



5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

# High Firs Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

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Visit our school website at [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

## Message from Mr Turtle

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a good break and that the children are looking forward to the term ahead - I know that the staff have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned. As we are returning to school late in the week, but because we have lots to share with you, we are producing this week's Newsletter on Thursday. "Normal service" will resume next week!



## Resolution Read at Home - starts this weekend!

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing our children's reading once again we are asking all our children and families to make a New Year's resolution to support **RESOLUTION READ AT HOME**. As you will know, it is part of our Home Learning policy that all the children read at home every night and that an adult then signs their Reading Record or Contact Book to indicate this; we do appreciate that so many of our families do this already and give vital support to their children's reading development.

For the remainder of January, therefore, the children will be given one house point for every night that they read at home and that their contact book or reading record is signed to show this when it is checked by a member of staff in the morning. There will be certificates at the end of each week for those children who have read every night and a special reward for those who read every night for the whole month!

## WOODLAND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 1.30pm to 3pm

We are busy preparing our woodland area so this can be used by all classes to support the children's learning. Our first focus will be on the theme of "The Gruffalo" and our younger children are very excited already about their new topic! We are nearly there but there are just a few sweeping / clearing / tidying jobs that need doing before we are ready to start in a couple of weeks.

Would you be able to spare a short while to help? Please do come along and help however you can..... You don't need to bring anything, just wrap up warm / dry for the weather!



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

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**  
is our

**Pyjama Day**

Children are invited to wear their pyjamas (or other suitable nightwear) to school in return for a donation to the FHF of any unwanted:

- Christmas gifts
- Toiletries
- Toys

Children should wear normal school footwear (not slippers or trainers!) and coats, please. Representatives of the FHF will be on the gate on Friday morning to collect your donations --  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**



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### Class Newsletters and website pages

The children will be bringing home the Newsletter for their class tomorrow which outlines their learning topics for the coming term and other useful information from their class teacher(s). Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any queries. Copies of these will also be posted on the class website pages.



### Reception Class - September 2017 intake deadline

Please may we remind those of you applying for entry for children into Reception class in September 2017 that applications close on **16<sup>th</sup> January**.

### Christmas / Winter Card competition

Well done to all the children who entered the competition to design a Winter or Christmas-themed card. Certificates were presented to the following children for their particular efforts -

- Reception - Millie & Ruby
- Year 1 - Max & Lauren
- Year 2 - James L & Darcie
- Year 3 - James & Jack
- Year 4 - Daisy & Yuri
- Year 5 - Emily & Jessica E
- Year 6 - Ruth & Lily

### Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents & carers to the following class assemblies taking place this half-term:

- Yr4 - Weds 25<sup>th</sup> January at 10.15am
- Yr3 - Weds 1<sup>st</sup> February at 2.30pm
- Yr6 - Tues 7<sup>th</sup> February at 10.15am



### Meet our Family Support Worker

*Hi. My name is Julia Yandle and I work as a Family Support Worker at High Firs; I am here one morning and one afternoon a week. I have worked in the community for many years supporting families with a variety of issues. These have included housing, financial matters, locating community services and strategies for children's behaviour. If you have concerns regarding an issue like these which are affecting your family and would like to discuss it further please do feel able to contact me on 07983 000493 or via the school office. I would be happy to meet and see if I can help in any way.*



### Thank you

Thank you very much to all those parents & children who were so kind in sending the staff cards and gifts at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated - thank you.

### Bags and Uniform

As per our school information and previous reminders in the Newsletter, we do not have storage in school for rucksacks or large bags. **ALL CHILDREN are expected to bring school-issued book bags to carry items to school. The only exception to this is Year 6 children in the summer term IF their record bags are no longer useable.** If children need new book bags these can be purchased from the school office by using the uniform order form. Children in Yr2 will be issued with a KS2 record-style bag from the summer term if their book bag is broken. Year 5 & 6 children also have the option of our new rucksack.

Boots and trainers are not part of the school uniform and **black school-style fitted shoes should be worn** in school, please.



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Let's read together!

Our Library is open for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children on **THURSDAYS at 3.20pm.** Pop in to share books together and borrow from our school library.

**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:**  
**NO CLUBS NEXT WEEK**  
 Friday 6 January Pyjama Day for FHF donations  
 Flute & clarinet lessons start  
 Thursday 12 January Woodland Volunteers needed! Please help 1.30pm - 3pm

**SPRING TERM DIARY DATES ARE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE** [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

**talk about it!**

**This week's Talk Topic is:**  
**My new year's resolution is...**

**TERM DATES 2016 - 2017**

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

# Clubs – Spring 2017

Once again, we have an exciting variety of clubs for the children to join this term and these are listed in the table; thank you to all those staff who are offering these opportunities for the children.

**How to join** If your child would like to join a particular club, please return a club slip by **Weds 11<sup>th</sup> January**. You will then be notified if they have been offered a place and the starting date for your particular club. Please check the club information as children may not need to return a slip if they are already a member. Children are expected to commit to attending every week their club is scheduled to run. Where clubs are oversubscribed then we may have to limit the number of weeks in which a group of children attend so that we can have two or more groups. For some clubs that ran last term you can continue without returning a slip - see information in the table below.

**Clubs will start week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Cancelling Clubs** In some circumstances, particularly in the case of inclement weather or other school commitments, we may have to cancel a club session. In this event we will contact you by text and/or the Newsletter as soon as we are able to. However, please assume that clubs are running every week unless you are notified otherwise.

**PE Clubs** All children from Reception upwards are used to the routines of changing for PE. If your child is attending a PE club, please do not worry about coming to school to get them changed into their kit for their club as they will be supervised to change into and out of their kit by staff - just make sure their kit is in school! We also ask that parents do not stay on site during outdoor clubs.

**Collection after clubs** All children will be dismissed after clubs by the pedestrian gate; please wait there to collect your child. Normal school dismissal procedures apply - please let your club staff know if someone else will be collecting your child or if they have permission to walk home (Yr5/6 only). **Where possible, we do ask this term that even Yr5/6 children are collected after clubs as it is so dark.**

**Why do clubs change each term?** We want our children to be able to try lots of different opportunities so the clubs offered will change over the course of the year. In a small school, there are only so many clubs we can accommodate at once (both in terms of staffing and room in school) and we also have to take into consideration "wear and tear" and health & safety in terms of our facilities - particularly use & maintenance of the field. Staff give up their time to run clubs and these therefore reflect their own interests and areas of particular skill which they are choosing to share. Clubs run by the school have priority over any run by outside agencies.

CLUB	DAY	TIME	STAFF	VENUE	Year	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<b>The clubs listed below are new or require payment.</b>						
<b>Please return a slip by Weds 11<sup>th</sup> to join and see any additional information.</b>						
Cookery	Mondays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Mrs Drewett & Miss Rennie	Staff Room	5	Other classes will have an opportunity in other terms and sessions may be split.
French	Mondays 16/1, 23/1, 30/1, 6/2 20/2, 27/2, 6/3, 13/3, 20/3	3.15pm-3.50pm	Mrs Ives	Year 5 Classroom	KS2	£2.50 per session (outside provider charge). Children will need to commit to attending all 9 sessions this term; no refund of payments for non-attendance or non-continuers. The club is open to children who have attended before and also to newcomers. <b>Enclose cheque for £10.00 payable to "Le Petit Lapin Bleu Limited" with request to join slip.</b> Invoice for second half of term will be issued in February.
Cheer-leading	Thursdays 12/1, 19/1, 26/1, 2/2, 9/2	3.15pm-4.15pm	Miss Zahra	Hall	2&3	
Computing	Tuesdays	12.45-1.15pm	Mrs Ford	ICT Suite	3	
Arts & Crafts	Tuesdays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Miss Allin	Year 6 Classroom	4&5	
Recorder	Mondays	3.15pm-4pm	Mrs Payne	Year 4 Classroom	3&4	Children will be provided with a school recorder.

*More clubs on next page!*



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**The clubs listed below are continuing for existing members; please only return a slip if you would like to join as a new member. If you are unable to continue please let the member of staff know.**

Football	Mondays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Mr Turtle	Field, Hall or P/grnd	5&6	For girls and boys!
Netball	Tuesdays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Miss Allen	Field, Hall or P/grnd	5&6	For girls and boys!
Drama	Tuesdays	3.15pm-4pm	Miss Bone	Field, Hall or P/grnd	1	
Table Top Games	Mondays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Mrs McCabe	Year 2 Classroom	2&3	

**REQUEST TO JOIN CLUB**

**Return to school by Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Club .....

Name of Child ..... Year .....

I give my child permission to attend the above club.

My emergency contact number at this time will be .....

\*\* My child will be collected at the end of the club by .....

OR

\*\* I give permission for my child to walk home unsupervised at the end of the club (Yrs 5&6 only)

Signed .....

Date .....

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Signed .....

Date .....



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