



17th Dec 2021



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

Message from Mr Kilbride

I can scarcely believe that we have completed the Autumn Term already - yet I cannot now imagine not being at High Firs!

The various plays and performances that have taken place over the last two weeks have been a joy to behold. The children have been a real credit to you in the way they have learned their roles inside out and performed with such confidence and enthusiasm. Thank you for coming out in numbers and showing them your support, despite the continuing challenging circumstances that we face once again.

I sincerely hope that the holiday break and the uptake of booster vaccines across society in general mean that we enter the new year with cases plateauing a little more than presently and mortality rates not rising above expected levels for the time of year. This would be good news for everyone, allowing us to carry on the rest of the academic year as we have started it - enjoying some new-found freedoms by comparison with 2020-21. This however, may not be the case. We have to prepare for the fact that the data could get worse and that this may impact upon the way education is delivered once again. We will take advice from the government and apply that general guidance to our local circumstances, should we find ourselves in that less fortunate position.

Finally, I would like to thank all children, staff and parents for making me feel so welcome at High Firs - I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term here and I am very excited about some of the changes and developments that will be coming in the new year - more of that in the future! I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and an enjoyable break from the normal routines. We look forward to seeing you all again on 5th January.



We wish all our children, staff, and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you back at school for the start of the Spring Term on **Wednesday 5th January 2022.**



Staff News

We are pleased to let you know the happy news that Miss Allen had a baby boy last week! It was so lovely to see her and to meet baby Ellis when they popped into school yesterday.

Today we are saying goodbye to both Mrs Rumsey and Mrs Drewett - Mrs Drewett has been a TA at High Firs since 1998 and Mrs Rumsey has been with us for 15 years so they have both paid a significant part in our school community; we send them off with our thanks and very best wishes for a long and happy, well-deserved, retirement.

We welcome Mrs Windget to our office team. She has taken on Mrs Rumsey's role so will be the first point of contact for many of your queries to the office from January. We are also pleased to welcome Mrs French to our Breakfast Club team.

Covid notifications

Please continue to let us know if your child tests positive for Covid-19 over the break by emailing office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk so that if necessary we can notify possible in-school contacts. The office email address will be monitored regularly for this purpose only; other emails will be responded to on return to school.



Achieving more together





Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Poppy Appeal on behalf of the Royal British Legion – we raised an amazing **£474.68**.



Aspects of Christmas

Well done to our Year 5/6 children who rounded off our Christmas performances in great style with their fantastic performances of "Aspects of Christmas" on Monday.

Attendance Awards

We know that this term has been a difficult one in terms of attendance for some of our families due to school absences necessitated by Covid symptoms or precautions. We are pleased, however, that that majority of our children have been able to maintain excellent attendance records over the term and this was recognised in our special assembly on Thursday.

Congratulations to **YEAR 5** who are the overall winners for their attendance with a fantastic **96.8%** attendance over the term; they will be celebrating their achievements with special treats in the Spring Term.

The class results were –

Year 5 – 96.8%

Year 6 – 96.04%

Year 3 – 94.5%

Year 4 – 94.34%

Year R – 93.78%

Year 2 – 93.39%

Year 1 – 92.47%

Congratulations to the children whose excellent attendance in the Autumn Term was recognised when we presented our 100%, 99% and 98% certificates in assembly yesterday.

Autumn Term Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions are for the whole of the Autumn Term:

- Albert T – settling in well to school life and making progress across the curriculum.
- Anastasia P – her positive attitude to learning and contributing in all lessons.
- Edy O – trying hard at everything he does, working hard to improve his writing and developing more confidence.
- Chloe P – working hard this term, in particular in writing, and always having a positive attitude to her learning.
- Tilly F – her hard work and enthusiasm in all lessons and her great progress in Maths.
- Maisie K – her hard work and enthusiasm in all lessons.
- Kenneth C – for his enthusiasm for learning and all aspects of school life.
- Bethanie L – for always trying her best and making the right choices.
- Harry F – showing a more mature attitude to learning.
- Mabel R – her positive attitude towards learning in school and at home.
- Elsie W – her positive attitude to all areas of learning and making good progress.
- Eloise W, Olivia G & Ruby Bay – their commitment to all areas of school life and furthering their own learning.
- Akash S – always working incredibly hard and trying his best in everything.
- Rama E – her hard work and enthusiasm in lessons, especially History & English.
- Isla S – always getting on, doing the right thing and her super writing in English this term



Winter Reading Challenge

If you enjoy reading then the Winter Mini Challenge is for you! This year's theme is "Wild World Heroes". All you have to do is read 3 books between now and Sunday 16th January to take part. More information is available at:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2021>



Achieving more together



 HOUSE POINTS Congratulations to BEECH who are our house point champions for this term!		This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
	BEECH	55	1183	Edward S & Connie R
	CHESTNUT	48	1139	Bradley S, Grace F, Alfie L, Henry F & Courtney B
	OAK	50	1166	Francesca F, Beatrice J, Chloe P & Walter A
	ASH	36	1046	Stanley W & Agnish S

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the Friends' fundraising in 2021.

We have raised lots of money to support the children's learning in school – as well as having lots of fun along the way! Events would not run without the support of those who volunteer to help out and we are very grateful to everyone who has given their time, either on the day or with preparations and admin. Thank you also to all those who also make donations, either monetary or with goods.
We look forward to more fun ahead in 2022....

MONDAY 10TH JANUARY

is our



Children are invited to wear their pyjamas (or other suitable nightwear) to school in return for a donation to the FHF of any unwanted:

- Christmas gifts
- Toiletries
- Toys

Children should wear normal school footwear (not slippers or trainers!) and coats, please. Representatives of the FHF will be on the gate to collect your donations –
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

INSET DAYS

No children in school

Tues 4 Jan 2022

Fri 27 May 2022

Mon 27 June 2022



Coming up

Children are now on holiday until 5th January!

Tuesday 4th January – INSET day: staff only in school

Weds 5th January – Children start school (Breakfast Club & After School Club running)



Achieving more together

