



10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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

## Message from Mr Kilbride

*It continues to be a busy time in school, as ever! This week I held assemblies to enable children to share concerns they may have had regarding the war in Ukraine. Following the advice I gave last week to staff and yourselves, I began by asking children about any worries they had - and the KS1 children did not mention the war, so I chose not to introduce the subject to them - we just had a good conversation about how to manage worried feelings. With KS2 we had an excellent conversation where children had some very sensible questions about the changing situation.*

*The conversation lead onto talking about refugees and what might we be able to do to help. Please see a letter at the end of this newsletter which explains 3 main ways people can help - bringing a donation of humanitarian aid into school (list provided); contributing to fundraising for petrol to deliver supplies - just giving link; offering to help in person in Folkstone, where items are being collected and sent on. I sincerely hope that we become overwhelmed with items of generosity and support for over 2 million recently displaced people across Europe who must be experiencing unimaginable levels of stress, anxiety and fear at the current time. I thank you in advance for the support you may be able to give.*



**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March After school every day to 3.45pm  
BOOK FAIR**

Your World Book Day voucher and RRAH voucher will be valid at this event.

## DRESS UP AS A BOOK CHARACTER!

Well done to all the children who looked so brilliant and who took part so enthusiastically in our dress up as a book character day – and thank you to all the parents who helped them to prepare their fantastic costumes. Can you tell who these children were dressed as?



## SHARE A BOOK

Our Yr2 children had a lovely time sharing some stories with our Yr5 children on Thursday afternoon.

## Science Week

Next week in school, we are going to celebrate British Science by taking part in lots of activities to inspire the children. Each class will complete a variety of Science tasks and experiments throughout the week. These may include taking an egg on a zip wire, launching water bottle rockets, solving a crime scene investigation and many others. We hope this will give the children a chance to question and investigate and to understand the importance – and fun - of Science.



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### Red Nose Day

Next **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March**, is Red Nose Day. We aren't planning any "official" activities as we are already busy with this week's Book Character Dress-Up Day, Science Week and Walk to School Week but children are welcome to wear their Comic Relief Red Nose to school on Friday if they have one to show their support for the charity.

### Parents Consultations

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school next week for your consultation meetings with your child's teacher. The consultation meeting will offer the chance to discuss your child's progress and well-being, as well as to raise any concerns you may have and for teachers to let you know about your child's future targets. You will also be provided with any recent assessment data for your child and will have the opportunity for some time prior to your meeting to view your child's books.

Please –

- Arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment so you can view your child's books before your consultation.
- Enter and exit the school through the main entrance door only.
- You may wish to consider wearing a face mask whilst in our school building and during your consultation. Our staff may choose to do the same and/or will maintain distancing.

### Covid update

Our school currently follows the DfE guidelines that continue to recommend that people isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days if they have tested positive for coronavirus. Other family members do not need to isolate unless they develop symptoms and/or test positive themselves.

Confirmed cases are able to return to school once they have had two consecutive days of negative tests - the earliest opportunity being day 5 and morning of day 6. After 10 days of isolation, confirmed cases can return to school even if they are still testing positive - the only eventuality where people should continue to isolate after 10 days is if they still have a high temperature at that time.

### Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions go to:

- Luiza-Maria P – great learning in Maths this week (making 5).
- Jake B – fantastic improvement in number recognition.
- Daisy B & Chloe P – trying really hard with their reading.
- Year 2 – working so hard on their super assembly.
- Olivia W – working really hard to improve and join her handwriting.
- Amy V – being such a kind member of our class and helping others.
- Jessica T & Sienna G – working so hard to improve their writing.
- Eloise W – trying really hard to improve her understanding of fractions.
- Olivia G, Casian C, Elliot MB, Zoe L & George V for working so well as a team on their presentation about Mount Snowdon.
- Eliza RW & Rama E – fantastic story writing.



### Register Rabbit

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

**YEAR R**  
**YEAR 6**



### HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1081</b>	Korley A, Taylor C, Harrison C, Edward S, Willow W
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1104</b>	Daisy-May LG, Lottie W
<b>OAK</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1008</b>	Beatrice G, Skye K, Kaylee V
<b>ASH</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>995</b>	Hannah C, Veda T



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### Times Tables Rockstars

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



4th March - 10th March 2022



Our top scorers were:

BEECH	Chanelle & Vidit
CHESTNUT	Benjamin & Daisy-May
OAK	Elliott & Casian
ASH	Veda & Freya

### THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

#### In our classes this week

Reception – learned to make 5.

Year 1 – named parts of a plant.

Year 2 – learned about significant people in the Apollo 11 space mission.

Year 3 – found out about Ramadan.

Year 4 – learned to draw the Mona Lisa!

Year 5 – worked in groups to produce presentations about Mount Snowdon.

Year 6 – learned about the evolution of the peppered moth.

Due to the expansion of our TA team, we are now recruiting for the following vacancy:

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

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



#### Next week in school

**INSET DAYS**  
**No children in school**  
Fri 27 May 2022  
Mon 27 June 2022

Mon 14 March	Parents Consultations (by appointment) Book Fair after school No clubs today except for After School Club paid provision
Tues 15 March	SDPSSA Cross Country at New Barn Park 1pm – 3pm Parents Consultations (by appointment) Book Fair after school No clubs today except for After School Club paid provision
Weds 16 March	Yr1 Class Assembly 10.10am Parents Consultations (by appointment) No clubs today except for After School Club paid provision
Thurs 17 March	Clubs running as normal
Fri 18 March	Comic Relief – wear your Red Nose to school!



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Dear Parents/Carers,

### KAH Ukraine Appeal

*When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping" Mr Rogers*



I am sure that we all will have been touched and affected by the terrible scenes that we are witnessing on a daily basis as a result of the invasion of Ukraine. At High Firs we would very much like to do whatever we can to help people that are being affected in this humanitarian crisis.

Our school is part of the Kent Association of Head Teachers (KAH) and together with many other schools across the county we are working to collect supplies and resources that we can send to Ukrainian refugees that have crossed the border into Poland.

KAH are working with KCC, the British Red Cross and the Invicta Rotary club to collect and transport items in the next few days and weeks. If you would like help our friends in Ukraine and support our appeal then there are a number of ways that you can get involved:

1. Donations of supplies: If you are able to donate any items on the list overleaf, we would be very grateful indeed. We are not asking you necessarily to go out to purchase these items but would ask if you have any of these at home and they are in a good condition and can be spared then they would be gratefully received.
2. We need to raise money for fuel for the HGVs that will take these donations to Poland, A Go Fund me page has been set up and we are asking if you can share this far and wide especially with people that have businesses or if they are part of organisations that could support us. The Go Fund Me Page can be found here: [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/igor-kovalenko-1?utm\\_source=whatsapp&utm\\_medium=socpledgemobile&utm\\_content=igor-kovalenko-1&utm\\_campaign=post-pledge-mobile&utm\\_term=vxG2pyjD7](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/igor-kovalenko-1?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=socpledgemobile&utm_content=igor-kovalenko-1&utm_campaign=post-pledge-mobile&utm_term=vxG2pyjD7)
3. We are also asking for volunteers to assist at the collection site which has been set up in Folkestone (Big Jigs in Folkestone- Unit B, Kingsmead, West, Park Farm Industrial Estate, Folkestone CT19 5EU). Please can any potential volunteers please contact Dan File on [headteacher@elham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@elham.kent.sch.uk)

If you are able to donate any items from the list please can you drop them into the marked plastic boxes on your drop off to school in the morning – they will be left outside school every morning next week.

#### **Ukraine Volunteers WhatsApp group**

This is a group to help organise the volunteer operations to sort, pack and label donations heading to Ukraine. It is also useful source of understanding what donations are most needed – pet food and nappies yesterday but changing all the time. There are lots of people in this group, many offering to pick up donations and transport them to Folkestone. It includes a google form at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SV6z5XdvlfPEWQhQ-c\\_gRpAOZHJmhBKLAa7BnIRNGcl/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SV6z5XdvlfPEWQhQ-c_gRpAOZHJmhBKLAa7BnIRNGcl/edit#gid=0) to book a time to help with the packing in Folkestone and regular photos and videos showing the work being done and the scale of the donations (some recent examples attached). You can join the group via this link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HvezOoWImQM0WleqTVGxgu>



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### Items for donation

- baby formula (especially hypoallergenic one - huge shortage)
- baby feeding bottles, sterilising equipment (nothing electric - different sockets)
- baby food
- nappies - any sizes
- charging banks for mobile phones
- warm socks/gloves/warm hats
- camping mats
- sleeping bags
- protein/energy bars
- wound dressings
- first aid kits
- warm blankets
- thermal/base layers
- hot water bottles
- insulated flasks
- female sanitary products
- any clean soft toys/teddy bears
- a letter/ card of hope and support from children and families.

This appeal is likely to result in a huge effort across our county and will demonstrate the unquestionable compassion we have for those that are suffering the unimaginable horrors of war. We really are truly grateful for any support you can give as it will make a huge difference to the lives of everyone that have had their lives changed beyond measure.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Kilbride  
Headteacher



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