



31<sup>st</sup> October  
2025

# High Firs Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

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### MESSAGE FROM MR KILBRIDE

*Happy Halloween everyone – several children have greeted me this way today – more than I can ever recall before, so a day of celebrations and fun is clearly in the children’s minds today.*

*Classes have made a great start to the new term – the children have been really focussed on their learning all week.*

*We began the week with a really stimulating INSET day where staff worked together in study of the book *Dynamically Different Classrooms*. We will soon be using many of its ideas to ‘hide’ recent learning in plain sight, to be ceremonially unpacked and reviewed at some point later in time – so when children come home talking about bottles with scrolls of paper in or jars with scrunched up snowballs in, these are some of a range of ideas that we will be using this term to engage the children in retaining new learning and committing it to long term memory.*

*Over 20 of our Y6 children completed their bikeability training this week, having begun prior to half term. We look forward to seeing good numbers of children cycling in safely on the roads moving forwards. The instructors were really impressed with the children’s behaviour and engagement in the sessions.*

*On Tuesday morning we showed around twenty-five families who are considering us for their child’s Reception place in September 2026. The Y5 and Y6 children did a wonderful job of leading the tours – there are no better advocates of who we are and what we try to achieve than our children themselves. We have two more events to come – next Wednesday morning and on the evening of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November. If you know anyone with children due to start in September 2026, do encourage them to book on – we still have a few spaces left on these upcoming tours, but not many, so book in quickly! There was a buzz of excitement in the hall on Wednesday morning as the children took part in the annual sponsored bounce event, organised by the Friends of High Firs. Please support your child in collecting sponsors from amongst your friends and family to support the school with our efforts to raise money for the purchase of new tablets.*

*On Thursday, Y5 went on a Victorian walk around Swanley. They came back captivated by the different places they had seen and the stories of Victorian life hidden behind the modern facades.*

*WOW news – we continue to remain the top school in Kent with over 75% of our children journeying to and from school in sustainable and healthy ways. Our efforts have us now in 32<sup>nd</sup> position out of over 800 schools taking part across England. Thank you so much for your commitment towards supporting your children to come in in enjoyable and healthy ways that are benefit your children and the wider school community as well.*



### Attendance incentive

We gave out special attendance tokens today to reward children who had attended school for 100% of the first week back after half term. These went to 193 children this week – we look forward to seeing if we can beat this number in the first week back after the Christmas holidays in January. You might recall that our reason for doing this was to try to incentivise good attendance in the periods following school holidays, where our usually good attendance record falls below the national average in these particular weeks.



### 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*



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

A reminder that our Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30pm. This will be a virtual meeting – use the link below to access.

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 358 196 762 622 1

Passcode: HC6GM3yK

Thank you for your support of our Sponsored Bounce event – keep the sponsors coming in!



**DONUTS  
FOR SALE  
IN THE SCHOOL**

**£1  
EACH**

*Krispy Kreme*  
DOUGHNUTS

**WEDNESDAY,  
5TH  
AFTER SCHOOL  
HELP SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!**



Come and grab a bargain after school from the scooter park or the hall, weather depending.



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Parents and carers

# Coffee Morning

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

**Tuesday 18th November at 9am**

***Understanding and supporting your child's behaviour.***



## Accelerated Reader Update

'You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.' Dr. Seuss. Here at High Firs, lots of children have been sitting back and relaxing with a good book. The table below shows the fantastic effort made by each class.

Class	Total Word Count	Target	Top Word Count Reader
3	<b>232,477</b>	500,000	George N
4	<b>852,990</b>	1,000,000 3 quizzes each	Sofia M
5	<b>606,970</b>	1,000,000 and everyone to have read two books.	Roman
6	<b>1,151,031</b>	2,000,000 and everyone to have read two books.	Scarlett

As you can see, many words have been read. A particular mention goes to the top word count readers in each class. Well done to George, Sofia, Roman and Scarlett. An extra special well done goes to Sofia, of class 4, who is the top word count reader in the school!

Let's continue the brilliant effort everyone so that each class can reach their word count target, get their reading reward but most importantly continue to sit back and relax with a good book.

### **Yr5/6 Clubs**

Now that the clocks have changed and the darker nights are upon us, please can we ask that where possible Yr5/6 children are collected by an adult from after-school clubs rather than walking home unaccompanied at 4.15pm. Thank you.



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### Poppy Appeal

Paper poppies and a variety of other items will be on sale all week from Monday next week, in return for the children's donations towards this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Items available and the donation suggested by the RBL are shown here. Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile cause.

## HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>757</b>	Mia E; Rakshanaa S
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>805</b>	Arthur F; Iyah M
<b>OAK</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>868</b>	Ivy G; Sabiha M
<b>ASH</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>879</b>	Oliver G; Ayyub L; George P

### Special Mentions

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

- Archie W-G – his attitude towards his learning and always trying his best.
- Nate T – his improvement with his letter formation.
- Harrison W – working hard all week especially with his handwriting.
- Ela O – trying really hard to be independent in all subjects.
- Isla W – her interest and enthusiasm when learning about Benjamin Zephaniah.
- George P – sharing his excellent knowledge in geography about places around the world.
- Julia R – making a brilliant effort in all her learning this week.
- Freya S – being a kind, caring and reliable member of the class.
- Luiza-Maria P – consistently working hard and trying your best with everything.
- Courtney B – fantastic work in class all week and working hard – keep it up!
- Joshua I – working hard and challenging himself in maths.
- Ivy C – having a positive start to the term and working hard in all lessons.
- Emelia S – her outstanding effort with home learning.
- Iyah-Renae B – her effort of reading lots during the half term break and already completing three quizzes.



### 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 99.0%  
Year 6 98.6%  
Year 5 98.5%  
Year 1 97.1%  
Year R 94.8%  
Year 4 93.8%  
Year 3 92.4%



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### In our classes this week

- Reception – mixed different coloured paints to create a new colour
- Year 1 – learned how to speed stack
- Year 2 – discovered about the area we live in
- Year 3 – learned how to write diamante poems
- Year 4 – practised using running stitch and over stitch in DT
- Year 5 – went on a walk around Swanley to look for Victorian features
- Year 6 – learned about refraction



### INSET DAYS

5/1/2026  
22/5/2026

### Coming up next week...

#### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

7.30pm - FHF EGM online

#### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Year 6 WW2 trip  
No Yr 3 Board Games Club

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November

11.00 am - New Reception Tour  
FHF doughnut sale after school

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Yr3/4 Football Festival for selected pupils

#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November

FHF Christmas Jumper Sale  
No Boys' Football Club  
Yr 5/6 football match for selected pupils



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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



**MONDAYS  
(TERM-TIME)  
9.30-11.30AM**

OR

**1ST WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
6-8PM**

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



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