



11th Feb 2022

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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

Message from Mr Kilbride

I can scarcely believe that we are at the halfway point of the academic year already - time is really flying by! A very busy term and challenging term comes to an end, where we have had to contend with larger pupil and staff absences related to Covid that we have previously experienced. Everyone has pulled together brilliantly to keep things going, with many people working in different areas of school and covering for others. We have remained in bubbles now for a few weeks, as we hope to ride out this particular storm - and I anticipate that after the break, we can return to operating as we were from September through to the second week in January.

We sadly say goodbye to Mr Payne now, who is leaving us to enjoy his retirement! We thank him for several years of dedicated work fixing and mending things, saving us money that has allowed us to spend more on ensuring the best educational provision for your children. The children's affection for Mr Payne and their gratitude towards him for all that he does came across in a lovely card full of messages that they made him, which we were able to present to him during a fire drill yesterday!

We have recruited Mr Copeland to be our new caretaker and he will open up school and be with us every morning. We look forward to welcoming him to school after half term. We also welcome Mrs Cason to our Breakfast Club team and Mrs Thackery will be carrying out some relief Midday Supervisor work too.

It is very exciting that Mrs Verge will begin her woodland sessions with children from Year 4 after half term. Her full forest school training will be taking place in March and this will result in a number of pilot groups being run for Mrs Verge to test out her new skills and learning.

Have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 21st February.

Parent Forum

Parents and carers are invited to join us at one of our upcoming Parent Forum meetings which will be held on **Monday 28th February at 7pm** in the Yr6 classroom. Forums are a valuable way for parents and to share their ideas and views with the school -and vice versa! We thank you for completing the recent parent feedback surveys – we will be sharing the outcomes of these in the first newsletter back after half term, which will be just before this meeting. If you are attending, please complete the form at <http://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/parentforum/> to let us know. We look forward to seeing you.



Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions go to:

- Francesca F – always trying her best in all areas of learning.
- Jake B – huge progress in reading.
- Athena M – working hard in all lessons.
- Ivy C – trying really hard in Maths.
- Poppy C – her creative and detailed writing.
- Scarlett T - her explanation of why Ernest Shackleton was inspirational.
- Agnish S – great effort in Maths this week.
- Ethan V – always working hard and contributing in lessons.
- Elijah B – fantastic cooking making fortune cookies.
- Harrison A – a super Shang Dynasty time line.
- Elizabeth P – amazing handwriting!
- All of Year 5 – working so well together to create their assembly independently.
- Kamila B – an excellent piece of learning about the Falklands and a brilliant story board about the Maya creation story.
- Lauren Mc – a very creatively presented piece of work about the Falklands



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Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633



**NEXT FHF
MEETING**
**Wednesday 23rd
February at 6pm**
*Everyone welcome -
please come along!*

Birdwatch

Thank you to EcoClub for collating and counting all the Birdwatch outcomes!
The final results were:

 Wood pigeon 84	 Blackbird 41	 Parakeet 7	 Collared dove 11
 Carrion crow 29	 House sparrow 63	 Kestrel 1	 Goldfinch 5
 Starling 59	 Black-headed gull 67	 Green finch 2	 Long-tailed tit 2
 Magpie 48	 Blue tit 17	 Wren 1	 Jay 1
 Robin 23	 Feral pigeon 33	 Dunnock 1	 Buzzard 1
 Great tit 13	 Chaffinch 6	 Jackdaw 1	 Woodpecker 1

In our classes this week

- Reception – learned to use clay to make Superworm!
- Year 1 – found out about the “Big Five” African animals.
- Year 2 – drew and interpreted pictograms.
- Year 3 – tested buoyancy.
- Year 4 – learned to write a summary.
- Year 5 – learned about tourism in the mountains.
- Year 6 – found out about the Falkland Islands.



Register Rabbit

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



RECEPTION
YEAR 5

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	102	811	Edward S, Sunni LH, Aziz H, Korley A
CHESTNUT	103	806	Elias M, Benjamin A
OAK	71	762	Eleanor A, Amy V, Karina C
ASH	71	755	Stanley W, Akash S

Times Tables Rockstars

Well done to **BEECH** who were the winners of this week's Rockstars challenge.
Don't forget to take part next week if you are in KS2.

Our top scorers were:



BEECH	Chanelle M, Vidit G
CHESTNUT	Amelia Bay, Benjamin A
OAK	Millie WS, Beatrice G
ASH	Veda T, Freya T

4TH FEBRUARY - 10TH FEBRUARY

 **BEECH** 287 **CHESTNUT** 192 **OAK** 183 **ASH** 165

INSET DAYS

No children in school
Fri 27 May 2022
Mon 27 June 2022

Coming up

Mon 14 – Fri 18 February Half Term holiday

Mon 21 February School & clubs restart

Weds 23 February FHF Meeting – 6pm

Thurs 24 February Yr4 Class Assembly 10.10am



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Eco Club needs your help!

This year we are creating a sensory garden to improve our outdoor area at school.

As part of our journey towards earning an Eco Schools' green flag, we would like to use as many recycled materials as possible when creating our garden.



We would really appreciate donations of any unwanted items you have. Do you have any unwanted:

- Plastic bottle lids
- CDS or DVDS
- Old wellies
- Old flower pots
- Seeds
- Old saucepans or metal bowls

If you have anything you could donate, please bring them to Miss Selby or the School Office by Friday 25th February. Thank you!



High Firs Primary School

Headteacher

Mr A Kilbride

Deputy Headteacher

Miss C Rennie

www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk



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4th February 2022

Dear Parents

I am writing to let you know about a vacancy for the role of parent governor that we have on our governing body.

The role of the governing body

The school's governing body is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. The body is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

The role of a parent governor

As a parent governor, you'll work with other governors, including myself as Headteacher, to ensure the governing body effectively carries out the duties referred to above. Governors are encouraged to take part in the work of committees of the governing body, allowing them to develop particular areas of personal interest and expertise. The Local Authority provides support and training for governors and there is a full programme of activities, with particular support for newly appointed governors.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for all children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
- Skills to ensure the governing body delivers effective governance
- A rigorous regard for confidentiality and safeguarding

Expectations of governors

Meetings of the Full Governing Body take part three times a year and committee meetings three or four times a year; these last approx. two hours each. Governors are also invited to undertake monitoring activities once a term and are welcome to join us for occasions such as the Fun Day and class assemblies. The term of office for all governors is four years and a parent is able to remain as a governor if their child leaves the school within that period.

How to apply

I am writing to you now to invite you to nominate a parent, who may be your partner, yourself or any other parent who you have ensured is willing to stand for election. New governor appointments may be made subject to any checks required at the time of appointment with regard to safeguarding.

Please let me have any nomination by 9am on Friday 25th February, using the form below. This includes the opportunity for the nominee to make a brief statement of no more than 100 words stating the reason for application, which will be shared with the parent community. If the number of nominations for parent governor exceeds the number of vacancies available then a parent community vote by secret ballot will take place. Otherwise, any nominee will automatically become an elected parent governor of the school's governing body. In either case I will let you know the outcome as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Kilbride
Headteacher



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What do school governors do?

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. In some schools the site is owned by the governing body. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and it is governors who work with the headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of the governing body, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing body and decisions are its joint responsibility. The role of the governing body is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (the critical friend)

What is the role of a parent governor?

There are no duties specific to the parent governor role which do not apply to other governors.

As a parent governor objectivity is essential. You do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents – you are a representative, not a delegate. It is also important to remember you are also not there to promote the interests of your own children but all children.

As an effective parent governor, you will:

- Help to decide the priorities for improving the school
- Make yourself available to parents, listen impartially to other parents' opinions and take account of them as you contribute to governors' decisions but you will not act on these individually or take a personal involvement in them.
- Guide parents about appropriate lines of action and procedures
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- Prepare fully for meetings by reading papers beforehand; be committed to reading briefings and newsletters for governors
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training (including staff INSET)
- Attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the whole time – this is approximately nine meetings per year – plus allowing time for visits, training and events.
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community
- Be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body
- Respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs and school matters
- Never promise, or be expected, to 'solve a problem' on your own
- Never press your own child's case – particularly at the expense of others
- Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial
- Have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing body
- Take part in school events and spend time in school meeting with children & staff
- Present a balanced view of issues, representing different sections of the community
- Act as an ambassador for the school



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HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nomination Form for Election of Parent Governor

Return to the Headteacher by 9am on Friday 25th February.
The nominee **MUST** be the parent of a child currently registered at the school

Name of person being nominated	
Address of person being nominated	
Signature of person being nominated	<i>Signature indicates consent to being nominated</i>
Name of child(ren) currently registered at High Firs Primary School	
Candidate Statement (Max 100 words)	<p><i>In this section, outline:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The skills and experience you have that may be of benefit to the governing body</i>• <i>Why you believe you would be an effective governor</i>• <i>How you plan to contribute to the future work of the board</i>• <i>Any other relevant info to support your nomination</i> <p><i>In the event of an election being necessary, this information will be circulated to eligible voters.</i></p>

continued overleaf....



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All nominees must be proposed by two other parents at the school, who will be contacted to confirm their agreement.

	PROPOSER (1)	PROPOSER (2)
Name		
Address		
Email		
Name of child(ren) at High Firs Primary School		



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