



10th Oct 2025

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM MR KILBRIDE

Half term is a week earlier than usual this year, but even allowing for this, I can scarcely believe that there is only one more week of this term to go.

While supervising the Reception children at playtime this morning, we were doing some running race challenges and then talking about how our bodies feel after exercising and one of the children told me after running they have a 'happy heart'. In 25 years of teaching, I have never heard this phrase, and I thought it was such a lovely way to describe how you feel when you cut loose and charge around at the age of 4/5! Two simple words; carrying such broad and deep meaning.

Thank you for coming along in support of your children to Parent Consultation meetings this week. We like to make contact with parents of every child at this time of year, so if you missed your appointment or did not manage to make one, your class teacher will soon be in touch to catch up. An engaged community of parents makes for engaged children who are keen to be in school and to learn – so it was lovely to see you attending in such great numbers this week.

Y6 got our programme of class assemblies for this year underway with a lovely sharing assembly themed on their studies of World War 2. This subject in history always captures their imagination and this year was no different - they were able to showcase learning in English, art, science and more, all connected to WW2. Thank you to parents/carers again for your great support of this event.

Our Y3/4 football team represented the school this week in the annual Community Cup. 11 children played in various positions and combinations for the 6-a-side tournament. For many, it was their first occasion representing the school and for others, it was the first time they had played in a football team in competitive matches. We won one game 3-0 and finished 5th out of the 6 teams in our group. Everyone gave their best efforts throughout.



Next week we look forward to seeing many of our Y4 children off to Blackland Farm for 3 days and 2 nights of amazing outdoor and adventurous activities. We wish them lots of luck and I am sure they will come back very tired on Wednesday evening having had a terrific, character-building time.

It is also the first Bikeability session for Y6 children – I believe we have 24 taking part this year. Next week will be bike handling on the school playground – followed by sessions on the road after half term. A reminder that children taking part will need to bring their bikes into school on Tuesday – bikes will need to be in a roadworthy condition for children to take part and all will need a cycle helmet too.

Finally, we look forward to Y5 class assembly on Thursday and Reception will undertake an exciting walk to the library in Swanley on Wednesday!



Achieving more together



Drop-off and Collection

For dropping off, it is essential that you walk your child up to the school gate – it is not safe to wave your child off from a distance as they navigate crossing the school entrance driveway. This driveway is in use at all times of the school day and needs to be treated the same as any other road crossing – with full supervision for children who do not have permission to walk home independently.

Please can we remind all parents to supervise their children closely on the school site at the end of the school day and to leave the site promptly once your child has been collected. The trim trail, tyres, playground and field are not for use during this time.

A reminder of the recent change in our school policy to now allow drop off and collection by anyone on your specific list who is over the age of 16.

A change to the collection arrangements from extra curricular clubs – from next week, all clubs will collect from the scooter park area at the front of school so please wait here, rather than going to the rear of the building.

Finally, please remember that the school car park is not to be used at either drop off or collection and this also applies to Breakfast Club and After School Club.

These measures are all in place to ensure the safety of our children so thank you for your support in following these processes.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

We have a meeting on Monday (13th Oct) evening at 7.30pm at school.

We also have an Extraordinary General Meeting on Monday 3rd November at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome – please come along!



Safeguarding concerns – how to contact us

Safeguarding our pupils is everybody's responsibility and all those directly connected (staff, volunteers, governors, leaders, parents, families, and learners) are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for our children and have an essential role to play in making our community safe and secure. We have Designated Safeguarding Leaders who have responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems (including online safety) in school – these are currently Mr Kilbride, Miss Rennie, Miss Allin & Miss Selby. If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can make an appointment with one of our DSLs to discuss these. Alternatively, we have a dedicated form on our website at <https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/> or you can email safeguarding@high-firs.kent.sch.uk Any concerns sent by the website or email will go directly to our DSLs; please provide as much information as you can so that we have a full understanding of the circumstances. We will respond as promptly as we can; however, if you believe that a child is in immediate danger you should always call the police immediately on 999.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

*How to contact us
if you are concerned*

Black History Month

In assemblies this week we used David Olusoga's fabulous book 'Black and British – An Illustrated History', brought in by Iyah-Renae, to learn about the long history of black people living in the United Kingdom, dating back to the Aurelian Moors, a North African Roman Legion stationed in a community at Hadrian's Wall. We also learned about Court Musician John Blanke, who played trumpet on many occasions for Henry VIII and diver Jacques Francis, who rescued many of the treasures from the sunken Mary Rose.



Over the remaining weeks in October each class has chosen a significant figure to learn more about and share with the rest of the school in the final week of term: Reception – Rosa Parks; Year 1 – Mary Seacole; Year 2 – Benjamin Zephaniah; Year 3 – Norma Best; Year 4 – Phyllis Wheatley; Year 5 – Lilian Bader; Year 6 – Ulric Cross.



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High Firs is 50!

The academic year 2025-2026 marks 50 years since High Firs Primary School opened. We are looking forward to celebrating this very special birthday with present and past pupils, staff, governors and the local community. As we start planning, we would like to hear from everyone involved with our school past and/or present with any suggestions for different ways we could celebrate. For example, for our 40th Birthday, events over the year included a concert with songs from the decades, BBQ evening, picnic, photo exhibition and commemorative whole school photograph. If you have any ideas please share these with us by visiting <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/celebrate50ideas> by Friday 24th October.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

Registered Charity No. 1137633



A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE CHRISTMAS / WINTER CARDS DESIGNED BY YOUR CHILD – AND RAISE FUNDS FOR FHF AT THE SAME TIME!

All our children have designed a Christmas or Winter card this week. If you would like to purchase cards made from this design they cost £6.00 per 12 cards; £1.00 of which will be donated to FHF. To place your order, please complete the form on the reverse of the proof and return to school with payment (cash or cheque to "Friends of High Firs") by **Friday 17th October**.

Please return the proof in the plastic wallet provided to ensure it does not become damaged; please do not fold the proof. Please place payment in a separate sealed envelope inside the wallet – we can not accept payments by Arbor.

Special Mentions

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

- Emilia M – her super problem solving with repeating pattern activities.
- Sienna-Rose N – her effort with her letter formation.
- Dj M – doing really well in his phonics.
- Sazin K – writing brilliant sentences about the Leaf Man.
- Luna H – her great work in phonics.
- Reggie T – always being his best & for being a kind friend.
- Rose S – always working hard & trying her best in all that she does.
- Harry H – making a fantastic effort using manipulatives in maths to help his understanding.
- Albert T – working really hard in all lessons this week.
- Iyah M – amazing work rounding numbers in maths.
- Emily S – working hard in all lessons particularly in maths.
- Natasha F – a fantastic information leaflet about Victorian schools.
- The whole of Year 6 – their consistent effort & focus while learning how to use the long division method in Maths this week.



Register Rabbit

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



YEAR 2
YEAR 5

Our class attendance this week was:

Year 2 99.6%
 Year 5 98.5%
 Year 1 98.5%
 Year 3 97.4%
 Year 6 94.8%
 Year 4 92.5%
 Year R 91.9%



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HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	126	591	Ziggy G; Louisa C
CHESTNUT	126	623	Molly Z; Leo A
OAK	149	677	Noah M; Mikayla I; Isla W; Oliver M; Chloe P
ASH	151	749	Frankie C; Sadie B

In our classes this week

- Reception – learned how to create simple patterns
- Year 1 – learned about the Leaf Man story
- Year 2 – in RE, have been thinking about ways to care for others
- Year 3 – found out some fascinating facts about Skara Brae
- Year 4 – painted portraits of Henry VIII
- Year 5 – learned about Dr Barnardo
- Year 6 – learned long division



INSET DAYS

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

Coming up next week...

Monday 13th October

Year 4 residential trip to Blackland Farm (until Wednesday)
7.30pm – FHF Meeting (Christmas planning)

Tuesday 14th October

Year 6 Bikeability for all registered pupils

Wednesday 15th October

Reception visit to Swanley Library

Thursday 16th October

10.10am – Year 5 class assembly

Friday 17th October

Break the Rules Day



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