



12th Jan 2018

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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



Message from Mr Turtle

Happy New Year - I hope that you all had a very enjoyable break and that you are managing to keep to your new year's resolutions! The children have had a very positive start to the term and are already enjoying their new topics. All our classes will be looking at **The Power of Reading** this term and how we can use books to support our writing so do please encourage and support your children to take part in our "Resolution Read at Home" challenge as part of this.

School Office

We are very pleased to welcome back Mrs Parsons to the school office two mornings a week to cover some of our finance administration until our new full-time administrator is appointed. Mrs Rumsey will also be out of school for a while and we are very grateful to members of our TA and Midday staff team who have taken on additional hours and stepped in to "hold the fort" during her absence, alongside Mrs Barnett who continues her sterling work in the inner office. Can we please ask for your support and patience while everyone settles into their new routines! Please remember that letters and dinner money should be handed in via your child and do not need to be brought directly to the school office. Similarly, your child's contact book can also be used to request appointments with staff or passing on of other general information, rather than this going via the office. Thank you.



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!

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.

Class Newsletters and website pages

The children will be bringing home the Newsletter for their class today 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.



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Reception Class - September 2018 intake deadline

Please may we remind those of you applying for entry for children into Reception class in September 2018 that applications close on **15th January**.

Winter fun lunch

Menu

Beef Burger in a Bun
Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Seasoned Potato Spirals
Sweetcorn, Coleslaw

Crispy Cake Selection
Fresh Fruit Platter
Fruit Yoghurt

Freshly Baked Bread
Seasonal Salad Selection
Jacket Potatoes



18th January 2018



Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents & carers to the following

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

class assemblies taking place this term:

- Wednesday 31st January at 10.15am - Yr6
- Tuesday 6th February at 10.15am - Yr5
- Wednesday 21st February at 10.15am - Yr4
- Tuesday 27th February at 10.15am - Yr3
- Tuesday 6th March at 10.15am - Yr2
- Tuesday 13th March at 10.15am - Yr1
- Tuesday 20th March at 10.15am - Reception



This week's Talk Topic is:
My favourite Fairy Tale is...

In our classes this week

- Reception - have been to the circus!
- Year 1 - compared and ordered numbers.
- Year 2 - are learning about cities.
- Year 3 - found out about Iceland.
- Year 4 - wrote alternative Fairy Tales!
- Year 5 - learned about different types of mountains.
- Year 6 - are reading and writing about "Clockwork".



From Year 4 -
Jack and The Beanstalk was written nearly 300 years ago - it first appeared in 1734!



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Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

Registered Charity No. 1137633

Unfortunately for the Friends we will be losing two valuable members of our team this year, our Chair, Christine Munday and our Deputy Chair, Sarah Jones. Both have brought a lot to our PTA and have helped raise a considerable amount of money, all of which goes directly to your children.

This last year alone, the PTA provided funds for every classroom to have a new smart board, they contributed to the cost of each child's class trip, funded the new woodland area, bought a new PA system, pedometers, role play costumes, trampettes and wet play toys, just to name a few of the items which help to make your child's time at High Firs more varied and enjoyable.

The Friends are now on the lookout for a new Chair and Deputy to replace Christine and Sarah. It would be ideal for the new recruits to start before Christine and Sarah leave, so the new members can run events alongside them both to see how the roles function. Upcoming events which will need arranging are the school quiz night, the book swap, the Spring disco, the Easter egg hunt and the Summer fun day.

You will not be alone in your event planning, you will have the back up of the other members of the PTA who are resourceful, helpful and very friendly. The activities at school do not happen by themselves and if these roles do not get filled then unfortunately events such as the ice skating, sponsored bounce, Santa's visit and those listed above will not be able to take place.

Please see below the role description for both the Chair and Deputy Chair:-

CHAIR

The Chair provides leadership for the committee sets the agenda for meetings and manages meetings in line with the agenda.

The Chair will ensure that all new members feel welcome and their contributions valued.

To ensure the smooth running of meetings the Chair must remain impartial and make sure that all parties have a voice and the opportunity to participate in decision making.

The Chair will work closely with the Deputy, Treasurer and Secretary to ensure that the PTA is run effectively. As an Officer of the committee, the Chair will be one of designated signatories and will sign cheques on behalf of the PTA along with other designated signatories.

Main duties:

- Provide leadership.
- Sign the approved minutes of the last meeting.
- Set the agenda for meetings.
- Run meetings in an efficient and timely manner ensuring that everyone is able to contribute.
- Agree a date for the next meeting.
- Write the annual report in cooperation with the Secretary.
- Sign cheques for the PTA with one other committee member.

DEPUTY CHAIR

The support provided by the Deputy Chair is invaluable. Deputising for the Chair when necessary, the Deputy helps to ensure that the Committee and all of the events continue to run smoothly. As with the Chair, leadership, enthusiasm and energy are necessary qualities for this post.

Main duties:

- To chair a meeting in the absence of the Chair.
- To welcome and involve other parents into the PTA.
- Gets involved in planning, owning and running events.
- Encourages participation and enthusiasm for the events organized by the PTA.

INTERESTED? Please contact CHRISTINE MUNDAY or SARAH JONES to find out more.... we can't do it without you!



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Important Information

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. ****

| TERM DATES 2017-18 | | | | | | | September 2017 | | | | | | | October 2017 | | | | | | | November 2017 | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| These do not include | | | | | | | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| INSET dates which are set separately. | | | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | | | | | | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| | | | | | | | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | | | | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| December 2017 | | | | | | | January 2018 | | | | | | | February 2018 | | | | | | | March 2018 | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April 2018 | | | | | | | May 2018 | | | | | | | June 2018 | | | | | | | July 2018 | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | |
| 30 | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | 30 | 31 | | | | | | |

INSET DAYS 2017-2018

- No children in school
- 1 - Mon 4 September
- 2 - Thurs 4 Jan
- 3 - Fri 5 Jan
- 4 - Fri 25 May
- 5 - Mon 2 July

Coming up next week:

- Monday 15 January
3pm - Netball Match at Hextable Primary
- Fri 19 January
10am - Unity Church Service at St Paul's Swanley Village
3.15pm - Football at The Gateway



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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