) into school. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping to ensure the safety & wellbeing of those members of our school community for whom these products pose a serious risk.

**NUT FREE**



THANK YOU  
for keeping our school safe!



Achieving more together



### School Volunteers needed!

We welcome parents and adults from the local community to undertake a variety of roles in supporting the school & our children.

Could you help in school by –

- hearing children read?
- playing games with small groups?
- sharing a skill – gardening / sewing / painting / cooking / music?
- talking about or share your job or hobby?
- looking after the books in our school library?
- tidying our outdoor environment?
- helping at or running a lunchtime or after-school club?
- offering specialist skills – welding, plumbing especially helpful!
- ..... anything else?



It would be great to hear from any parents, grandparents or family friends who would like to come and share their skills with the children in school. It doesn't matter how often or for how long – once a week, once a month or even just once. Please note that the school is required to undertake and receive a satisfactory DBS (Police) check on all adult volunteers undertaking voluntary work with the children in school. All volunteers will also receive and need to agree to the School's "Volunteers in School" policy, including safeguarding requirements.

If you can help then please complete the form at <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/helping> and we will be in touch soon.

### Uniform

Thank you to all those families who ensure that their children attend school in the correct uniform; it has been lovely to see all the children coming back to school so neat and tidy. Please may we remind you of the following requirements for uniform:

Smart black or grey trousers – long or short (not sports shorts or tracksuit bottoms)

Grey skirt/tunic *to the knee*

Summer dresses in yellow or yellow & white in simple style.

Gold sweatshirt/polo shirt

Gold cardigan

Black, grey or white **school style** socks or black/grey tights (plain)

### Footwear

All children should wear black or grey sensible, flat-heeled shoes/sandals that are secure to the foot. Open-toed shoes are not appropriate. Trainers or sports shoes are not suitable for school day wear and are not part of the school uniform.

### Jewellery

Jewellery may not be worn at school. If your child has pierced ears, small stud earrings may be worn at your own risk. However, on PE days, we ask that earrings are not worn. Children may wear watches to school, however, 'smart' watches that can send and receive text messages and can take photographs are not permitted. Please discuss with the school if there is any jewellery you would like your child to wear regarding religious observance.

### Hair

Hair that is long enough should be securely tied back during the school day. Hair bands and over-bands should be plain 'school type' bands in yellow or black, without decoration.

### PE Kit

House coloured round-neck t-shirt *no logos*

Black shorts *no logos*

Dark coloured tracksuit bottoms *no logos*

Plimsolls – (KS1 & KS2)

Trainers (for outdoor PE use in KS2 only)

### Bags

Bags are part of our uniform and therefore only school-issued bags should be used throughout KS1 and KS2.

Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child's name.



Achieving more together



# Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education  
Registered Charity No. 1137633

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

to be held on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at school**

*All parents/guardians and staff are very welcome to attend – please come along!*

I hereby give notice of the AGM of the Friends of High Firs Primary School to be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.

Agenda:

- Annual Report
- Accounts
- Election of committee members –  
(... would you like to join us?)
- Appointments
- Future planning for 2025-2026
- Any Other Business



**5 BINGO NIGHT 3**

**FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**6PM - 8PM**

**AT HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Please feel free to bring along your own non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles for this family evening

**TICKETS WILL BE £10 PER ADULT**  
**COMES WITH 1 BINGO BOOK**

**FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN**  
**COMES WITHOUT A BINGO BOOK**

**EXTRA BINGO BOOKS CAN BE PURCHASED**  
**ON THE NIGHT – £5 PER BOOK**

**10 BINGO 42**

3	21	43	53	72
5	29	40	41	82
9	17	41	49	69
13	13	27	46	72
6	19	39	46	61

21	16	33	50	68
6	11	33	41	71
15	12	43	58	62
2	21	38	48	71
3	13	42	49	64



### INSET DAYS

27/10/2025  
5/1/2026  
22/5/2026  
+1 MORE – date TBC

### Coming up next week...

No after school activity clubs (start w/b 15th September)

#### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September

Rocksteady lessons begin  
Reception class in until 1.30pm  
Year 5 Meet the Teacher 9.00am – 9.30am  
Year 6 Meet the Teacher 2.30pm – 3.00pm

#### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Reception class in full time from today  
Year 1 Meet the Teacher 9.00am – 9.30am  
Year 2 Meet the Teacher 2.30pm – 3.00pm

#### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Year 4 Meet the Teacher 9.00am – 9.30am  
Year 3 Meet the Teacher 2.30pm – 3.00pm  
Year 6 swimming starts

#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Year 6 Kent test



Achieving more together





High Firs Primary School  
HFS

Parents and carers  
**Coffee Morning**

Everyone is welcome -  
please come along for  
coffee and chat!

**Tues 30th Sept (9am)** -  
Introduction to Autism

**Tues 7th Oct (9am)** -  
Introduction to ADHD

*We will be looking at identification,  
sharing strategies and updating on  
further support available.*

The poster has a green background with a large white speech bubble. Inside the bubble, the text "Parents and carers Coffee Morning" is written in green. Below the bubble is a blue coffee cup with orange coffee. At the top left, there's a circular logo for High Firs Primary School with three trees and the letters "HFS".



Achieving more together

