



24th Sept 2021

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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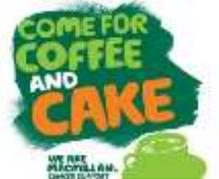
Visit our school website at www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Message from Mr Kilbride

Another busy week passes by where children have produced some super work, which you will be able to see filling our display boards if you come in for our harvest assembly next week. Thank you to the parents who gave some time on Monday to come and share with me their experiences of High Firs. Through speaking with children, staff, parents and governors a clearer picture of our school begins to emerge. As a result of Monday's meetings, there are two things I would like to share with you here. Firstly, every day in assembly, a child is chosen at random to come and light a candle. This provides a focal point for children during the assembly. Additionally, when extinguished, we symbolise the smoke seen travelling through the hall and beyond as like the message of the assembly permeating all corners of our school. Parents were interested in understanding what our school development priorities were for the year ahead. The key areas we are working on are reading and developing our outdoor learning provision. In reading, we are using some ideas developed by Doug Lemov, who has published several books in a career spent studying high-performing teachers. Key Stage 2 children will start to come home describing the 'Close Reading' they are doing – teaching children how to really understand what they are reading at a much deeper level. For the outside environment, we are refreshing many aspects of the Reception Class learning space and we would like to rethink how we use outdoor spaces around our site – including our woodland area. My vision is to recruit or train a Level 3 qualified Forest School provider who can develop our woodland area and give children in every class a 10 week experience in the woodland each year they are with us. To help with an understanding of what Forest School is and the benefits it offers, click this link - <https://forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>.



Harvest Assembly and Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning



All our parents & carers are invited to join us at **10.15am** on **Wednesday 29th September** for our Harvest Assembly. Our Harvest contributions this year will be donated to Swanley Foodbank. Please send your child into school with your donation on **Wednesday 29th September**; this should be **tinned or packeted food only**, please. Our assembly will be followed by refreshments & cakes for a donation in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support so we would welcome any cake donations too. We will sell any surplus at the end of the school day! We hope you can join us to enjoy our Harvest celebrations and to support this very worthwhile cause.

Meet our Family Support Worker

Hello! My name is Julia Yandle and I work as a Family Support Worker at High Firs; I am here in school one morning a week and am available by telephone at other times. I have worked in the community with parents and children for many years supporting families with a variety of issues which can cause you stress and difficulties. This could be concerning housing, finance, any challenging behaviour from your children or significant changes which may have taken place in your family. 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 or to talk to you on the phone and see if I can help in any way.



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Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No.
1137633



Well done to all our bouncers and a huge thank you to our parent volunteers who came in to count the bounces!

Please remember to bring your sponsor money and form into school by 22nd October.



We will be holding our
Autumn Grounds & Gardening Day
on Saturday 16th October
from 9.30am

Would you be able to spare an hour or two to help spruce up our school grounds? We have lots of jobs to do, both large & small, and all help is welcome! Please do come along and help however you can – we particularly want to paint the Reception fence!



HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	104	198	Kenzie & Harrison
CHESTNUT	117	194	Evie T, Honey B, Grace G, Alfie L
OAK	99	194	Poppy C, Kenneth C
ASH	88	174	Hannah C, Agnish S



Walk to School Week

Walking to school is one of the easiest ways to improve your 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 27th Sept to 1st October

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 28 th at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction).
Wednesday 29 th at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Charnock and Court Crescent.
Thursday 30 th at 8.40am	Meet us on the corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill.



Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Miss Angeli to High Firs from next week; she will be teaching Year 1 along with Mrs O'Dwyer (to cover Miss Allen's days) and one day a week in Year 2.



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District Sports Events

The Swanley District Primary Schools Sports Association held their AGM at High Firs this week. This was an opportunity to plan lots of exciting tournaments and events for our children to take part in with other local schools in the year ahead. We are proud of our sporting activities at High Firs, both those which are part of the curriculum and the extra-curricular clubs & matches that the children have the opportunity to take part in – and we are really looking forward to returning to these this year after the Covid-imposed restrictions of the past 18 months. It is also very important to us that these opportunities are accompanied by a sense of enjoyment & sportsmanship for all and that all our children are encouraged to participate.

Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions go to:

- Lowen – fantastic Mr Earth character.
- Francesca – super Mr Men and Little Miss biscuits!
- Annabelle B – super pastel drawing and dragon passport writing.
- Roman T – amazing dragon pastel drawing.
- Poppy C and Scarlett T – fantastic story writing.
- Kenneth C – fantastic effort in his Stone Age story.
- Harrison C – for working hard in all his work.
- Jack B – a fabulous 3D Iron Man mask.
- Bobby R – fantastic £D Tudor house.
- Chanelle M – amazing picture of the BFG.
- Francesca T – good contributions in lessons.
- Sunni LH – excellent history writing about “The Phoney War”.
- Taylor C – great ideas of what to pack in an evacuee’s suitcase.
- Jacob CB – brilliant home learning: writing 10 questions to ask an evacuee, and having them answered!



In our classes this week

Reception – learned how to make others feel “green” and be kind using our zones of regulation.
Year 1 – used adjectives to describe a castle.
Year 2 – investigated waterproof materials.
Year 3 – solved problems using place value.
Year 4 – enjoyed reading Old English words in their close reading activity.
Year 5 – practised their negative numbers.
Year 6 – learned how the map of Europe has changed since 1939.



We welcome parents and adults from the local community to undertake a variety of voluntary roles in supporting the school & our children.

Could you help in school by –

- hearing children read?
- playing games with small groups?
- sharing a skill – gardening / sewing / painting / cooking / music?
- talking about or share your job or hobby?
- looking after the books in our school library?
- tidying our outdoor environment?
- helping at or running a lunchtime or after-school club?
- offering specialist skills
- anything else?

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 below and someone will be in touch with you shortly.

Please note that the school is required to undertake and receive a satisfactory 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, including safeguarding requirements.

If you would like to help please register on our website at: <http://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/helping-at-school/>

Helping at High Firs



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Register Rabbit

Congratulations to this week's winners of Register Rabbit this week for their excellent attendance:

RECEPTION & YEAR 1
YEAR 5



Teaching Assistant Apprentice

We are currently in the exciting position of being able to offer one or two Teaching Assistant apprentice roles which may be suitable for either a school-leaver or someone looking to retrain. More information is available at: <https://uk.indeed.com/jobs?q=teaching%20assistant&l=Swanley&vjk=0e7c2bebf9840dee>



Next week in school

Mon 27 Sept	Walk to School Week starts
Tuesday 28 Sept	Walk to School Week: meet the staff at 8.40am on the corner of Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction).
Weds 29 Sept	Walk to School Week: meet the staff at 8.40am on the corner of Charnock and Court Crescent. Harvest Assembly & Macmillan Coffee Morning – 10.15am
Thurs 30 Sept	Walk to School Week: meet the staff at 8.40am on the corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill
Fri 1 Oct	Walk to School Week – last day



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