



25<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

Thank you so much to the 66 Years 1-6 parents and 18 Reception parents who took the time to complete our parent surveys in January. Collecting feedback is such a valuable exercise, as it is the key mechanism that helps us to improve our delivery in the eyes of our key stakeholder – yourselves, our families. You can see the outcomes attached to this Newsletter.

There is much to celebrate in this data, but there are also some clear areas where you would like to see us improve our offer and communications. I sincerely hope that those of you with some further feedback, ideas and suggestions might be able to attend our parent forum meeting this coming Monday 28th February from 7pm to 8.30pm. If you can make it, please sign up at the link at <http://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/parentforum/>



Next Thursday, 3rd March, is World Book Day. However, we enjoy reading so much at High Firs that we have a whole week (and more!) dedicated to Book Week instead, starting from 7<sup>th</sup> March. We have lots of class learning planned as well as two special events –



**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. There will also be a special assembly to show the children some of the books available to purchase.



**Tues 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
**DRESS AS A BOOK CHARACTER DAY**

Children can come to school dressed as a favourite Book Character! There is no cost to take part but don't forget to bring the book if you have it.

## Staff News



This week we have welcomed three members of staff to High Firs – Mr Copeland, our new caretaker, Mrs Thackray as a relief Midday Supervisor, and

Mrs Cason to our Breakfast Club team. We look forward to having them as part of our school community.

## Parent Forum



Parents and carers are invited to join us at our upcoming Parent Forum meeting which will be held on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 7pm to 8.30pm** in the Yr6 classroom. Forums are a valuable way for parents and to share their ideas and views with the school - and vice versa! 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.

## Mile Track update

As you will have noticed, construction of the Mile Track on the school field has stopped. Sadly, we have been unable to make contact with the contractor since before Christmas. We are therefore currently in the process of trying to arrange for the job to be completed by another grounds contractor/artificial surfaces specialist. The final finish is to be astroturf, laid over a hardcore and granno dust path. If you are able to help us with the completion of this work or have a contact who may be interested and available, we would be very interested in hearing from you. Please contact the school office in the first instance.



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### Covid updates

As you are aware, legal requirements for COVID-19 isolation and testing changed this week. The Department for Education (DfE) states that:

*From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to **be advised** to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.*

*(DfE 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022)*

Therefore, the following will apply at High Firs:

- If a child has tested positive, at High Firs we are continuing to advise children to stay at home and avoid contact with others for 5 days and return to school when they have received two negative tests on consecutive days.

*(Government will...) No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and **those aged under 18** to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate. (DfE 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022)*

- At High Firs if a child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive, they are not required to self-isolate and can continue to attend school UNLESS they have symptoms, in which case we advise they test for COVID.
- If the test is negative and they feel well enough, they can attend school

If you have any further queries please do contact the school office.



### Parents Consultations

Our Spring Term Parents Consultations appointments will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Parents will be sent a text shortly for the online booking link to request their appointment, with a deadline for requests by Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

### Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 1  
YEAR 5



### Covid vaccinations for clinically vulnerable children

We have been asked by Kent & Medway NHS to inform parents that they are now offering the Covid-19 vaccine to eligible children aged 5-11 who are at higher risk from coronavirus due to underlying health conditions or who share living accommodation with someone who has a weakened immune system. If they have an eligible child, parents will be invited to bring them to have the vaccine by their GP practice, a local vaccination service linked to their GP practice, or the NHS School-Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS). Parents can either book an appointment directly with their GP, or use this link to book in with any provider: <https://lvs.healthit.org.uk/patheks> Eligibility for vaccination will be checked.

### Safeguarding concerns – how to contact us

Safeguarding our pupils is everybody's responsibility and all those directly connected (staff, volunteers, governors, leaders, parents, families, and learners) are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for our children and have an essential role to play in making our community safe and secure. We have Designated Safeguarding Leaders who have responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems (including online safety) in school – these are currently Mr Kilbride and Miss Rennie. If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can make an appointment with one of our DSLs to discuss these. Alternatively, we have a dedicated form on our website at <https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/> or you can email [safeguarding@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@high-firs.kent.sch.uk) Any concerns sent by the website or email will go directly to our DSLs; please provide as much information as you can so that we have a full understanding of the circumstances. We will respond as promptly as we can; however, if you believe that a child is in immediate danger you should always call the police immediately on 999.

Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility

How to contact us  
if you are concerned



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# Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education

Registered Charity No. 1137633

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our last Cake Raffle – we raised **£69.50**.

It was great to welcome Jodie Sunderland and Amanda Whittaker to their first Friends' meeting on Wednesday evening! We are really pleased that they will be joining FHF as the Class Reps for our Reception Class so please do get in touch with them if you have Reception children and have any queries about the Friends' activities. The role of the Class Representative includes acting as a point of liaison with other parents in the class and to coordinate volunteers for events.

Class parent representatives for all our classes are –

*Reception – Amanda Whittaker, Jodie Sunderland*

*Yr1 – Monica Aldridge, Georgie Barr*

*Yr2 – Kerry Cattermole, Jo Roper, Marie Collett*

*Yr3 – Jeshal Trivedi, Kate Smith*

*Yr4 – Holly Bunning*

*Yr5 – Rachel Baynton, Lisa Ellis, Charlotte Tiller, Gemma Sayers*

*Yr6 – Jo Almeida, Lisa Spokes, Derya Halil*

If you would like to join the class representatives in your class you would be made very welcome. There is no limit to the number of class representatives and the more the merrier! Please do talk to your class representative or any member of the Committee if you would like to get involved with the Friends; alternatively, you can email us at [friends@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:friends@high-firs.kent.sch.uk) Don't forget all our parents are invited to attend Friends' meetings and can get involved in other ways too – you don't have to be a class rep!

## Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions go to:

- Jasmine C – fantastic acting as Mouse from "The Gruffalo".
- Joshua C – a huge improvement in his writing.
- Lewis C – working so hard in all subjects but especially Maths.
- Harvey R-H – trying really hard with his reading and phonics.
- Hannah C & Isabella O – always trying their best in every lesson.
- Harry M – showing a real enthusiasm for our Vikings topic.
- Freya T – always working well with others.
- All of Year 4 – for a fantastic assembly.
- Benjamin – his kind support of others both in class and After School Club.
- All of Year 5 – their fantastic first swimming lesson at White Oak
- Tristan W & Vidit G – a great letter written in role as a character from our class book.



## 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.



11TH FEBRUARY - 24TH FEBRUARY



Our top scorers were:

<b>BEECH</b>	Vidit G, Chanelle M
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	Amelia B, Benjamin A
<b>OAK</b>	Millie WS, Elliot M
<b>ASH</b>	Veda T, Freya T

## THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

### In our classes this week

- Rec – have been writing zag zag monster letters.
- Year 1 – have learned to measure length.
- Year 2 – used descriptive language to describe images from our new book "Lights on Cotton Rock".
- Year 3 – learned about life on board a pirate ship.
- Year 4 – planned, practised and performed their fabulous assembly.
- Year 5 – converted mixed numbers and improper fractions.
- Year 6 – enjoyed learning sitting volleyball.



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**HOUSE POINTS**

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>901</b>	Edward S, Korley A
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>915</b>	Bella W, Jake R
<b>OAK</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>839</b>	Skye K, Eleanor A, Lewis C, Chloe P
<b>ASH</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>830</b>	Natasha F, Edy O, Joshua W, Poppy G


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

Mon 28 Feb

Parents Forum meeting –7pm in Yr6

Weds 2 March

Deadline for request for Parents Consultation

Thurs 3 March

Yr3 Class Assembly – 10.10am



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# Parent & Carer Survey Jan 2022 (Years 1-6) Summary of Results

No. returns: 66	Strongly agree or Agree	Don't know
My child is happy at this school	95%	
My child feels safe at this school	97%	
My child makes good progress at this school	81%	9%
My child is well looked after at this school	91%	
My child is well taught at this school	83%	9%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	80%	
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	84%	8%
This school deals effectively with bullying	53%	35%
This school is well led and managed	84%	11%
This school responds well to any concerns I raise	79%	12%
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	83%	

	Yes	No
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	88%	12%

*We asked for people to leave comments expanding on their survey answers. There were some very lovely comments about the hard work and commitment of staff, which was super to see. The main areas for improvement that came through in your comments relate to homework and communications about the learning journey and progress your child is making.*

*Homework almost always divides opinion in these survey – but in this instance, anyone who left comments relating homework felt that there was too much. This is a clear indication that we are probably not quite hitting the mark here. This is an area where I will lead a review with staff and would welcome further parent feedback at the parent forum or by email to the office. From an initial SLT discussion regarding homework, I can see that there is plenty of scope for us to redesign our offer, allowing for more flexibility and choice taking account of different family circumstances at different times of the week and the year.*

*Equally, regarding the curriculum journey and the progress children are making, I can see that there is a role for us to make better use of technology and social media to share the good news of the school. Information about your child's progress can reach you in many ways, for instance: informal conversation with your class teacher at collection time; attending class assemblies; parent consultation evenings; interim data reports; end of school year report to name but a few. Again, a full review of how we share news of child's progress is needed and the same comments as above about parent forums or emailing the office apply.*

*As part of this review, we may collect further information via an additional survey drilling down within these issues. I look forward to refreshing our approach and hearing of the impact this is having in due course.*



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# Parent & Carer Survey Jan 2022 (Reception) Summary of Results

*Thank you so much to the 18 parents who took time to complete our survey regarding your child's induction into High Firs. Being so young, this cohort has had a greater proportion of their lives lived under Covid restrictions and disruption than any of our children, so we are aware that the induction experience commencing in May 2021 could not emulate our usual offering, where multiple visits to school and home visits would all have taken place across the summer term. Despite this, we feel our Reception children have settled in very well this year and have made huge progress since those early days back in September. We are really proud of them.*

- 77.8% of respondents rated our information packs and meetings for new parents as either excellent or good.
- 83.3% of respondents rated our 'taster visits' for children to experience Reception as either excellent or good.
- 66.7% of respondents rated home visits as either excellent or good.
- 77.8% of respondents rated the first day of school as either excellent or good.
- 72.2% of respondents rated how well their child settled into school as either excellent or good.
- 72.2% of respondents rated learning we have asked children to do at home or to bring in from at home as either excellent or good.
- 77.8% of respondents rated their child's enjoyment of school as either excellent or good.
- 72.2% of respondents rated communication from school about their child as either excellent or good.
- 88.9% of respondents rated the availability and response of staff at the beginning and end of the school day as either excellent or good.
- 88.9% of respondents rated the pop in and play afternoon as either excellent or good.

*Comments received once again praised the efforts and commitment of our Reception staff team. Aside from comments relating to some of the pandemic disruptions to the induction, the theme of comments left was broadly in line with those of the rest of the school – that homework expectations may be a bit excessive and that some more modern ways of communicating information about children's learning journeys and progress would be welcomed. Thank you to all who have taken part in working together to improve our school.*



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## School Travel Survey

We'd really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this survey regarding your child(ren)'s travel to and from school; it will be used to inform our travel plan for 2022. This will look at ways that we can improve school drop off and collection. If you have more than one child at the school you only need to complete one form. **Please return by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

My name is .....

Child's age	Male/Female	Year

1. How does your child **usually** travel to and from school?

Journey to and from school	To school	From school
By car accompanied by an adult only		
By car accompanied by adult and other children		
Walks alone		
Walks with other children		
Walks with and adult		
Walks with an adult and other children		
By bike		
By scooter		
By bus		
Other (please state)		

2. If your child had a choice, how would they **like** to travel to and from school?

Journey to and from school	To school	From school
By car accompanied by an adult only		
By car accompanied by adult and other children		
Walks alone		
Walks with other children		
Walks with and adult		
Walks with an adult and other children		
By bike		
By scooter		
By bus		
Other (please state)		



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3. If you drive to or from school, would you consider letting your child walk/cycle/use public transport (please circle), if any of the factors below were set up/introduced on the route to school?

PLEASE LIST (IN NUMBER ORDER STARTING WITH THE NUMBER 1 AS YOUR FIRST CHOICE) NO MORE THAN 5 CHOICES FROM THE LIST BELOW.

	Safe crossing facilities
	School crossing patrol
	Vehicle speed reducing measures
	Parking around the school enforced/tackled
	A park and walk system
	A walking bus set up
	A bus stop closer to home/school
	Buses running more often
	Better lighting
	Cleaner footpaths
	More road safety education for children
	Cycle training for year 6 pupils
	Bike racks
	Scooter racks
	Other (please specify)

4. If you walk your child to or from school or if your child walks alone, would there be anything that you feel could be improved upon to make your journey more pleasant/safer? (Please include road names. landmarks)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.



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