



4th Nov 2016

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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

Message from Mr Turtle

The first of our tours for prospective Reception 2017 parents and children took place yesterday and it was lovely to be able to "show off" all the good things that are happening in our school. As I mentioned in a recent Newsletter, we have just updated our School Improvement Plan, which contains our targets for the coming year, and we will be working hard on these to make our school even better - a summary of these are included at the end of this week's Newsletter.

Starting High Firs...

We welcomed a number of visitors to school yesterday for the first of our Reception 2017 tours. Parents with a child due to start school next year (children born 1.9.2011 to 31.8.2012) are warmly invited to tour the school during one of the following remaining sessions:

- * Tuesday 8th November at 11am
- * Thursday 17th November at 5.30pm

There will also be an informal meeting and play activity session for prospective parents & children on **Tuesday 6th December** from 2pm to 3pm. Please let the office know if you would like to attend a tour and / or the play afternoon. Please do also pass this information on to those friends or family who may be considering applying for a place at High Firs for their child.



Remembrance Day Assembly

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This year's Remembrance Day Assembly will be held on Friday 11th November at 10.45am. Parents and families from all classes who would like to attend this assembly, which will include marking the two-minute silence, are very welcome to join us.

Christmas performances and Christmas Lunch

Booking details for this year's Christmas concerts and performances will be in next week's Newsletter; the dates are already published on our website. Information will also be sent home next week about booking for our very popular Christmas lunch!

In our classes this week

- Reception - have travelled to space!
- Year 1 - explored a castle
- Year 2 - used the Beebots
- Year 3 - enjoyed learning to play Tag Rugby
- Year 4 - made pizza!
- Year 5 - are reading "The Water Babies"
- Year 6 - started "Carrie's War"



The Earth is the only planet not to be named after a Roman or Greek God!

Sunrise residents visit

Our Year 6 children put on a lovely WW2-themed visit for the elderly residents from Sunrise on Tuesday this week. Everyone enjoyed a drink & some cake and the children shared their topic learning with our visitors and had some fascinating discussions about memories from 70 years ago. We rounded off with a sing-along including "The White Cliffs of Dover" and "We'll meet again...".



Wanted, please!

Year 1 would be grateful for donations of any unwanted rolls of wallpaper, please.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

Registered Charity No. 1137633

** ICE SKATING AT RUXLEY - ONLY A FEW TICKETS LEFT! **

We have just a few £5.00 tickets left for Ice Skating at Ruxley on 22nd November at 6pm. Return the slip below with your money asap to book!

(Copy of full letter is on the FHF page of the school website)



Ruxley Manor Ice Skating – Tuesday 22 November 2016

Child's Name: Year:

Number of Tickets: Amount: £.....

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 - TBC

5 - TBC



Coming up next week:

Tues 8 November	Reception 2017 Tour - 11am High Fives Netball Match vs Crockenhill at High Firs 3.30pm
Weds 9 November	10.15am - Yr1 Class Assembly 10.45am - Phonics workshop for parents
Thurs 10 November	FHF Christmas Table Sale - 7pm to 9pm
Fri 11 November	10.45am Remembrance Day Assembly



This week's Talk Topic is:

If I could name a new planet what would I call it?

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

**FRIENDS OF HIGH FIRS
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

at High Firs School

on Thursday 10 November 7 - 9 p.m.

50p door entrance

Usborne Books * Handmade by Kirsty
Dolly's Bows * Candles and Fragrance
House of Honnie * Anita's Cakes
Christmas Cards * Xmas Sweeties
Beauty & Make Up * Beth's Glasses
Stitch & Patch * Scarves & Jewellery
Mulled Wine * Refreshments
Domino's Pizza and lots more!

Come along and
buy all your
Christmas shopping
locally, child and
hassle free!



HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Summary) October 2016

What is a School Improvement Plan and where does it come from?

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) enables the school's vision to be shared and understood by the whole school community. Our aim is to work and learn together as a community in order to improve and be the best that we can be. The SIP should give everyone an understanding of where the school is going and what actions will be taken to ensure we get there. Analysis of our attainment and standards, together with the quality of our teaching, is a key focus of school improvement; it also helps us plan and prioritise our budget and guides how we plan and organise staff training. The SIP is designed to give a sharp, clear focus to those aspects of our work which we believe are most in need of improvement.

Everyone has the chance to contribute ideas as to how the school can improve. Staff and governors are involved annually to review how successful our improvements have been and agree priorities for the coming year. Parents and children to share their ideas through questionnaires, the school council and 'parent forum' questions in the Newsletter. We want everyone to support us and help us improve and this can only happen if we are all involved.

Once we have agreed the priorities, including the key findings from an Ofsted inspection, the senior leadership team sets targets for improvement by writing the school improvement plan. This is then shared with everyone.

Key information about our school

High Firs Primary School provides a broad and balanced education for its pupils. Children enter Reception at different levels of attainment from a variety of different Nursery and pre-school settings, and the profile of pupils' attainment on entry covers the full range; overall a decline on entry attainment has been seen in recent years. Cohort sizes are generally consistent in this one-form entry school.

The staff team is united in the pursuit of an ambitious vision for the children of High Firs. Adults in school act as very positive role models, giving calm and positive praise to pupils and promoting good behaviour. Individual support in lessons and the calm ethos of the school allow for staff to ensure that specific pupils are given time and support to deal with and understand their feelings and emotions. Our pastoral Teaching Assistant works closely with these pupils to further support their needs. Pupils enjoy coming to school, feel very safe and understand what it means to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Our last Ofsted was in July 2014 when we were judged to be "Good" in all areas.

Ofsted and priorities for development

Our school priorities for development are in line with the outcomes of the four Ofsted areas of review in 2014:

1) The achievement of pupils at the school

- *The most able pupils are not always challenged enough in other subjects (non-mathematical)*
- *In writing, the proportion of boys who attain the higher levels at age 11 is lower than the proportion of girls*
- *Some boys are not as highly motivated by the tasks they are given to write about.*

2) Quality of teaching and learning across the school

- *Sometimes the most able pupils are not challenged enough, especially when writing.*
- *Teachers give pupils too few opportunities in lessons to act upon the advice from marking so that they fully understand how to improve their work.*

4) The behaviour and safety of pupils at the school

- *When tasks are not challenging enough, some pupils, especially the more able, find it difficult to maintain their concentration. As a result, progress slows.*
- *Despite the concerns of a few parents and carers, inspectors found that the school has achieved a harmonious and cohesive community where pupils are safe and where firm action is taken promptly if issues arise.*

5) Leadership and management

- *There is still work (for leaders) to do to ensure that more boys attain the highest levels in writing.*

These priorities are covered in further depth in the remainder of this document. It is important to recognise that, as time moves further on from an inspection, a school's needs are likely to change; the Ofsted framework has also changed since our previous inspection. As such our School Improvement Plan is a changing document to best reflect current needs of pupils.

Moving ahead in 2016-2017

Improvement Priority 1 The achievement of pupils

- To continue to raise standards and progress of learners in maths
- To continue to raise standards and progress of learners in writing, including ensuring challenge for 'more able' writers.
- To continue to raise standards and progress of learners in SPaG
- To continue to raise standards in reading through raising the profile of reading in the school.
- Success criteria are adapted and used to reflect the needs and outcomes of all pupils.
- Teachers plan using cross-curricular links wherever possible
- To accelerate progress of higher attaining pupils

Improvement Priority 2 The quality of teaching and learning

- To continue to ensure all teaching is consistently 100% good or better, with an increase in outstanding teaching
- To continue to ensure there is always challenge for the more able children
- Ensure consistency with 'responding to marking'.
- Ensure guided reading sessions are planned and have a core focus for assessment.
- Ensure that 'comprehension' skills & techniques are taught regularly and explicitly.

Improvement Priority 3 The personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils

- Ensure behaviour continues to be good in lessons through challenge for all, during whole class and independent sessions.
- Develop children's character as active learners
- Playground games development focus, including reading opportunities.
- Ensure interaction and involvement for all children and staff at lunchtime.

Improvement Priority 4 Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

- To ensure that the work of the Governors at the school has an impact on the leadership of the school
- Increase membership of the Governing Body to ensure a broader skills base.
- To further develop the middle leadership structure within the school; established subject leaders to support development of new subject leaders.
- Develop further the role of the KS1 Leader
- Outdoor areas of the school to be used effectively to promote learning opportunities.



Achieving more together

