



18th May 2017

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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

Message from Mr Turtle

We have had several visitors in school this week who have commented on what a pleasure it was to talk to our children and to share in their enthusiasm for learning and school life. So many of our children are good "ambassadors" for our school and it was lovely to hear this from those who come into contact with them. It made us very proud - well done!



Breakfast Club

Lots of children enjoy our fantastic Breakfast Club! Due to the high rises in the cost of running Breakfast Club, we will be changing the charge (for the first time in ten years) to £2.50 per session from September onwards.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone who continues to support their child's learning and social development by ensuring that they are in school every day. Kent have recently reissued their attendance guidelines regarding penalty charges for unauthorised absences; please see the letter coming home today.



Walk to School Week

Walking to school is one of the easiest ways to improve your and your children's health. It's also free, great for the environment, and social. 90% of parents who walk their children to school recognise the journey's importance for them to socialise with their children. Over a third stated that the journey to school is where they find out the most about their child's life. (Info from www.livingstreets.co.uk) We are also always keen to find ways in which to ease congestion in our local roads and to minimise the inconvenience of "the school run" to our neighbours. To support this, we are asking all our children to take part in



WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 22ND - 26TH MAY

We are asking all families to try to walk to school every day next week - if you live too far away from school to walk all the way, you could park a few roads away from school and walk the last part instead; this will still count as walking to school! Each class will have a chart to record the children who have walked to school each day. There will be a house point for each child that walks each day and a certificate at the end of the week for children who have walked every day.

Walk to school with the staff!

Members of our staff will be at various points around the local area to meet and walk to school with our families on the following dates -

Tuesday 23 rd at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill.
Wednesday 24 th at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction).
Thursday 25 th at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Charnock and Court Crescent.



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Sainsbury's vouchers

Thank you to everyone who has already donated Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. Stores have now stopped issuing vouchers so please search your bags, purses & pockets for any that have been overlooked and ensure that they are all sent in to school by **Thursday 25th May** so we can count them up and place our order for lots of new games equipment! Thank you for your support.

Meetings for Yr5 and Yr6 parents

A reminder to parents of children in Yr5 & Yr6 that the following meetings which will be taking place **next Monday, 22nd May**:

5.30pm - **Yr5 Grammar School Info Meeting**

5.30pm - **Yr6 S&RE Meeting**

This meeting is for adults only! Yr6 children may wait in the hall if also attending the IofW meeting. We will be showing the DVD that we use for the S&RE element of our PSHE curriculum so that parents have the opportunity to see what this includes and can discuss this at home.

6.00pm - **Yr5&6 Isle of Wight Info Meeting**

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 **25th May** - 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.

In our classes this week

Reception - performed on their own stage!

Year 1 - had a fantastic day at Chatham Maritime

Year 2 - learned about the story of the Good Stranger

Year 3 - learned about the Roman army

Year 4 - practised fractions

Year 5 - have been solving mysteries with The Famous Five!

Year 6 - learned about the paintings of Henri Rousseau



School uniform orders

Our uniform supplier has changed the costs for some items - a new order form is at the end of the Newsletter.



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Important Health Information - PLEASE REMEMBER!

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. ****

**INSET DAYS
2016-2017**

No children in school

- 1 - Mon 5 September
- 2 - Tues 3 January
- 3 - Weds 4 January
- 4 - Fri 26 May
- 5 - Mon 3 July

Coming up after half-term:



- Mon 22 May Walk to School Week
Yr5 Earlybird Maths 8am/8.15am
5.30pm – Yr5 Grammar Meeting (in Yr5)
5.30pm - Yr6 SRE Meeting (in Yr6)
6pm – Isle of Wight meeting
- Tue 23 May District Girls Football at Crockenhill 1.15pm for 1.30pm
Yr2 Class Assembly 10.15am
8.40am – WTSW: meet the staff at Waylands & Pinks Hill
- Wed 24 May 8.40am – WTSW: meet the staff at Pinks Hill & Cranleigh Drive (top jct)
- Thur 25 May 8.40am – WTSW: meet the staff at Charnock & Court Cres
Please return Voluntary Fund payments by today
- Fri 26 May INSET – staff training day, no children in school

**TERM DATES
2016 - 2017**

September 2016	October 2016	November 2016
M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
December 2016	January 2017	February 2017
M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
March 2017	April 2017	May 2017
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June 2017	July 2017	
M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 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.



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