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# THE HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Achieving Success Promoting Individual  
Responsibility and Excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, I have been away all week with our Year 6 class and their classteacher, Mr Cook on a Residential in Devon and I'm writing this propped up in bed after 'lights out'. We met early (6.30am) on Monday morning and have spent 4½ truly amazing days at Skern Lodge. It has been an incredible week for all. We've not stopped for breath from 7.30am to 9.00pm and have faced squall after weather squall of wind, rain and hail. None of this has prevented our wonderful Year 6's from pulling on wet wetsuits, leaping onto surf and bodyboards to catch wicked waves and back flipping off rafting boats. We've caught crabs (and set them free) played team games in the dark on North Burrows beaches, completed high rope challenges, an assault course, zip wire, archery and kayaking, and danced away last night at the Disco. It has been a real privilege to have spent so much time with all the children in Year 6 and they have truly blown away Mr Cook and I with their resilience, determination, perseverance, consideration of and for each other, and also their wonderful sense of humour. We have grown so much and are such a busy school now, and it was so special to come away and reflect on the journey our children, school and staff have had so far. It's an incredible journey and I am so proud of everything we have achieved in partnership together. We will be sharing the children's anecdotes and own stories about the Residential in next week's Key Stage 2 Assembly and we hope many of you will be able to join us for it.



Whilst the Year 6's have been at Skern Lodge, the rest of the school have also had a busy week!

## Reception

In Reception, the theme has been 'My Body'. We've enjoyed learning about our bones and made our own skeletons with straws. We really enjoyed our first Yoga lesson and were very pleased with ourselves when we changed into and out of our PE kit and Mrs Edwards said we have amazing appetites and table manners in the lunch hall. In Phonics, we've learned to recognise, write and say the phonemes i, n, m and d and use them to blend and write simple words. In Maths, we've concentrated on finding one less with the help of the number rhymes 'Five Little Speckled Frogs'.

## Year 1

We've had great fun developing our performance and reciting skills through the story of 'How the Fox Stole Fire'. We really enjoyed performing it during our Key Stage 1 Assembly this afternoon and using facial expressions, actions and our body language. In Maths, we've been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and carried out investigations to discover different shapes around the classroom and identifying 3D shapes by becoming post people with assorted 3D parcels. We've been exploring different materials and their properties in Science and have started to compare modern day houses to Tudor houses.



### Year 2

In English, we've started a 3-week unit of 'The Paper Bag Princess' by Robert Munsch. We started by learning the story and mapping it out before writing our own versions. In Maths, we're focussing on addition and subtraction and have enjoyed looking at number sequences and how to predict the next number. Following our wonderful work on Dragons, we had an introductory lesson on Castles and are really excited about our trip to Windsor Castle next month.

### Year 3

We've been thoroughly enjoying our theme and book 'There's a Pharaoh in My Bath' and used this to help us write a story about a pharaoh arriving on our doorstep unexpectedly. We're looking forward to 'publishing' them to other classes after we've edited and improved them. In Maths, we're developing our mental strategies for subtraction and we've worked hard on subtracting ones and multiples of ten from two and three digit numbers which led to crossing hundreds boundaries. In our topic, we've been learning about farming in Ancient Egypt and have started making cardboard tools to use when we role play the farming seasons.

### Year 4

Over the past couple of weeks, we've been developing our skills of persuasive writing and this week wrote letters about the rainforest and use of palm oil. We chose who we wanted to write our letters to and will be sending some off to different people and companies. We've finished our focus on number and place value with counting on and back in 1000's and worked with Roman Numerals to 100. We've investigated the Mayan writing system in topic as well as making our Tortillas and evaluating them.

### Year 5

We've continued with our Vikings theme this week and have worked on our plans and started to write our own story in the style of Beowulf. In Maths, we've ordered fractions into linear sequences and have revised our techniques for recognising equivalent fractions. We've looked at improper fractions and how we can convert them to mixed number fractions. In Science, we've continued our Camp Bestival theme and have investigated which material will make a good cleaning cloth. In topic, we've discussed Anglo-Saxon beliefs including paganism and we've watched a BBC video to help us create a guide on our choice of either Lindisfarne Priory or Canterbury Cathedral.

### Cross Country

Congratulations to all the children who ran in last Saturday's Cross Country competition at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. The children represented themselves and the school brilliantly and were great role models. Sadly, we didn't have enough children to field any 'girls or boys' teams and hope we can do this at the next competition on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks and well done to Paloma and YuanLi in Year 1, Eva and Aoife in Year 2, Kit in Year 3 and Finn and Misa in Year 4.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tempest - Individual School Photos	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Half-Term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Year 2 Trip to Windsor Castle Year 6 Trip to Imperial War Museum, London	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November
Parents' Evenings	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 3.50-6.30pm Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 6.00-8.30pm
Cross Country (Y1-6) at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 10am
Nasal Flu Immunisations	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon - Choir	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 12-2.30pm
Cross Country (Y1-6) at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 10am
Panto - Whole School Visit to see Cinderella at the Hexagon	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December (morning)

Karen Edwards  
Headteacher