



17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025

# High Firs Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

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### MESSAGE FROM MR KILBRIDE

*There was great excitement at the gate this morning as children arrived in school for Break the Rules day on our final day of Term 1. In assembly this morning, the children (and staff!) all admitted to feeling quite tired and in need of a good rest, so the half term holiday has arrived just in the nick of time.*

*Term 1 is always about 'settling in' to new year groups and routines, but it has been clear to me in recent weeks that the children have made some great progress across the course of the term too – I hope you have noticed that, be that with their reading, their tables or number bonds, or with their emotional self-regulation, we are really very proud of the effort that children have put in towards being their best this half term.*

*We welcome your ideas for our 50<sup>th</sup> year celebrations – it would be lovely to do something each month, as we move into 2026 – I will update you once we have decided on how best to mark this special landmark.*

*Well done to the Y4 children who attended the residential trip – they had a great time away, deepened friendships, encouraged each other and pushed themselves beyond limits they might have initially imposed upon themselves – what tremendous character building that will stand them in good stead in so many situations they encounter in future life – the learning is way beyond the adventurous and the outdoors – it is a discovery of oneself and having a growth mindset to go beyond what you imagined to be possible.*

*Please see below exciting opportunities to take part in a Coming to England workshop, with Floella Benjamin and Christmas ice skating through the Friends at Bluewater.*

*You can also win pantomime tickets by entering Laura Trott's Christmas card competition too – details below.*

*Finally, remember that Monday 27<sup>th</sup> is an INSET day, so no children in school and we will see you all again on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Have a lovely week off – stay safe and have fun!*



### 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.

### December performances

We know parents appreciate early information on our December performances so they can book these into their diaries! This year's performances will be on:

- Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 – Mon 15<sup>th</sup> & Tue 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm
- Year 3 & Year 4 – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm & 6.30pm
- Year 5 & Year 6 - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm & 6.30pm

We will let you have booking information and more details after half-term.



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## Blackland Farm

Our Yr4 children had a fantastic three-day stay at Blackland Farm where they enjoyed a range of outdoor activities including crate stacking, climbing, Nightline, Gladiator challenge, bushcraft and problem solving. There was an evening campfire and Quiz Night too. All of the children who went took part with great enthusiasm and are to be congratulated on their "have a go" attitude – some of them proved to be very good washer-uppers too!



## Attendance incentive

Our attendance so far this year is an impressive 96.2% - up about half of one percent from this time last year.



However, our attendance analysis shows that we have a huge drop off in attendance in the weeks immediately following a school holiday – there is a national dip in these weeks, but our dip is much greater. As a result, we are going to award tokens to all children who attend school for the whole week in the first week back after the half term holiday and see if that makes a difference to our numbers – we can only help the children to learn when they are here!

## Assemblies

Our class assembly dates for next term will be as follows:

Year 4 – 10.10am Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance – 10.40am Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Year 3 – 10.10am Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Year 2 – 10.10am Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Year 1 – 10.10am Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November

## HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>697</b>	Mia E; Jonas C;
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>843</b>	Mabel N; Roman T; Courtney B
<b>OAK</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>801</b>	Madison W; Ruby A;
<b>ASH</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>823</b>	Oliver G; Lowen P; Maddy K; Jake B



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**Local MP Laura Trott has launched her Christmas Card competition for 2025.**

The competition invites all local children, up to 11-years-old, to create a design for her annual Christmas Card.

Entries may be inspired by pupils' favourite local activities, places or stories during the festive season, and the winning entry will then be printed on the front of the Christmas Cards she sends out in December.

The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks has kindly donated prizes for the winner and runners-up:

*1st prize – A family ticket for four to see Aladdin at The Stag Theatre Sevenoaks*

*2nd prize – A family ticket for four to see a film at The Stag Cinema Sevenoaks*

*3rd prize – One adult and one child ticket to see a film at The Stag Cinema Sevenoaks*

We are inviting pupils to design their Christmas card over half term so please bring completed designs into school by Wednesday 29th October. Please use the template which has been sent home with children today. Good luck and Laura can't wait to see the amazing artwork of our talented young people.



VISIT MY WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
[lauratrott.org.uk/christmas-card-competition](http://lauratrott.org.uk/christmas-card-competition)

**Friends of High Firs  
Primary School Association  
Supporting Our Children's Education**

Ice Skating  
At Bluewater  
Thursday 27th November

Just £10 per ticket!  
Cash payments or  
cheque payable to  
"Friends of High Firs"  
via the school office

6PM

Scan to book



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### Coming to England – workshop with Dame Floella Benjamin

As part of Black History Month, we are pleased to offer an exciting future opportunity for our children in KS2 to take part in a fantastic inspirational event focusing on diversity, inclusion and anti-bullying, led by Baroness Floella Benjamin at the British Film Institute. Baroness Benjamin will be talking to the children about her film and book “Coming to England” which tells of her journey from Trinidad to Britain in the early 1960s. Following a screening of the film, she will talk

to pupils and explore the themes of difference, discrimination and anti-bullying through her own inspiring story. As a Baroness in the House of Lords, Floella champions equality and promotes feelings of worth in children – aiming that pupils leave this event truly inspired, believing her motto ‘I am worthy!’ We are making this available to our KS2 children as an optional enhancement activity, rather than a curriculum or class-linked trip. For more details please see the email sent on 15<sup>th</sup> October and visit your child’s Arbor account to book.



### Special Mentions

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

- Reception Class – for their “best” behaviour when visiting Swanley Library
- Tevin A – excellent knowledge and understanding of our maths topic of addition
- Ella B – having a super week at school – working really hard and smiling every day
- Year 2 – their enthusiastic and sensible behaviour in Forest School
- Penelope T – making a fantastic effort in all that she does
- Aylen G – thinking carefully about her Stonehenge art and producing a lovely page in her sketchbook
- Year 4 – a brilliant week either at Blackland Farm or in school
- Danny B – a great start to his biography of Dr Barnardo
- Beatrice J – always being kind and offering help around the class
- Scarlett T – writing a well balanced discussion text using a formal tone and vocabulary
- Isabella O – being her best in all areas of the curriculum therefore making an excellent role model



### Register Rabbit

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



**YEAR 2**  
**YEAR 6**

Our class attendance this week was:

Year 2 99.6%  
 Year 6 97.0%  
 Year 4 95.9%  
 Year 5 94.5%  
 Year 3 92.6%  
 Year 1 91.1%  
 Year R 89.3%

### In our classes this week

- Reception – learned about the sections of a book
- Year 1 – learned how the equator affects the weather
- Year 2 – tested materials to fix Mrs Ford’s broken bucket
- Year 3 – learned about the Iron Age
- Year 4 – had a great time on their residential trip at Blackland Farm
- Year 5 – made William Morris prints
- Year 6 – explored how to write a discussion text



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**INSET DAYS**

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

**Coming up after half term...**  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
Inset day – no children in school  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**  
Yr 6 Bikeability Group A and B  
New Reception Tour 9.30am  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October**  
FHF Sponsored Bounce  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October**  
Yr 6 Bikeability Group C

**Got to drive?**

**Park and stride!**

Sign up to join us at -  
<https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/park-stride/>

**No Parking**

Think before you stop.  
Choose a safe spot...

... and please show consideration to our neighbours.

Autism & ADHD  
Parent Support UK CIC

**Autism & ADHD  
PARENT  
SUPPORT GROUP**

Come join us at either group, build friendships, get support and be around people who understand.

- ✓ No referral or booking required
- ✓ Friendly welcoming group
- ✓ Free to attend

Northview Hall, 92 Northview,  
Swanley Kent BR8 7BQ

<https://aaps-uk.org>  
[contact@autismadhdparentsupport.co.uk](mailto:contact@autismadhdparentsupport.co.uk)

MONDAYS  
(TERM-TIME)  
9.30-11.30AM

OR

1ST WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
6-8PM

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS & OFFER TAX-FREE CHILDCARE!

**MEGA CAMPS**  
KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILD CARE FROM 8am - 6pm

AGES 4 - 14

**SUMMER CAMPS 2025**  
23<sup>RD</sup> JULY - 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST\*

\*CHECK WEBSITE FOR EARLY BIRD OFFERS AND MORE INFORMATION  
SUMMER PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

WALL CLIMBING  
KIDS FAVOURITE  
ANIMAL WORKSHOP

MEGA ACTIVITY  
WET N' WILD  
PLUS MUCH MORE...

DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES EACH DAY AS WELL AS FOOTBALL, DOGGBALL, ROUNDERS, KWIK CRICKET, BASKETBALL, TEAM GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT  
ESSEX, KENT & SURREY

BOOK ONLINE NOW!  
[WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET](http://WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET)  
OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR STAFF ARE DBS CHECKED



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# Laura's Christmas Card Competition Entry form



\*only draw within the box \*no glitter or digital designs

First Name	<input type="text"/>		
Surname	<input type="text"/>		
School	<input type="text"/>		
Class	<input type="text"/>	Year Group	<input type="text"/>

**Laura Trott • Member of Parliament for Sevenoaks, Swanley & the Dartford Villages**



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