



23rd Feb 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 I hope that you all had an enjoyable half-term break. Today's Newsletter contains the findings & report from our recent Ofsted inspection - I know that you will be very pleased with the outcome, as we all are, and I would like to pass on my thanks and congratulations to all the staff and pupils for their hard work towards achieving this. We are very proud of all we have achieved together.

Ofsted Inspection

We are delighted to be able to share with you the final outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection which is that

High Firs continues to be a GOOD school.

In particular, we are very happy that Ofsted highlighted the following as **strengths of the school:**



- [The school is] an environment which is ambitious for pupils, staff and the wider community.
- [The Headteacher has] a clear and accurate view of the school's strengths and the areas that require further work.
- Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent. Pupils receive high levels of pastoral care which enable them to flourish and learn together.
- Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning. They enjoy a broad range of activities.
- [Pupils] are well behaved in and around the school. They are polite, well-mannered and show respect for each other and for adults. They feel valued and know that every member of staff will listen to them. Pupils describe the school as 'safe, positive and welcoming'.
- Good teaching, determined leadership and strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural development remain highly effective.
- [There is a] culture of safeguarding in the school in which pupils' well-being is at the heart of everything they do.
- Actions to improve pupils' attendance have been successful.
- The teaching of phonics is good.
- Teachers now provide pupils with more opportunities to reflect on their previous learning. As a result, pupils have a clearer view of what they need to do to develop their skills and understanding.
- Support for disadvantaged pupils in and around the school is effective. You provide high levels of pastoral support to help develop pupils' emotional well-being.
- Adults' guidance is building pupils' independence, and helping them to become good learners.
- [The school] have worked hard to improve pupils' progress in reading.

The inspection also highlights areas in which the school could further improve. In particular in the coming terms, **we will be aiming to:**

- improve the progress pupils make in writing, particularly the most able boys
- ensure changes in the school's approach to the teaching of reading are fully embedded.

We are excited about the year ahead and going from strength to strength. Our staff and governors are committed to working with pupils and parents to making further progress; we look forward to working in partnership with you all to continue to improve our school.



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Book Week - advance notice!

The children are invited to come to school dressed as a favourite book character on Weds 14th March. Our annual Book Fair will also be that week and the FHF will also be hosting their afternoon Book Swap. More info to follow soon....

Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents & carers to the



following class assemblies taking place this half-term:

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

School Council

Well done to the children who have been class School Council representatives for the first half of the academic year. Their turn is now over and new representatives will be elected next week. Children in Year 2 upwards who would like to take part in the elections for the new School Council are invited to prepare their 'election speech' to deliver to their class. Two children will be elected to represent Yr2 and each KS2 class - look out for the results in a future Newsletter!



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 **2nd March** - 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
- 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 - have been on safari!

Year 1 - learned about the Great Fire of London.

Year 2 - read "The Snail and The Whale".

Year 3 - started their Tag Rugby lessons in PE.

Year 4 - found out about the significance of baptism.

Year 5 - learned about mountain expeditions.

Year 6 - wrote brochures about pilgrimage (Hajj).

Payments

We are unable to take payments using the old £10 paper notes from 1st March.



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Walk to School Week

Walking to school is one of the easiest ways to improve you 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 from 26th Feb to 2nd March.**

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 27 th at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction).
Wednesday 28 th at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Charnock and Court Crescent.
Thursday 1 st at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

To be held on Monday 5th March at 7.30pm

All parents, carers and staff are invited and encouraged to attend



A new Chairman and Deputy Chairman must be appointed at the upcoming EGM in order for the FHF to continue to offer its fantastic opportunities for our children. Following the end of roles for our Chair and Deputy Chair, the opportunity has therefore arisen for others to get involved at school in new ways and to take on these positions; both Christine and Sarah are happy to continue to support new Trustees through the first few months so you can make the most of their expertise! You will also have the support of the school and the other members of FHF.

The President & Trustees of the Friends of High Firs Primary School Association hereby give notice of an EGM of the Friends of High Firs Primary School to be held on Monday 5th March at 7.30pm.

Agenda:

- *Welcome & Review*
- *Election of Chair & Deputy Chair*
- *General Business*

Everyone is welcome and we can promise you tea and biscuits! Please come along and give your support to the Friends – everyone has a part to play in this very important part of school life, which provides a large amount of support for **your child** – not to mention lots of fun opportunities both for the children and the adults who help! If you have any queries, please do speak to a member of FHF.



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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
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:

- Mon 26 Feb Walk to School Week
- Tues 27 Feb WTSW - meet at 8.40am at top junction of Pinks Hill & Cranleigh Drive
10.15am - Yr3 Class Assembly
- Weds 28 Feb WTSW - meet at 8.40am at Charnock / Court Crescent
- Thurs 1 March WTSW - meet at 8.40am at Waylands & Pinks Hill
- Fr 2 March WTSW - final day!



**Friends of High Firs Quiz Night
LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!**

I would like tickets for the Friends of High Firs Quiz Night on Saturday 10th March.

Please note below if you have others you wish to sit with but are not purchasing tickets for them:

I enclose £..... (cheques made payable to *Friends of High Firs*)

Signed

Date

Name of child

.....

Class



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