



1st April 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

What a lovely term it has been, choc-a-block full with some super classroom learning, supplemented with woodlands days, Viking visits, pancake tossing, Spring trail, netball tournament, cross-country team, class assemblies, school clubs, Resolution Read at Home, birdwatch, book week activities, science week, swimming at the new pool and the incredible generosity shown by the whole community in our appeal for humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

We have also worked really hard to re-invent our school values and this week in school children voted for colours to best represent each value. The results were as follows:

Be your best - yellow

Be honest - turquoise

Be kind - pink

Be safe - green

We will now send off our artwork to a local artist, who will be inspired to create designs from our initial pictures of what the values mean to us.

I hope all families have a fabulous Easter Break - that everyone stays safe and returns on Tuesday 19th April feeling fresh and raring to go for the Summer Term ahead.

EASTER & SPRING COMPETITION

Well done to all the children who entered the Easter & Spring Competition this year – it is fantastic how creative you can be with a paper plate! We really were amazed by some of the ideas. It was lovely to see so many of our families come in to look at them after school on

Monday too. Two children from each class were presented with a certificate and prize in Thursday's assembly in recognition of their particular efforts –

Reception – Logan F & Joshua C

Year 1 – Beatrice J & Harvey RH

Year 2 – Clark EW & Josue PV

Year 3 – Alyah E & Honey B

Year 4 – Jack B & Isabelle Z

Year 5 – Elizabeth P & Francesca T

Year 6 – Jack W & Lauren Mc



District High 5s Netball Tournament

Eight of our Year 5 children represented High Firs at this year's District High 5s Netball Tournament on Wednesday at Hextable Primary School. Seven other teams took part and Mrs Verge was very impressed with our team's skills and excellent sporting attitude – well done!



Achieving more together



Our Phonics Programme – Little Wandle

As part of our commitment to supporting our children’s phonics and reading development, we are excited to be moving to ‘Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised’ which is a complete systematic, synthetic phonics programme, for our teaching of reading in KS1. The Little Wandle programme starts teaching phonics in Reception and continues into Year 1. This ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school. It will enable us to track progress carefully and quickly put in place ‘keep-up’ sessions for those in need of additional support. To find out more about the programme please access the link for the parents’ section of the Little Wandle website:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Reception & Year 6 Health Checks

Please note that the Height & Weight checks for Reception and Year 6 children will take place on Thursday 21st April, not 26th as previously published. Reception children will also have vision screening on the same date.

Register Rabbit’s Attendance Awards

We know that this term has been a difficult one in terms of attendance for some of our families due to school absences necessitated by Covid symptoms or precautions. We are pleased, however, that that majority of our children have been able to maintain excellent attendance records over the term and this was recognised in our special assembly on Thursday. Congratulations to **YEAR 5** who are the overall winners for their attendance with a fantastic **95.28%** attendance over the term; they will be celebrating their achievements with special treats in the Spring Term. The class results were –

- Year 5 – 95.28%**
- Year R – 94.3%**
- Year 3 – 93.8%**
- Year 1 – 93.37%**
- Year 6 – 91.81%**
- Year 2 – 91.17%**
- Year 4 – 89.97%**



Congratulations to the children whose excellent attendance in the Spring Term was recognised when we presented our 100%, 99% and 98% certificates in assembly yesterday.



Our children had a fun time on Wednesday morning taking part in this year’s Spring Trail; they had lots of things to find in our school grounds before they could claim a very tasty Easter egg or chocolate treat, kindly donated by Friends of High Firs.



Staff News

We will be saying farewell and Happy Retirement to both Mrs Gibbins and Mrs Hassell early next term; Mrs Gibbins leaves us on 22nd April after more than 20 years as a Midday Supervisor and Mrs Hassell joined us in 2005 as our Pastoral TA. They will both be much missed by staff and children alike. Mr Copeland has left our premises team and we thank him for his efforts during his time with us.



	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	127	1505	Aziz H, Lilly E, Willow W
CHESTNUT	107	1479	Teddy M, Bella W, Isla S
OAK	113	1339	Jack W, Tommy G, Skye K
ASH	97	1348	Maddy K, Akash A



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**Friends of High Firs
Primary School Association**
Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

THANK YOU

Our Amazon Smile shoppers raised **£53.57**
for Friends of High Firs last term!



- STEP ONE** Go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1137633-0>
- STEP TWO** Confirm Friends of High Firs as your charity
- STEP THREE** SHOP! 0.5% of your spending will be donated to FHF
- STEP FOUR** Access your Amazon account via smile.amazon.co.uk every time to donate

Lower Energy Day

Friday 22nd April

To help achieve our target this year of reducing our energy, we are going to have a Lower Energy Day.



At school we will try to:

- ❖ Turn down the heating (if it is cold, bring an extra layer!)
- ❖ Turn off more lights
- ❖ Use less electronic devices



You could also try and use less energy at home. If you do, let Eco Club know by sending us an email:

ecoclub@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Times Tables Rockstars

Well done to **BEECH** who are the winners of this week's Rockstars challenge. Don't forget to take part next week if you are in KS2.



25th March - 31st March 2022

BEECH 601 **CHESTNUT** 458 **OAK** 180 **ASH** 75

Our top scorers were:

BEECH	Chanelle M, Tommy B, Samuel S
CHESTNUT	Amelia B, Ruby Bay, Lily M
OAK	Eloise W, Elliot MB, Millie WS
ASH	Veda T, Freya T, Poppy G

**THIS WEEK'S
LEARNING**

In our classes this week

Rec – learned to make 10.

Year 1 – found out about the symbols of Easter.

Year 2 – wrote instructions about how to catch a star.

Year 3 – learned about keeping safe in the sun.

Year 4 – performed poetry.

Year 5 – wrote autobiographies as a famous suffragette.

Year 6 – wrote instructions to catch and cook tarantulas!

We are now recruiting for a

CARETAKER

CLEANER

MIDDAY SUPERVISOR

Visit www.kent-teach.com for more information and application forms.



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Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions recognise effort and achievement for the whole of the Spring Term –

- Kaylee V – for always trying her best in all areas of learning.
- Jake B – being such a kind friend to everyone and a huge improvement in his reading.
- Joshua W – for always working hard. Joshua is always enthusiastic about his learning and has made great progress in all areas.
- Sadie B – working hard in all subjects. Sadie always listens well and tried her best in all she does.
- Evie Ta & Scarlett T – for their commitment to learning and good progress.
- Albert B – always working hard, listening well and showing fantastic manners.
- Freya T – trying her best in everything she does.
- Akshara K – for her consistent hard work in all areas of school life
- Jessica T – making good progress in all areas and demonstrating a positive attitude to school life.
- Zoe L & Lucy E – their continued commitment for school life and learning (both at home and in school).
- Micah W – working so hard this term and for all of the fantastic writing she has produced.
- Lauren Mc – Always working hard and trying her best in everything, especially with Maths this term.



Coming up after the holiday

19th – 22nd: **NO CLUBS** apart from **Breakfast Club** and **After School** provision.

Tues 19th April – start of Easter Term

Thurs 21st April – Rec & Yr6 NHS Health checks

FHF Discos: 5pm to 6pm KS1 / 6.15pm to 7.15pm KS2

Fri 22nd April – Lower Energy Day

INSET DAYS

No children in school

Fri 27 May 2022

Mon 27 June 2022



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