



14th Oct 2016

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent BR8 8NR Tel: 01322 669721 Fax: 01322 615997

Visit our school website at www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Message from Mr Turtle

Miss Rennie & I attended a meeting on Wednesday, part of which was about the extended and specialised learning opportunities schools are making available to children in order to further support their learning. It is something which we are committed to at High Firs and we are proud of the opportunities that we give the children here - specialist teaching in PE, French and Music; the chance for every child to learn the flute or clarinet, and the out of class experiences such as this week's WW2 Day at Horton Kirby for Year 6 and Year 5's Victorian Day at Kent Life, to name just a few. It is clear from speaking to our classes, staff and parents just how much our children benefit from these experiences and the impact that they have and it is an important part of their wider learning.



School Clubs next week

Due to Parents Consultations next week there will be no school clubs after school **except** FRENCH (Monday) and STREET DANCE (Thursday); please note this is the final week for Street Dance club. The Library will be open as normal for our KS1 children on Thursday.

Parents Consultations

We are looking forward to welcoming our parents & carers into school for their consultation meetings next week. We recommend that parents come into school about 10 minutes before their appointment. If your appointment is after school, on arrival please go to the hall where your child's books will be available to view. Appointments will be announced every ten minutes when you will be invited to make your way to your meeting. For meetings being held before or during the school day please come to the office and we will let you know where your appointment will be held. Please could we remind parents that meetings are for **ten minutes** only and that any additional time will need to be requested outside of the consultation period, thank you. Year 6 parents please contact the office if you would like to make an additional appointment to discuss secondary school options, or put a note in your child's contact book.

Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents & carers to the following class assemblies taking place soon:

Weds 19 October at 10.15am - Yr6 Class Assembly (followed by Yr6 SATs information meeting at 10.45am)

Weds 2 November at 10.15am - Yr5 Class Assembly

Weds 9 November at 10.15am - Yr1 Class Assembly

(followed by Phonics info meeting at 10.45am for all KS1 parents)

Fri 11 November at 10.45am - Remembrance Day Assembly

Weds 16 November at 2pm - Yr2 Class Assembly (followed by Yr2 SATs information meeting at 2.30pm)

Weds 23 November at 10.15am - YrR Class Assembly



INSET day

Please note that there will be INSET (staff training) days on Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th January. Children will therefore return to school after the Christmas break on **Thursday 5th January**.



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In our classes this week

Reception - enjoyed finding out about foxes!

Year 1 - wrote about "The Enormous Turnip"

Year 2 - measured in cm

Year 3 - learned about forces & magnets

Year 4 - made ear muffs!

Year 5 - enjoyed being Victorians for the day at Kent Life

Year 6 - had a fantastic WW2 Day at Horton Kirby



This week's Talk Topic is:

If I could visit any time in history when would it be?

Voluntary Fund

Attached to the Newsletter this week is the envelope for payment of this term's Voluntary Fund payment. We greatly appreciate these donations which are used to support many of the extra activities undertaken in school by the children. The suggested payment is £2 per child or £5 per family.

Please return your donation by **21st October** - thank you.

What is the Voluntary Fund used for? The termly voluntary fund money is used to pay for lots of different things! Essentially, it is used for expenses which we are not allowed to allocate to government funding but which we believe lead to a broader educational experience for our children or which support our community & families links. This also means we do not have to charge parents every time! Just a few examples of this spending are:

- Concert & performance costumes
- Contribution to new sun hats per child
- Refreshments for parents & visitors at school events - Nativities / Assemblies / class meetings etc
- Cookery ingredients
- Celebration of commemorative events - Whole School Jubilee Day party etc.
- Expenses for Open Evening & events such as the SATs BBQ
- Visitors in to school
- Additional resources for school visits

We believe that visits and these other experiences are a vital part of our children's education - thank you to all those parents who support us in this way.

Important Health Information - PLEASE REMEMBER!

Important Information

Please remember to **let the school know immediately** if you suspect your child has any of the following (even if it has not been confirmed): **measles, chicken pox or shingles**. It is also important to let us know if your child has been exposed to these illnesses (eg through a friend at a club or a family member) but has not shown the symptoms themselves. Please also let us know if your child has also been in contact with any other infectious diseases.

** Please note we are a **PEANUT-FREE** school; please do not send in peanut-based products. **



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Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

Registered Charity No. 1137633



Be a **High Street Hero**

easyfundraising

SALE for FRIENDS OF HIGH FIRS

A brand NEW way to raise!

Join over **5,000 shoppers** already raising free donations **in-store!**

1. Safely add your credit cards to your easyfundraising account
2. Visit a participating retailer on the High Street
3. Make a purchase in-store and you'll raise a free donation

Go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/in-store



easyfundraising.org.uk
feel good shopping

EASY PEASY
and it's **free**

Help us by collecting **FREE donations** every time you shop online. Follow these three easy steps...

1. **Join**
Head to easyfundraising, search for us to start raising.
2. **Shop**
There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board, so pick the one you want and start shopping.
3. **Raise**
After you've made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost whatsoever!

Join here:
easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fohighfirs/

amazon.co.uk John Lewis ebay TESCO Sainsbury's M S Argus

INSET DAYS

2016-2017

No children in school

1 - Mon 5 September

2 - Tues 3 January

3 - **Weds 4 January**

4 - TBC

5 - TBC

Coming up next week:

No Clubs this week except French (Monday) and Street Dance (Thursday).



Mon 17 October

Parents Consultations - meetings by appointment

Tues 18 October

Parents Consultations - meetings by appointment

Weds 19 October

10.15am - Yr6 Class Assembly & SATs Meeting

Parents Consultations - meetings by appointment

Deadline for return of payment for FHF Christmas card

Fri 21 October

No Yr5 or Yr6 instrument lessons



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TERM DATES 2016 - 2017

September 2016							October 2016							November 2016													
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26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30											
							31																				
December 2016							January 2017							February 2017							March 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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April 2017							May 2017							June 2017							July 2017						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

These dates do not include the five additional INSET dates set by the school - these will be notified separately.

Don't forget that our school website has lots of further up-to-date information, including letters and dates. There are also pages for each class and lots of photographs to look at.

www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk



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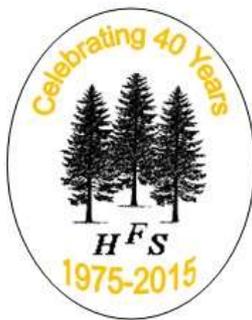
High Firs Primary School

Headteacher

Mr C Turtle BA Hons PGCE NPQH

Deputy Headteacher

Miss C Rennie BA(Ed) Hons



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14th October 2016

Dear Parents

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY – ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS

You will probably be aware that, over recent years, there has been a trend nationally to encourage parents and, indeed, all members of the public to become involved in the governance of schools. Every school, including this one, has a governing body, made up of parents of children in the school, people who have an interest in local affairs, education and the community, the staff of the school and the Headteacher.

Allowing for my specific duties as Headteacher, school governors have a considerable range of responsibilities relating to the conduct of the school. Governors are encouraged to take part in the work of committees of the governing body, allowing them to develop personal interests and expertise. The Local Authority has a responsibility for providing support and training for governors and there is a full programme of activities, with particular support for newly appointed governors.

Our school currently has vacancies for parent governors, and nominations are sought for this position. All parents, if they currently have a child registered at the school are eligible for nomination as a parent governor. Ordinary meetings of the governing body take place at least once every two terms and there are also meetings of committees as necessary. It is hoped however that members will lend support to the school on other occasions and become acquainted with educational issues as they affect us in school. The term of office for all governors is four years and a parent is not required to resign as a governor if his or her child leaves the school within that period.

A parent governor is the same as any other governor – they are there to take a strategic view of the school. The parent governor is not a delegate and therefore is not obliged to canvass or vote in accordance with the views of the parent body. However, it is also important to note that a parent governor is not there to represent or further their own personal views in relation to their own child(ren).

I am writing to you now to invite you to nominate a parent, who may be your partner, yourself or any other parent who you have ensured is willing to stand for election. New governor appointments may be made subject to any checks required at the time of appointment with regard to safeguarding.

Please let me have any nomination by 9am on Friday 4th November, using the form overleaf and sent to the School Office. Please also enclose a brief statement, of no more than 100 words, stating the nominee's interest in the school. This will be used in the event of a vote being necessary.



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I will write to you again, inviting you to vote by secret ballot, if the number of nominations for parent governors exceeds the number of vacancies. Otherwise, any nominee will automatically become an elected parent governor of the school's governing body. In any case I will let you know the outcome of these arrangements via the newsletter.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Turtle
Headteacher



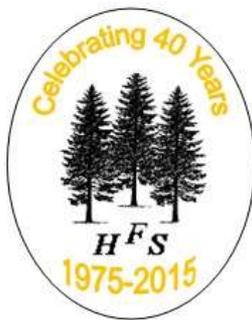
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Headteacher

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Deputy Headteacher

Miss C Rennie BA(Ed) Hons

HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL NOMINATION FORM ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE HEADTEACHER/RETURNING OFFICER BY 9am ON FRIDAY 4th November 2016. Please also enclose a brief statement, of no more than 100 words, stating the nominee's interest in the school. This will be used in the event of a vote being necessary.

1. Name of school your child/ren attend and which nomination is being made: HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL
2. Please enter in BLOCK letters the name and address of the person being nominated for election (he or she must be the parent of a child registered at the school named in 1.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

3. Signature of person nominated: _____

Parent of: _____ (Name of child/ren)

4. Signature of proposer: _____

Name and address in BLOCK letters of proposer: _____

Parent/Carer of _____ (Name of child/ren)

5. Signature of seconder: _____

Parent of: _____ (Name of child/ren)

Please note: Further nomination forms can be obtained from the Headteacher. A parent may not propose or second more nominees than there are vacancies for parent governors. The Headteacher can tell you how many vacancies there are at your child/ren's school.



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Become a parent governor at High Firs Primary School
Further information....

We are looking for parents to join our governing body. Your input on issues such as finance, site management and curriculum development will help to influence and improve school performance. Free training is available to develop skills and boost self-confidence.

To find out more about becoming a school governor visit:
www.becomeagovernor.com

Governors are people just like you!

What do school governors do?

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. In some schools the site is owned by the governing board. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and it is governors who work with the headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of the governing board, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing board and decisions are its joint responsibility. The role of the governing board is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (the critical friend)

What is the role of a parent governor?

There are no duties specific to the parent governor role which do not apply to other governors.

As a parent governor objectivity is essential. You do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents – you are a representative, not a delegate. It is also important to remember you are also not there to promote the interests of your own children but all children.

As an effective parent governor, you will:

- Help to decide the priorities for improving the school
- Make yourself available to parents, listen impartially to other parents' opinions and take account of them as you contribute to governors' decisions but you will not act on these individually or take a personal involvement in them.
- Guide parents about appropriate lines of action and procedures
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- Prepare fully for meetings by reading papers beforehand; be committed to reading briefings and newsletters for governors
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training (including staff INSET)
- Attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the whole time – this is approximately nine meetings per year – plus allowing time for visits, training and events.
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community
- Be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body
- Respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs and school matters
- Never promise, or be expected, to 'solve a problem' on your own
- Never press your own child's case – particularly at the expense of others
- Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial
- Have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing body
- Take part in school events and spend time in school meeting with children & staff
- Present a balanced view of issues, representing different sections of the community
- Act as an ambassador for the school



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