



6<sup>th</sup> Sept 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](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

## Message from Mr Turtle

Welcome back, everyone! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to another busy year, with lots of both learning and extra-curricular opportunities for our children. We extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Reception children and their families, especially those who are new to the school, as well as to our new children in other classes.

# Class Information Meetings, BBQ & FHF AGM

Parents are invited to attend their child's **Class Information Meeting** on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** \*\*

\* Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at 5.30pm

\* Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at 6.00pm

These will be a chance for you to meet your child's new teacher(s) and to find out about the new curriculum and expectations for the year ahead.

This will be followed by our **Family BBQ and Friends of High Firs AGM**

**All Welcome - we hope you can join us!**

\*\* Please note this is a change of date to that originally advised \*\*

## Our Newsletter

We will continue to send home our weekly Newsletter every Friday, with lots of information to share, and hope that you will find it a useful resource as well as an interesting read! Copies of the Newsletter are also placed on the school website so you can log on if you lose a copy or if your child is absent and you want to catch up. Today's is a special Tuesday edition as there was so much start of term news & information but there will still be another edition on Friday as normal.



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## School Website [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

Have you seen our new school website? It is still "work in progress" but we are very pleased with our new-look site and hopefully it already contains all the key information that you will need... we will be adding lots more (particularly photos and learning examples) once term gets underway. We hope that all our families will use it as a ready resource for information. Letters and the Newsletter will be put on there so no need to panic if you lose a copy! Lots of dates for the new term have also already been added so why not log on and take a look?



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### Assemblies

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

Yr3 - Weds 5 October at 10.15am

Yr4 - Weds 12 October at 10.15am

Yr6 - Weds 19 October at 10.15am

You are also invited to join us for our Harvest Celebration on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 10.15am, which will be followed by our Macmillan Coffee Morning.

**CLASS  
ASSEMBLIES**

### 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.



### Change of Meal Provider for September

KCC have changed our midday meal contractors and Principals Catering are now providing our lunches. A new menu will be circulated but you can see a copy here:

[www.principals-catering.com/our-food/](http://www.principals-catering.com/our-food/)

Meals for KS2 children cost £2.20 each and must be paid for in advance (on the day at the latest) by cash to the office or via their website at [www.principals-catering.com](http://www.principals-catering.com)

### Health & Safety

Please may we remind you that:

- We ask parents and children to park and to walk around the local area with consideration for both our neighbours and other families. Please do not block our neighbours' drives when parking or stop on the yellow / zig zag lines.
- The school car park is for staff and visitors' use only at all times of the day; **please do not park or drop off in the school's car park.**
- All children, including younger siblings, should be closely supervised when on the school site after school and at events. Please do not allow your children to play on the playground equipment, in other areas of the playground or on our field.
- Only children in Yr6 are permitted to cycle to & from school, and only once they have attended Kent Rider Safe Cycling training. We do not have facilities for children from other classes to store bikes / scooters on-site during the day. Any parents bringing up bikes / scooters etc for their child to ride home on are asked not to allow their children to do so until they are off the school site. Please remind your child to cycle / scoot with consideration for pedestrians and our neighbours.
- Children in Reception to Yr4 may only be collected by an adult (ie someone over 18).



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## Uniform

Thank you to all those families who ensure that their children attend school in the correct uniform; it has been lovely to see all the children coming back to school so neat and tidy. Please may we remind you of the following requirements for uniform:

### Uniform for Boys

Black or grey trousers - long or short (not sports shorts or tracksuit bottoms)  
Gold sweatshirt/polo shirt with school logo  
Grey socks (plain)

### Uniform for Girls

Grey skirt/tunic to the knee  
Gold sweatshirt/polo shirt with school logo  
Gold cardigan  
Black, grey or white **school style** socks to the knee or black/grey tights (plain)  
Smart black or grey trousers.  
Summer dresses in yellow or yellow & white in simple style.

### Footwear

All children should wear black or grey sensible, flat-heeled shoes/sandals that are secure to the foot. Open-toed shoes are not appropriate. Trainers or sports shoes are not suitable for school day wear and are not part of the school uniform.

### Jewellery

Jewellery may not be worn at school. If your child has pierced ears, small stud earrings may be worn at your own risk. However, on PE days, we ask that earrings are not worn. Children may wear watches to school. Please discuss with the school if there is any jewellery you would like your child to wear regarding religious observance.

### Hair

Hair that is long enough should be securely tied back during the school day. Hair bands and over-bands should be plain 'school type' bands in yellow or black, without decoration.

### PE Kit

White round-neck t-shirt *no logos*  
Black shorts *no logos*  
Dark coloured tracksuit bottoms *no logos*  
Plimsolls - (KS1 & KS2)  
Trainers (for outdoor PE use in KS2 only)

### Bags

Only school-issued bags should be used throughout KS1 and KS2; the only exception is for children in Yr6 in the summer term if a bag requires replacement.  
Please ensure that all items are labelled.

**Class Newsletters** The children are bringing home today their class newsletter for this term. These outline the curriculum areas they will be covering and give other information relevant to their class; we hope you find them useful. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any queries or concerns.

### **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 - TBC  
4 - TBC  
5 - TBC

### **Coming up this week:**

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> - Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Reception finish at 12pm  
Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Sept Yr6 Kent Selection tests  
Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Sept Reception finish at 1.15pm



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

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**  
**To be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**  
 (Following Class Curriculum Meetings)

**All parents/guardians and staff are encouraged to attend**

I hereby give notice of the AGM of the Friends of High Firs Primary School to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

An overview of the AGM's Agenda is set-out below:

- FHF's accounts for previous financial year
- The events taken place so far
- Election of committee members - (... *would you like to join us ?*)
- Appointments
- Any other business

The evening will commence at 7pm following *the class information meeting held by each Teacher*, with the Friends' Annual General Meeting followed by a social evening. We anticipate that the AGM should last approximately 10 minutes and then the social evening will begin. Please add this date to your diaries now so that you don't miss out on a social event.

Regards  
 Christine Munday, Chair

**TERM DATES 2016 - 2017**

September 2016	October 2016	November 2016
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	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	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
December 2016	January 2017	February 2017
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	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	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
April 2017	May 2017	June 2017
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	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 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
July 2017	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.**



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# Helping at High Firs

Thank you to all those parents & adults who are also "coming back to school" in their capacity as volunteers, taking a variety of roles in supporting the school & our children; if you are already a helper we will be contacting you to confirm arrangements for the new term shortly. If you don't already help in school, could you join the team to.....

- hear children read?
- play games with small groups?
- share a skill - gardening / sewing / painting / cooking / music?
- talk about or share your job or hobby?
- look after the books in our school library?
- tidy our outdoor environment?
- help at or run a lunchtime or after-school club?
- offer maintenance skills?
- ..... help in any other way?

It would be great to hear from any parents, grandparents or family friends who would like to come and share their skills with the children in school. It doesn't matter how often or for how long - once a week, once a month or even just once! If you would like to offer your help, please complete & return the form at the end of the Newsletter and we will be in touch with you shortly. Thank you.

## Clubs - Autumn 2016

Once again, we have an exciting variety of clubs for the children to join this term and these are listed in the table overleaf; 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 **THURS 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**. You will then be notified if they have been offered a place and the starting date for your particular club. 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.

**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).

**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.



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CLUB	DAY	TIME	STAFF	VENUE	Year	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Cookery	Mondays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Mrs Drewett & Miss Rennie	Staff Room	6	Other classes will have an opportunity in other terms and sessions may be split.
French	Mondays	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 6 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 new-comers. <b>Enclose cheque for £15.00 payable to "Le Petit Lapin Bleu Limited" with request to join slip.</b>
Street Dance	Thursdays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Miss Zahra	Hall	3&4	
Choir	Mondays	12pm - 12.30pm	Ms Dillon	Yr1 Classroom	KS2	
Football	Mondays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Mr Turtle	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	
Computing	Tuesdays	12.45-1.15pm	Mrs Ford	ICT Suite	4	
Speed Stacking	Tuesdays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Miss Allin	Year 6 Classroom	4&5	Children may continue from last term - no slip required unless a new member. Please see Miss Allin if you do not wish to continue.
Country Dancing	Mondays	3.15pm-4.15pm	Mrs Payne	Hall	3&4	
Library	Thursdays	3.20pm-3.45pm	Miss Durrant	Activity Area	R,1 & 2	Pop in with a grown up and borrow a book to read at home! No slip needed.

**HELPING AT HIGH FIRS**

**Please return to School Office**

My name is .....

I can be contacted via ..... in Year .....

I would like to help with / offer the following:

Preferred days & times:

I understand that the school is required to undertake a DBS (Police) check on all adult volunteers undertaking voluntary work with the children in school. All volunteers will also receive and need to agree to the School's "Volunteers in School" policy.

Signed .....

Date .....



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**REQUEST TO JOIN CLUB**

**Return to school by Thurs 8th Sept**

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 .....

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Signed .....

Date .....



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# Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education  
Registered Charity No. 1137633

President: Mr C Turtle  
Chairman: Christine Munday  
Deputy Chair: Sarah Jones  
Secretary: Jo Almeida  
Treasurer: Jenny Pantlin  
Safety Officer: Brian Bunning  
Other trustees: Charlotte Tiller  
Jane Croxton  
Sam Officer



Court Crescent  
Swanley  
Kent  
BR8 8NR

Dear Parents and Staff

## Social Evening with BBQ and Beer Tent, incorporating the Friends' Annual General Meeting (AGM)

You and your children are invited to a social evening on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 - a great chance to have a drink and something to eat whilst catching up with your friends and making new ones. The AGM will commence at 7pm following the class curriculum meetings and social evening. The Friends' AGM should last approximately 10 minutes.

The Friends of High Firs plays a vital part in the school community and all parents and staff are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the children at our school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the Friend's Committee to represent the association throughout the forthcoming academic year. **We need your nominations otherwise we will not have a Committee!** Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM for the positions of Chair, Deputy-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, and ordinary committee members. You may wish to check whether existing committee members are willing to stand again (please note that some members wish to let others have a go this year) and if so please nominate them. Please do chat amongst friends and nominate those who you feel will do a good job! If you would like any further information about what is involved in being a Committee Member, please speak to one of us! As The Friends is a registered charity all committee members automatically become Trustees of the Charity.

We also invite you to come forward to be a class representative. Last year we had at least two class representatives per class. If you are interested in becoming a class representative please speak to one of the names listed over to find out more about what is involved. If you are happy to continue to be a class representative (and I do hope you are) then please complete and return the attached slip **by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016**.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Regards  
Christine Munday  
*Chair*



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**2015-2016 Current Members/Trustees**

Chair:	Christine Munday
Deputy Chair:	Sarah Jones
Secretary:	Jo Almeida
Treasurer:	Jenny Pantlin
Safety Officer:	Brian Bunning
Committee Members:	Charlotte Tiller, Sam Officer and Jane Croxton

**Class Representatives for school year September 2015- July 2016**

Reception	Lisa Keavey Spokes and Lulu Robertson
Year 1	Martina Baldwinson and Catherine Baylis
Year 2	Charlotte Tiller and Jo Almeida
Year 3	Minal Patel and Kerry Cattermole
Year 4	Donna Burke and Sharon Kennedy
Year 5	Letife Mehmet and Sally Cue
Year 6	Charlotte Johnson

**NOMINATION FOR OFFICER/MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS COMMITTEE SEPT 2016-SEPT 2017**

Nominee: ..... (Please Print Name)

For position of: Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer/Safety Officer/Ordinary Committee Member  
[Please circle one position]

Proposer: .....

Seconder: .....  
(Please Sign) (Please Sign)

..... Date: .....

Date: .....  
(Please Print Name) (Please Print name)

I ..... agree to my nomination for the position  
of .....  
(Remember to get the person you are nominating to agree and sign here)

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Please complete and return this form to school in an envelope by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

**NOMINATION FOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVES SEPT 2016 – JULY 2017**

I wish to stand as a class representative.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return this form to school by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**



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