



19th Sept 2025

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM MR KILBRIDE

I am delighted with the way classes have settled this year- children are now well versed in the routines of their new classes, which is of course the pre-requisite to really cracking on with progressing and developing through the curriculum. We have had a lovely theme shared through assemblies so far this term of exploring different ways we feel a sense of belonging – and one of the more abstract, but really pertinent points that was discussed was the way we show belonging in our happiness for the success of others in our community – safe in the knowledge that this will be reciprocated when it is our turn to be in the spotlight. And our celebration assembly continued that theme this morning with children being genuinely delighted to applaud and congratulate others' achievements.

*I would like to remind everyone about the reading expectations that will have been shared with you via the Meet the Teacher sessions. In **KS1** children bring home reading books on a Wednesday. The children have practised reading these books in school on Monday to Wednesday, so they then have 5 opportunities to read them at home, before returning them to school on the following Monday. Research shows that children will only be able to keep up with age expected norms if they are reading to an adult and being read to by an adult **at least 4 times a week**. So, every week that passes by, we would expect to see in reading records, an adult from home recording that their child has read to them and what page they got up to – potentially noting any words they found tricky and commenting generally on how they got on. Children who read regularly **will recognition and rewards** in school for doing so. Children may also bring home a 'sharing book' that might be more for you to read to your child. There is no need to record these occasions.*

*In **Reception**, children will bring home picture books for them to discuss with you, as above, from **next week**.*

*In **KS2** children should always have a reading book (either from home or school) on the go. They should read to an adult, or later to themselves **5-7 times a week** – recording in reading records accordingly. We often see older children in Y4/5/6 recording for themselves – but are always happy to see an adult recording as well. Children will usually be able to come back into school to take an **Accelerated Reader quiz** for the books they have read – contributing towards individual and whole class word count totals. These quizzes and word totals lead to individual and whole class rewards as the year progresses.*

Look out below for news of football tournaments this week gone and next week, the FHF Bingo night, individual and sibling photos, our Harvest Assembly and Macmillan Coffee Morning, separate Coffee Mornings on 30th Sept and 7th Oct on autism and ADHD and a chance to sign up for your child to do Rocksteady.

Harvest Assembly and Macmillan Coffee Morning

All our parents & carers are invited to join us at **10.10am on Thursday 25th September** for our Harvest Assembly. Our Harvest contributions this year will be donated to Swanley Foodbank and to Swanley



Community Cupboard. Please send your child into school with your donation on **Thursday 25th September**; this should be **tinned or packeted food only**, please. Our

assembly will be followed by refreshments & cakes for a donation in aid of Macmillan

Cancer Support so we would welcome any cake donations too. We will sell any surplus at the end of the school day! We hope you can join us to enjoy our Harvest celebrations and to support these two very worthwhile causes.



Individual Photographs

The children will have their individual and school sibling photographs taken on **Tuesday 23rd September**. Any non-school siblings are invited to come into school for photographs between **8am and 8.35am**. Children who are absent on the day will be given the opportunity to have their photograph taken when the photographer returns later in the year to take the class photos. **Breakfast Club will be in Year 1 on Tuesday 23rd September**.



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Starting High Firs – Reception 2026

Although the new academic year has only just started, we are already looking ahead to our new Reception children starting in September 2026! Parents with a child due to start school next year (children born 1.9.2021 to 31.8.2022) are warmly invited to visit our school for a welcome meeting and tour during one of the following sessions:



- **Tuesday 28th October 2025 9.30am - 10.30am**
- **Wednesday 5th November 2025 11.00am - 12.00pm**
- **Monday 10th November 2025 5.30pm - 6.30pm**

There will also be a craft / play activity session for prospective parents & pre-school children on **Tuesday 2nd December at 2pm**. Please do also pass this information on to those friends or family who may be considering applying for a place at High Firs for their child. For more information on Reception admissions and to book to attend a tour and/or the Craft Afternoon, please use the form on our website at: <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/admissions>

Small Schools Football Tournament

We sent a mixed Y5/6 football team to Princes Park in Dartford on Thursday to compete in the annual Small Schools Football tournament. The team played with great spirit and courage and came very close to some positive results, but they just did not quite have the composure to put the ball in the net when chances presented themselves. They battled hard and lost each of their 5 games 1-0.



HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	97	189	Ziggy G; Freya S
CHESTNUT	116	210	DJ M; Harry H; Thomas H
OAK	106	220	Theo C; Frankie M
ASH	126	246	Henley S; Anastasia P



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Voluntary Fund

Thank you to parents who have made their contribution to this term's Voluntary Fund payment. We greatly appreciate these donations which are used to support many of the extra activities undertaken in school by the children. The suggested payment is £2.50 per child or £6 per family.

What is the Voluntary Fund used for? The termly voluntary fund money is used to pay for lots of different things! Essentially, it is used for expenses which we are not allowed to allocate to government funding but which we believe lead to a broader educational experience for our children or which support our community & families links. This also means we do not have to charge parents every time! Just a few examples of this spending are:

- Concert & performance costumes
- Refreshments for parents & visitors at school events – Nativities / Assemblies / class meetings etc
- Cookery ingredients
- Celebration of commemorative events – Whole School Jubilee Day party etc.
- Expenses for Open Evening & events
- Visitors in to school
- Additional resources for school visits

We believe that visits and these other experiences are a vital part of our children's education – thank you to all those parents who support us in this way.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

**Notice of Annual General Meeting
to be held on Monday 29th 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 29th 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

Special Mentions

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

- Alice P – being a polite & kind friend to everyone.
- George M – super phonics this week.
- Ayah A – writing amazing sentences in English.
- Darcie T – amazing behaviour & trying really hard all week.
- Mikey K – great participation in History.
- Leo W – amazing effort in all areas of learning.
- Francis H – great start in Year 2.
- Drew D – her hard work & enthusiasm in all areas of learning.
- Teddy M – excellent work in Maths & challenging himself to answer some trickier questions.
- Sabiha M – challenging herself to use vocabulary in maths & for working hard in all lessons.
- Morgan J – being really enthusiastic about his writing.
- Sadie B – producing some excellent writing in her Shamus & Wotsits story.
- Maisie K – consistently being her best in all subjects & at all times.
- Isaiah D – following our school value of being kind



Register Rabbit

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



**YEAR 2
YEAR 4**

Our class attendance this week was:

Year 4 100%
Year 2 98.9%
Year 5 98.5%
Year 6 97.8%
Year R 97.4%
Year 1 95.9%
Year 3 95.6%



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In our classes this week

- Reception – learned how to sort & match objects.
- Year 1 – have been describing characters & settings in a story.
- Year 2 – compared seaside holidays in the past & present.
- Year 3 – learned about food from the Stone Age.
- Year 4 – mixed paints to create shades & tints.
- Year 5 – have been learning about Victorian children's jobs.
- Year 6 – learned how to use commas correctly.



INSET DAYS

- 27/10/2025
- 5/1/2026
- 22/5/2026

Coming up next week...

Tuesday 23rd September

- Individual photos
- Girls' football tournament (afternoon)

Thursday 25th September

- Harvest Festival Assembly followed by MacMillan Coffee Morning – 10.10am
- Boys' football tournament (afternoon)

Friday 26th September

- FHF Bingo – 6pm



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**ROCK
STEADY**

ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS!



IGNITE THEIR SELF-BELIEF

- ▶ Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
- 🎸 Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
- 🌟 Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.
- 📄 Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
- 🎵 Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

**BOOK YOUR CHILD'S
PLACE ONLINE**



0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com



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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.



Get Photo Ready

Active Photo are on their way!

Your school photo day is
TUESDAY
23rd SEPTEMBER 2025



ACTIVEPHOTO.CO.UK



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