



4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

# High Firs Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

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Visit our school website at [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

## Message from Mr Kilbride

This morning in our Special Mentions assembly we celebrated the amazing number of children who really rose to our Resolution Read at Home challenge and read at home every night in January – a fantastic achievement, well done. These 42 children have been given a book voucher for the Book Fair in March as recognition and celebration of their taking part. However, we also must not forget that reading at home isn't just for January! It is part of our Home Learning policy that all the children should read at home every night and that an adult then signs their Reading Record or Contact Book to indicate this; we do appreciate that so many of our families do this already and give vital support to their children's reading development, thank you.

We also continue to look at ways in which we can improve and enhance the children's reading experiences and learning in school and Mrs Payne, Miss Rennie and I undertook a visit to another school last week where they have had some real successes in both raising the attainment of reading, but also in raising the profile of enjoying reading across the school. We came back buzzing with lots of ideas which we are looking forward to putting in place with our staff and pupils over the coming weeks and months. For our youngest readers, Miss Durrant is currently leading on a new phonics programme which will support our Reception and Year 1 children even further as they begin their reading journey. So, these are exciting times for reading in our school and we look forward to sharing this with you.

## RSPB Birdwatch

Lots of our children (and staff!) enjoyed taking part in Birdwatch last weekend. Everyone who has returned their survey has received a certificate and Eco Club will be busy next week counting up all the results. We'll let you know what we spotted!



## Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions go to:

- Teddy M - super writing describing a tiger.
- Jack W - huge improvements in his letter and number formation.
- Eleanor A – fantastic attitude for learning.
- Harvey RH – working hard in all areas of learning.
- Hannah C- a detailed setting description.
- Morgan W - trying hard to work more independently.
- Harrison C - working hard in all lessons this week
- Poppy G - showing a really good understanding of data in Maths.
- Sienna G and Jack M - working hard to become "free readers".
- Liam S – an amazing Shang Dynasty time line.
- Eloise W and Elizabeth P – working so hard on their multiplication and division, and now doing both with confidence.
- Isla S - a fantastic piece of writing using extended sentences and varied punctuation.
- Micah W - a brilliant description of the Galapagos Islands for home learning.



## HOUSE POINTS

|          | This Week | Term Total | Top Scorers this week                                    |
|----------|-----------|------------|--|
| BEECH    | 109       | 709        | Aziz, Vidit, Chanelle, Francesca T, Tommy B & Harrison C |
| CHESTNUT | 131       | 703        | Jake R, Isabelle Z & Luiza P                             |
| OAK      | 110       | 691        | Sabiha, Amy V  |
| ASH      | 124       | 684        | Joshua W, Athena & Poppy G                               |



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### 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.



28TH JANUARY - 3RD FEBRUARY



Our top scorers were:

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>BEECH</b>    | Chanelle M, Vidit G   |
| <b>CHESTNUT</b> | Amelia B, Ruby Bay    |
| <b>OAK</b>      | Millie WS, Elliott MB |
| <b>ASH</b>      | Veda T, Freya T       |

### In our classes this week

Reception – have been learning to make 14.  
Year 1 – compared number sentences using greater than and less than.  
Year 2 – compared the Arctic and Antarctica.  
Year 3 – used clay to make Anglo-Saxon pots.  
Year 4 – compared and ordered decimal numbers.  
Year 5 - have written reports based on their Mountains topic.  
Year 6 – have written from the point of view of a dragon, about a human intruder in the Galapagos.

We are now recruiting for the following vacancy:

## MIDDAY SUPERVISOR (RELIEF)

Visit <http://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/staff-vacancies/> for more information

### Register Rabbit

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



**RECEPTION  
YEAR 6**

### Voluntary Fund

Attached to the Newsletter this week is the envelope for payment of this term's Voluntary Fund payment. We greatly appreciate these donations which are used to support many of the extra activities undertaken in school by the children. The suggested payment is £2 per child or £5 per family.

Please return your donation by 11<sup>th</sup> February – thank you. You can also pay via our SchoolMoney app.

*What is the Voluntary Fund used for?* The termly voluntary fund money is used to pay for lots of different things! Essentially, it is used for expenses which we are not allowed to allocate to government funding but which we believe lead to a broader educational experience for our children or which support our community & families links. This also means we do not have to charge parents every time! Just a few examples of this spending are:

- Concert & performance costumes
- Refreshments for parents & visitors at school events – Nativities / Assemblies / class meetings etc
- Cookery ingredients
- Celebration of commemorative events – Whole School Jubilee Day party etc.
- Expenses for Open Evening & events
- Visitors in to school
- Additional resources for school visits

We believe that visits and these other experiences are a vital part of our children's education – thank you to all those parents who support us in this way.



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## Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education  
Registered Charity No. 1137633

Tickets for this half-term's popular **CAKE RAFFLE** will be on sale for 50p each outside school at 3.15pm on Wednesday and Thursday next week, and the draw done with the children during assembly on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you for your support and good luck!

**\*\* SAVE THE DATE: our next FHF meeting will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 6pm - everyone is welcome so please do come along \*\***



### INSET DAYS

No children in school

Fri 27 May 2022

Mon 27 June 2022

### Next week in school

Weds 9 February

FHF Cake raffle sales after school

Thurs 10 February

Yr5 Class Assembly 10.10am – parents welcome!  
FHF Cake raffle sales after school

Fri 11 February

FHF Cake raffle draw in assembly  
Deadline for voluntary fund payments



**KENT EDUCATIONAL  
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE**

# PARENT CONSULTATION LINE

**Free 30 minute phone/video  
consultation with an Educational  
Psychologist for parents.**



The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to parents and carers to support children's wellbeing and learning.

Topics or areas that you may wish to discuss might include:

- Social and emotional issues
- Concerns about learning
- Family relationships
- Concerns about behaviour
- Daily routines including sleep

**kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk**

If you would like to make use of this service please send a message to the email address above including the following information:

- your name;
- phone number;
- a convenient time to call (morning or afternoon)
- your child's education phase e.g. early years, primary school, secondary school;
- a brief description of what you wish to discuss.

We will do our best to respond within 10 working days but this may be subject to availability.



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# High Firs Primary School

## Headteacher

Mr A Kilbride

## Deputy Headteacher

Miss C Rennie

[www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)



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4<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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"><li><i>The skills and experience you have that may be of benefit to the governing body</i></li><li><i>Why you believe you would be an effective governor</i></li><li><i>How you plan to contribute to the future work of the board</i></li><li><i>Any other relevant info to support your nomination</i></li></ul> <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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