



30th Sept 2022

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Visit our school website at www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Message from Mr Kilbride

I really enjoyed taking children from Y5/6 out to football tournaments this week. They represented the school with real enthusiasm and hopefully there are many more such festivals of sport to come, as we aim to enter more inter school events this year. Thank you to the parents who helped with transport – without your help, costs for entering events like this would become prohibitive.

From Monday 10th October, I am really excited to announce that we are beginning a 'Park and Stride' initiative. The benefits are:

- Improved health and fitness through walking into school everyday
- Health benefit for all with fewer cars polluting air near the school site at drop off and collection
- Benefit for the environment with fewer and shorter car journeys to school
- Safety of all on school run with reduced traffic around school
- Improved relations with our neighbours within the community
- Earlier getaway for parents leaving to go to work

We will need parents to register their child for the walking bus in advance so we know how many staff we need to provide. You drop off on Goldsel Road (side road – opposite entrance to garages for Winton Court) between 8.30am and 8.40am. Our staff will then walk children into school, cutting through the alleyway into Court Crescent. At the end of the day, staff will gather the booked in children and leave school at 3.15pm – bringing them to the same area in Goldsel Road in time for collection between 3.20pm and 3.30pm. If you could adjust your routines to these times, we may genuinely aspire to a quiet and safe road outside school at drop off and collection. I really hope you can join me in getting behind this initiative so we can all work together to make a really positive change for all connected to our school. We will text parents with the link to register soon so please do keep an eye out and sign up!



Harvest Assembly – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Assembly – what a lovely occasion! Your kind donations of food meant there was a fantastic range of produce on display (arranged beautifully by our creative TA team) which we will be giving to Swanley Foodbank to distribute to those in need in our local community. Thank you also to all our classes who contributed readings, poems or art work and a particular mention to our Reception children for doing so well in their very first whole school assembly!

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning & Cake Sale



Thank you to everyone who came to our Coffee Morning following Harvest Assembly and the Cake Sale after school on Wednesday – we raised an amazing **£141.95** for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you also to the staff and parents who donated delicious cakes for us to sell.

Individual Photographs

The children will have their individual and school sibling photographs taken on **Tuesday 4th October**. 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 4 on Tuesday 4th October.**

Parents Consultations

Autumn Term Parents Consultations will be held by appointment on Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th October. Parents will be sent a text next week for the online booking link to request their appointment.

Black History Month

As part of our ongoing learning, all classes will be covering Black History Month in October in both lessons and assemblies. Once again, we would like to include relevant personal stories, personal heroes and book recommendations from our High Firs families. As an additional option to their "Learning Log" tasks during October all children are therefore invited to bring in information, prepare a talk, make a poster or anything else appropriate that they can share with their class and/or which we might be able to display to support this.



Achieving more together





Dartford Schools FA football tournaments

Well done to our Y5/6 boys and girls who took part in the Dartford Schools football tournament this week. For many in our teams, this was the first time they had experienced playing in a competitive match. As such, it was a steep learning curve, but both teams improved as the tournaments progressed and were playing competitively with the best teams by the end. All children behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the school.



Voluntary Fund

This week we are requesting parents to make 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.

Please return your donation by 14th October – thank you. You can also pay via our SchoolMoney app.

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.

Special Mentions

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

- Marco P & Emma B – trying really hard to write their names.
- Kaya O – writing a super description of his monster.
- Jonas C – working hard and trying his best.
- Harvey RH – his descriptive pirate story.
- Ellis A – making a fantastic effort to improve his writing.
- Mariana G – great comprehension responses about palaeontology.
- Poppy C – an amazing cave painting.
- Walter A – his fabulous history writing.
- Harrison A – his lovely Iron Man description.
- Lola H & Bella O – fantastic work in Maths this week.
- Lily M – a brilliant newspaper report about the Blitz.
- Evie T – fantastic & detailed work about Anne Frank.
- Ruby Bu – an excellent collage of WW2 images with detailed captions.



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 3rd October** at 7pm
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 3rd October at 7pm.

Agenda:

- Annual Report
- Accounts
- Election of committee members – (... would you like to join us?)
- Appointments
- Future planning for 2022-23
- Any Other Business



Achieving more together



Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 2
YEAR 3



In our classes this week

Reception – used pipettes to create a painting.

Year 1 – wrote using description.

Year 2 – found out about activities and pastimes from the past.

Year 3 – learned about Skara Brae and why it is important.

Year 4 – found out the differences between rich and poor Tudor houses.

Year 5 – enjoyed playing seated volleyball!

Year 6 – wrote WW2 poems using figurative language.



HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	125	319	Robert L, Selena L, Emelia S
CHESTNUT	176	266	Gloria F, George N, Isabella O, Ruby Bay
OAK	154	265	Emma B, Poppy C, Casian C
ASH	155	271	Michael K, Emanuela M, Lucy E



INSET DAYS

No children in school

Mon 31st Oct 2022

Tues 3rd Jan 2023

Fri 26th May 2023

Coming up next week...

Monday 3rd October FHF AGM – 7pm

Tuesday 4th October Non-school sibling photos in hall - 8am to 8.35am
Individual pupil photographs during school time

Weds 5th October Yr5/6 group at Horton Kirby Maths Day
Yr4 Class Assembly - 10.10am (Parents welcome)



Achieving more together

