



16TH JANUARY 2026

HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

COURT CRESCENT, SWANLEY, KENT BR8 8NR TEL: 01322 669721  
EMAIL: OFFICE@HIGH-FIRS.KENT.SCH.UK WEBSITE: WWW.HIGH-FIRS.KENT.SCH.UK

## MESSAGE FROM MR KILBRIDE

*From Monday FOSC will have a new dropping off procedure for Breakfast Club in the morning. Come in through the usual pedestrian gate, then turn left, pass through the scooter park and the side gate by the front office. From approx. 7.30-7.45 the front door will be supervised – you can drop off, sign your child in and they will pass on through into the hall. If you arrive after 7.45, ring FOSC (07594439691) as you do for After School Club collection, and a member of FOSC staff will come and let you in. Access onto the playground and the back of the school building will no longer be possible at this time – the gate in the passageway between Rec/Y1 and the main building will remain locked until 8.45am. Please be aware that even if school staff are in the office, you must call FOSC to be let in.*

*We loved Cosy Clothes Day on Monday. Thank you for all the donations. It felt almost like you had to only partially get out of bed by coming in loungewear on a cold, dark second Monday in January!*

*In between the miserable weather, in assemblies this week, I shared the Colourful Crayons story that promoted acceptance of difference, linked to the Protected Characteristics. Miss Rennie reminded the children all about the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also celebrated Martin Luther King Day, as we discussed what he was known for and shared an inspirational extract from his famous 'I have a dream' speech.*

## PLAYTIME DONATIONS

Don't forget to save us any items for lunchtimes that we can use for free play! We are looking in particular for the items listed below but are happy to take most things - please bring them to Mr Harris on the gate in the mornings:

- large cardboard tubes (for mailing posters / carpet inners etc)
- large cardboard boxes / packaging
- bedsheets / curtains
- cable reels
- Buggies (both real ones and for dolls!)
- crutches / zimmer frames
- wheelchairs
- tarps / ground sheets
- dressing up / hats – child or adult!
- drainpipes / guttering
- suitcases
- crates
- mixing bowls / jugs / sieves (plastic or metal, please – no china or glass)
- saucepans / frying pans
- Kitchen utensils – large spoons / ladles / spatulas etc (no knives or forks!)
- old household phones (not mobiles)
- wallpaper
- large plastic bottles
- small paddling pools / sandpits
- Tuff trays
- Astro turf

# RAISING CONCERNS

Many of you will be aware of the social media posts about one of our other local primary schools earlier this week regarding an alleged intruder onto their site. Thankfully, this incident did **not** take place. However, it really highlighted how unregulated speculation on social media can have a significant and detrimental impact on schools and local communities. Children and parents at the school concerned have been caused considerable unnecessary fear and anxiety, while staff are understandably very upset by false reports against them and senior leaders & office staff have had to redirect from their usual duties to manage the fallout of this false online speculation. I know our families were also rightly worried by seeing these reports and how this may affect their own children.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask and remind all our High Firs families that if you are concerned about something that has happened at school please do contact us directly so we can address these concerns. Likewise, if we have any concerns that we need to share with you, please be assured we will do so as quickly as we can and directly to parents through our school communication channels – we will not rely on word of mouth or local forums.

Our District schools will contact each other if they are aware of concerns that may affect other schools in the local area so that their families can also be advised if necessary. As a school, we continue to reflect on our own emergency processes and procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our school community is always paramount. Thank you all for your support.

## FRIENDS OF HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

*SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1137633*

## Next FHF Meeting

**Monday 26th January**

**7.30pm**

*Everyone is welcome -  
please come along!*

Our next Friends of High Firs meeting will take place on the 26th January at 7.30pm at the school. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see as many of you there as possible .

The Friends are currently in the process of sorting out their lock up for the coming year. We are asking if any parents have any of the below items they may be able to donate to us

- *Clothes rail*
- *Storage boxes*
- *Storage drawers*

If you do any any of these items you are able to donate please email the Chair of the Friends, Linda Clark, at [lindatodd21@me.com](mailto:lindatodd21@me.com)



## SHOUT OUT FOR WELLIES AND PUDDLE SUITS!

We would be very grateful for any donations of wellies and/or puddle suits for our Reception children so they can use their outdoor area whatever the weather - as well as some standbys for anyone who forgets their Forest School things.

If you have some spare that you no longer need please send them in to Mrs Everest.

## WELCOME

At the end of last term we said "thank you and goodbye" to Mrs Nabong as she left our premises cleaning team. We welcome Mrs Stoneham to High Firs as our new cleaner.

## FOSC AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Don't forget that one day bookings can now be made at FOSC After School Club. For more information please visit <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/bcasc> or FOSC website at <https://www.footscrayoutofschool.com/>

## SCHOOL-DROP OFF

Thank you to everyone for their support with our new drop-off arrangements to ensure our children do not go back out of the gate once they have come into school. If your child cannot manage all their items in one single trip:

- Outside the school gate, parents/carers take responsibility for the bike/scooter - children carry all other belongings.
- Parents/carers come in through the gate to park the bike/scooter.
- Children come in through the gate and head straight round to class/cloakroom.
- Parents leave back through the main gate.

***In all other circumstances, please continue to drop your children at the school gate, as usual.***

# THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS



## HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>OAK</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>ASH</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>168</b>

	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	Tevin A; Lottie A
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	Annriya A; Tiana D; Luiza P
<b>OAK</b>	Isla W; Oliver M; Chloe P
<b>ASH</b>	Henley S; Sadie B; Alan AG

## CLASS ATTENDANCE



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

**YEAR R**  
**YEAR 3 & 6**

Our class attendance this week was:

**Year R 99.6%**  
**Year 2 99.3%**  
**Year 6 97.8%**  
**Year 3 97.8%**  
**Year 4 97.4%**  
**Year 5 96.6%**  
**Year 1 95.5%**

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



- Ciana R - a huge improvement in her letter formation
- Esmee P - her progress in blending to read words
- Olivia L - having a super start to the new term
- Arthur Ful - his amazing progress in his reading
- Ziggy G - trying hard to improve his writing & the presentation of his work
- Billy D - his great letter to Ernest Shackleton asking to join his crew
- Oscar P - trying hard to share mathematical vocabulary during our learning
- Brooke B - engaging in our History lessons & sharing her knowledge with the class
- Jake B - super work multiplying & dividing by 10 & 100 in maths
- Sofia M - an excellent letter based on our book The Firework Maker's Daughter
- Henry F - trying hard with long multiplication in Maths
- Leo A - improved explanations in Maths
- Iyah B - her wonderful sketches for her home learning - just like Charles Darwin!
- Hannah C - consistently & quietly being her best

# ONLINE SAFETY

This week I want to signpost parents towards some information and resources to help keep children safe online. I am sure over Christmas that some children will have received gifts of new technology – most of which may well have internet access capabilities. This opens a world of possibility and opportunity, but also exposes children to a wide range of new risks that would not otherwise be present.

The Safer Internet Centre's parent guides are a really comprehensive walk through of all the issues surrounding internet access and tech use - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

The Internet Matters website is full of good advice - <https://www.internetmatters.org/> - in particular they have very detailed step by step guides about how to set up devices and how to ensure suitable settings across a range of games and apps like Whatsapp, Tiktok, Minecraft and Roblox.

Here is Top10.com's view of the best parental control apps for 2026 - <https://tinyurl.com/3nxx6ybb>

Within the safer internet guides, there are clear age guides for use set by the providers. Where parents choose not to follow these age recommendations, it is essential that a high level of monitoring of child online activity takes place – for example, daily checking of activity or installing apps that enable child activity to be viewed directly on parent/carer devices. The above Top10 link is full of suggestions here.

I hope that by following some of this advice, parents can create the right conditions for children to get the maximum benefit from using technology, with risks being closely monitored and managed.



## NEWS FROM OUR CLASSES

Reception – learned how to throw & catch a ball.

Year 1 – learned about mammals.

Year 2 – wrote letters to Ernest Shackleton asking to join his crew.

Year 3 – learned about how we use the internet safely.

Year 4 – learned about the countries in Europe.

Year 5 – have been locating the mountains of the world.

Year 6 – learned about Charles Darwin.



## WORLD OF WORK WEEK 2026

As part of our commitment to supporting the children's understanding of economic well-being and the wider world, we are holding our annual "World of Work Week" during the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> January.

We hope to welcome a number of visitors into school to support this and would be very pleased to hear from any of our parents or friends who may be willing to share with the children information about their job or place of work. If you can help, please do let us know using the form at [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/worldofwork](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/worldofwork) by Friday 16th January. Thank you to those parents who have already signed up - we'll be in touch soon to make arrangements.



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS!**

**INSET DAY  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

## DIARY DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

**Clubs begin this week in most cases - check your reply notes if you are unsure.**

### **Tuesday 20th January**

Yr6 Forest School - whole class in morning

Yr3 Forest School - whole class in afternoon

### **Friday 23rd January**

Young Voices (selected pupils)

No Yr6 Forest School (Tuesday instead)

No Puzzles/Codes or Boys' Football clubs

## Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in

Primary school



**Understanding your Child's Behaviour**

19/01/2026 10:30 -12:30pm



**Supporting Your Child with Worries &**

**Fears 02/02/2026 10:30 -12:30pm**



**Autism and Sleep**

09/03/2026 12:30 – 13:30pm



**Understanding Neurodiversity**

24/03/2026 10:30 -12:30pm