



3rd Dec 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

We have thoroughly got into the Christmas mood this week in school, as you will see from the events outlined below. The Christmas Tree assembly was a particularly lovely occasion giving all children the opportunity to participate in decorating our tree.

In amongst all the festivities, your children continue to work hard and impress. Some of the writing children are producing to win their Special Mentions in recent weeks has been spectacular. It is lovely to see the children so engaged in their learning every day.

As we look forward to the performances next week, please do note the requests below regarding Coronavirus – chiefly to take a lateral flow test before attending and to wear a mask.



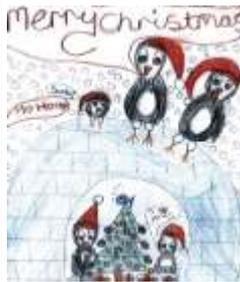
Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, the children – and staff – all enjoyed a fantastic Christmas Lunch. Nearly 200 hot meals were served, with the

remainder of our children enjoying a packed lunch. It was great to see the children wearing their own clothes to support FHF donations day, which added that special festive feeling – particularly with so many Christmas & winter jumpers to be seen! It was also our opportunity to thank the Midday Supervisors and catering team who work so hard each lunchtime to support our children.

Christmas / Winter Card Competition

Well done to all the children who entered this year's card competition – there were some fabulous entries! We hope that those of you who came into school on Monday enjoyed looking at them too. Congratulations to these children in particular who have been chosen as class winners –



- Rec – Teddy M & Logan F
- Year 1 – Bella W & Harvey RH
- Year 2 – Smilte M & Josue P
- Year 3 – Poppy G & Karina C
- Year 4 – Isabelle Z & Teddy H
- Year 5 – Ruby Bay & Evie B
- Year 6 – Jessica A & Jake R

Our Christmas Charities

We do not make a charge for our performances so we are very grateful to everyone who chooses to show their appreciation through their support of our chosen charities for this year through our post-performance collections. This year, our classes have chosen –

Ellenor is our KS1 charity for this Christmas – their service includes being one of the only hospices looking after children of all ages with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.



Our donations from the Carol Concerts will be split between **St Mary's Church**, as a "thank you" to them for letting us use their lovely church, and their supported charity – **Cystic Fibrosis Trust**. Year 3&4 also wanted to support a local animal rescue charity and so donations will also be going to **Second Chance Animal Rescue** in Crockenhill.

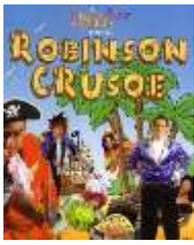


Porchlight, Kent's largest charity for homeless and vulnerable people, will be receiving our donations from the Yr5 & Yr6 performances.



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Pantomime visit

KS1 and KS2 both thoroughly enjoyed their pantomime performances of **Robinson Crusoe** yesterday from The Panto Company.



Christmas Tree Assembly

We also held our annual Christmas Tree Assembly on Wednesday, which many of the staff and children hail as their favourite of the year! The whole school came together in the hall to sing Carols and each child and adult had a chance to add their own decoration to our Christmas tree. As is our school tradition, the youngest child in school put the angel on the tree and the eldest did the "switch on" of the lights. Well done to Jasmine and Rama!



Children's Christmas Cards

We know that some of our children have already written their Christmas cards to their friends! Please could we ask that all the children follow the same arrangements:

- Cards to be brought into school from **Monday 6th December** onwards only
- Please label envelopes with recipient's first name, surname and year group
- All cards to be put into the postbox outside Year 6 as the children arrive in the morning
- Cards will be distributed by our 'post elves' and then taken home to be opened

Thank you for your support – this will ensure that class time is not spent distributing cards and that they do not get lost around the school during the day.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

Registered Charity No. 1137633



Christmas Countdown – A handy helper to remember all the important FHF Christmas dates! Coming up next week...

**Wednesday 8th
December**

Deadline to return £3 payment and slip for Santa gift

Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions go to:

- Jake B – trying very hard with his writing
- Lenny G – super writing on how to make pancakes for the 3 Bears.
- Lewis C – his developing confidence and independent learning.
- Eleanor A – working hard in English and creating a fact sheet about castles.
- Lottie W – fantastic reasoning in Maths.
- Faye R – hard work in all areas of learning.
- Walter A – being so enthusiastic about his learning and sharing his knowledge with the class.
- Alfie L – being a kind and caring member of his class.
- Harrison A – always completing his home learning to a high standard.
- Ella V – excellent research on Mary Queen of Scots.
- Eloise W – working really hard in all areas of learning.
- Evie T – a super "Cosmic Kindness" planet for home learning.
- Aziz H – super report for home learning
- Tommy G – excellent missing report about a character from our class book.



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THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

In our classes this week

Reception – have been sorting objects.
 Year 1 – learned to write non-fiction texts.
 Year 2 – read “Katie goes to London” and learned about lot of London landmarks.
 Year 3 – found out about Roman Gods and

Goddesses.

Year 4 – made series circuits containing a switch.

Year 5 – have been on a Space Adventure!

Year 6 – added and subtracted fractions.

Register Rabbit

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



YEAR 1

YEAR 5

YEAR 6

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	98	1015	Emily S & Jack M
CHESTNUT	94	961	Faye R, Jake R & Kaiden O
OAK	67	1007	Harvey RH, Eleanor A, Lewis C & Skye K
ASH	81	898	Stanley W, Rama E, Elija V, Ruby Bur & Isabelle L

Performances

Thank you all for your understanding that we have had to restrict the number of tickets offered for our performances this Christmas. Many of you will be aware that due to rising Covid case levels some other schools have had to cancel their performances once again this year; hopefully by limiting our numbers this will enable us to go ahead whilst still endeavouring to work within virus restrictions and precautions.

Please could we remind parents attending our performances that –

- Entry is by ticket only. Seats are numbered so you don't need to arrive too early!
- Please wear a mask or face covering on the school site and throughout the performance if you are able to. Hand sanitiser will also be available on entry.
- We would ask that you take a lateral flow test prior to attending your performance(s) and only attend if this is negative.
- No children under school-age should attend.
- We do ask that parents don't get out of their seats and move around during the performances in order to take photographs or to film, or to use flash photography, as this can block the view of other guests and it can be very distracting for our children on the stage - we want them to be able to show you their very best acting and singing skills throughout! We promise there will be “photo opportunities” after every performance.
- Concerns have been raised in the past by some parents that photographs are posted on Facebook or other social media showing children other than the postee's own; please could we ask that you do restrict publication of photographs on social media to your own children in order to respect the wishes of those parents who do not want their child's image to be published on the internet.
- Year 3/4 concert at St Mary's church – please note there is no onsite parking.

Reception 2022

We welcomed some of our prospective Reception 2022 children and families to a Craft Afternoon on Tuesday. It was lovely getting to spend some time with them! Don't forget that applications close on 15th January.



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Change to school term dates

The DfE have laid regulations to reduce the minimum number of sessions schools are required to meet in the academic year 2021/2022 due to the additional bank holiday for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June 2022, which falls in the half-term break. The total school year has therefore been reduced by one day to 194 days and Kent County Council has last week taken the decision to end the Summer term 2022 a day early so that **term will now finish on Thursday 21 July 2022** instead of Friday 22 July 2022. For your information, the new term dates are below. These do not show our INSET days which are on Tues 4 January, Friday 27 May and Monday 27 June.



INSET DAYS

No children in school

Tues 4 Jan 2022
Fri 27 May 2022
Mon 27 June 2022

Next week in school

ALL CLUBS HAVE NOW FINISHED – WE HOPE THE CHILDREN HAVE ENJOYED TAKING PART THIS TERM!

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Mon 6 Dec | Yr3/4 St Mary's Church Concerts – 2pm and 6.30pm (Ticket-holders only) |
| Weds 8 Dec | KS1 Nativity 2.15pm (Ticket-holders only)
£3 Gift from Santa money & slip deadline |
| Thurs 9 Dec | 10am – Eco Club assembly
10.15am – Yr6 Music assembly
KS1 Nativity 2.15pm (Ticket-holders only) |
| Fri 10 Dec | Flu immunisations |



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Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

President: Mr A Kilbride
Chairman: Derya Halil
Deputy Chair: Sam Officer
Secretary: Jo Almeida
Treasurer: Jane Croxton
Safety Officer: Brian Bunning
Other trustees: Lisa Ellis
Gemma Sayers



Court Crescent
Swanley
Kent
BR8 8NR

Dear Parents/Carers

Father Christmas has kindly agreed to leave gifts under the tree for all the High Firs children again this year!

The children will receive their gifts on Tuesday 14th December during school hours and the cost for this is **£3.00** per child.

Please enclose the attached slip together with your payment in an envelope marked "Santa Gift" and return your envelope to school by Wednesday 8th December. Sorry – as this is a FHF event we can not accept payment via School Money.

Thank You.

Friends of High Firs

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PRESENTS FROM SANTA

Return to office by Weds 8th Dec

NAME OF CHILD: YEAR:

I enclose **£3.00** for my child to receive a present from Santa.

I do not wish for my child to receive a present from Santa.

Signed Date



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