



8th Jan 2021

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 Christmas and New Year, albeit in a different way to usual. Many of the children I have been able to speak to have told me they had a good break and I know that lots of you have been out and about enjoying some very muddy walks! Sadly, we find ourselves back under the toughest lockdown restrictions and learning for many of our children is once again taking place out of school - definitely not the way we all wanted to start 2021. Thank you to all of our staff team for putting the new arrangements in place so quickly at the start of term. To those of you at home I must say, once again - take care, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you soon...

Home Learning

A huge well done to all our children who have been working at home this week and thank you to all the parents who are supporting this while also managing other commitments; we know it isn't easy, particularly due to the change in government expectations for home learning since the first lockdown. Please do continue to liaise with class teachers via email regarding your child's home learning. We will also be making keep in touch calls again soon.

Rockstars

Well done to **CHESTNUT** who were the winners of the December Rockstars challenge! There is a new house challenge until next Thursday so don't forget to log-in to  score and help lead your house to win!

Lunches from next week

We received information from Kent yesterday that all schools would be required to purchase a minimum of 60 school lunches a day during the closure period in order to continue to receive any meals. Unfortunately, as we do not have the demand for this - only about 12 children a day ordered school meals this week - **from Monday 11th January onwards children in all classes attending school will need to bring a packed lunch from home**, please, until restricted attendance ends or Kent's policy changes.

Vouchers for Free School Meals children

Parents whose children are eligible for Free School Meals will once again be able to receive voucher payments in lieu of their Free School Meals allocation. Once we have further information about this from Kent we will be in touch with the relevant families to let you know how these vouchers will be issued.

School attendance

Sadly, it is impossible to avoid the daily news that cases of coronavirus continue to increase, coupled with the information that the new strain is much more easily transmitted. Infection rates in our local area also continue to be very high. In order that we can support as many of our critical worker and vulnerable children as possible whilst still continuing to keep infection risks as low as we possibly can for pupils & staff and their families, please can we ask for the support of our critical workers at the current time in not sending your child(ren) to school if you have alternative care available due to childcare bubbles still being permitted or because another parent other than a critical worker is at home; alternatively you may be a critical worker but not working every day. This will help to protect all of our school community and we really appreciate your understanding and support with this; thank you. Please remember that if you are making changes to your child(ren)'s planned registration or BC/ASC requirements to email office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk or resubmit the form at <http://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/eligible-pupil-registration/> as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.



Achieving more together



Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions (for both at home and in school) go to:

- Reception have ALL done brilliant learning - Miss Allen says it's too tricky to choose this week!
- Evie T - super shape sorting.
- Smilte M - brilliant following of instructions to draw a giraffe.
- Samuel S & Bradley S - great descriptions of London.
- Lily E - lovely presentation about the wilderness and how to protect it.
- Alyah E - working really hard on all tasks at home.
- Elijah B - great learning at home including making his own obstacle course!
- Thomas D - super work all week - especially on times tables!
- Olivia G - great facts about Italy.
- Jacob CB - fantastic work about how mountains are formed.
- Tristan W - great commitment to learning at both home and school.
- Evelyn C - super writing linked to "The Alchemist's Letter".
- Chiana W - excellent fact file about Charles Darwin.
- Joseph J - excellent work on 3d shapes and nets.



Our classes this week

Reception - have travelled to space!
 Year 1 - learned about animals that live in Africa.
 Year 2 - began their adventures in London.
 Year 3 - found out about Sutton Hoo.
 Year 4 - really enjoyed reading "Hansel & Gretel" by Anthony Browne and using the text & pictures for clues about the story & characters.
 Year 5 - learned about the poem "The British" by Benjamin Zephaniah.
 Year 6 - researched Charles Darwin.

Thank you

We are sorry that the changes to the start of term meant that we have been unable to say "thank you" in person to children and families for their lovely cards and generous gifts to the staff at Christmas - your kindness and thoughtfulness was very much appreciated, thank you.



HOUSE POINTS

Teachers are giving house points for learning at home and at school!

	This Week	Total so far	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	74	940	Akshara, Korley, Taylor
CHESTNUT	71	808	Chiana, Isabelle Z, Annie-Grace, Benjamin
OAK	53	707	Elijah B, Elija V, Myles S, Skye
ASH	53	810	Emanuela, Agnish, Demi



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