



21<sup>st</sup> July 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

Well we have made it through to the end of the summer term and the school year! It has gone by in a blink, but looking back, as you tend to at the end of the year, so much has been achieved and I am very happy with a really successful year. It has been lovely this past week to have back so many positive and appreciative comments in response to the children's annual reports. It is very gratifying for us to see how much you have noticed progress that your children have made – and it is lovely seeing the sense of community that exists amongst our children and families – High Firs really is a very happy place to be and that 'happiness' is the foundation of all learning and progress that follows.

I would like to say a special thank you and goodbye to all of our Y6 children as they embark on their next phase of education. They have been terrific ambassadors for our school and they will be greatly missed next year.

We have many exciting plans for next year that I am greatly looking forward to telling you all about. Much of that can wait until September, but I will tell you now about some changes that will be apparent on the first day back in September. We have some building works taking place over the summer as all of the pupil toilets are being completely refitted and we are developing a new play area for Year 1, who are moving into the current Year 6 classroom. The play area will involve the relocation of the main pedestrian gate into school to be closer to the road gate, making space for an astro-turf and tarmac play space.



## CONGRATULATIONS CHESTNUT! HOUSE POINT CHAMPIONS 2021-22

The final totals were:

**CHESTNUT – 1807**

**BEECH – 1770**

**ASH - 1630**

**OAK – 1562**

## Special Mentions

Well done to all of our children who received an extra-special Special Mention and certificate from their teacher in assembly today to recognise their achievements for the whole academic year 2021-22:

- Reception - Iyah M & Logan F
- Year 1 - Joshua W & Honey B
- Year 2 - Selena L & Daisy S
- Year 3 - Daisy B & Beatrice G
- Year 4 - Samuel W & Korlekie A
- Year 5 - Summer S & Joshua E
- Year 6 - Daisy-May LG, Eliza RW & Skye K



Achieving more together



### Community Awards

Each year, Community Awards are presented to Year 6 Leavers who have shown a great commitment to the school community throughout their time at High Firs. We were delighted to present this year's awards to: **Jake R, Jacob CB, Daisy-May LG, Amie S & Lauren M.**



### Staff News

On Wednesday, we said a fond farewell to two of our members of staff. Mrs McCabe is retiring after ten years of teaching at High Firs and Miss Angeli has taken up a full-time teaching post at another local school. We send them off with our very best wishes and hope that they will keep in touch.



### Yr6 Outstanding Attendance



An incredible seven of our Year 6 children – **Tristan W, Lauren M, Kyla T, Daniele M, Kamila B, Tommy G & Daisy-May LG** – received Outstanding Attendance Awards for their amazing 98% attendance during their time at High Firs; a fantastic achievement, well done.

### Sports Shield

On his retirement, Mr Turtle gifted a sports shield to the school which is to be presented to the pupil or pupils each year who show outstanding commitment, effort, sportsmanship & enthusiasm in sports. This year we were delighted to present this to **Elijah V.**



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### Eco Club – Eco Schools Green Flag Award

Fantastic news – we have been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag! Eco Club have worked so hard this year to achieve this and we are very proud of them all. We also could not have done this without the support of the rest of the children and school community. In fact, the work we have done together was commented on by Eco Schools when they approved our application:

*“We are so impressed by your achievements this year, from supporting charity to the inception of a sensory garden. We love that your Eco-Schools work has engendered compassion for wildlife and consideration for our environment in your young eco-citizens. This must be an immense source of pride for you all at High Firs. Congratulations on earning your Green Flag accreditation!”*

Our Green Flag has been ordered and we will be flying it proudly next year. Well done everyone!



### Attendance Awards

We know that this year has been a difficult one in terms of attendance for some of our families due to school absences necessitated by Covid symptoms or precautions. We are pleased, however, that that majority of our children have been able to maintain excellent attendance records over both the Summer term and the academic year, and this was recognised in assembly this morning with the presentation of certificates to all children achieving 98%, 99% and 100% attendance.

We also celebrated our class attendance today; percentages are shown on the right.

As the impact of Covid hopefully loses its grip, we anticipate a return to our previous, very good pre-Covid attendance levels in the new academic year.

Summer Term 2022	Academic Year 2021-22
Yr6 – 96.2%	Yr6 – 94.8%
Yr2 – 95.6%	Yr3 – 94.5%
Yr3 – 95.3%	Yr5 – 94.3%
Rec – 94.3%	Rec – 93.9%
Yr5 – 94.1%	Yr2 – 93.5%
Yr4 – 94.0%	Yr4 – 92.8%
Yr1 – 92.1%	Yr1 – 92.4%

## Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

### Supporting Our Children’s Education

### Registered Charity No. 1137633

As well as saying goodbye to our Year 6 children today, we are also saying a massive thank you and farewell to three long-standing members of FHF who are “retiring” from their posts as their children leave the school. Derya Halil, Jo Almeida and Jane Croxton have been instrumental in the running of the FHF in recent years as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively and have provided incredible service and support in fundraising and offering lots of fun events & opportunities for the school community. THANK YOU.



#### INSET DAYS

#### No children in school

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2022

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2022

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2023

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Sept – INSET day: staff only in school

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept – Yrs 1 to 6 start school

Breakfast Club & After School Club start

Weds 7<sup>th</sup> Sept – Reception start school



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