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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers,

My youngest (who's not that young) said to me yesterday... 'Did I miss June?' It feels like the month was only a week long! I think I have to agree with her. Time just seems to be picking up in speed... which of course is logistical nonsense... but perhaps explains how busy life is for us at the moment.

I bought my map and popped on my trainers and had a really lovely time completing the Scarecrow Trail on Sunday. I was blown away by the thought and effort that had gone into designing and making the 34 different scarecrows and am coming back with friends this weekend, to do it all again. Thank you to all the families who both made a scarecrow and are taking the time to support this wonderful event by completing the trail. I took a packed lunch and sat on one of the benches at Mapledurham Playing fields, eating it and looking at our gorgeous new building and site.



This week, Dawn Rosser and her colleague Sean have continued to run Level 2 Bikeability courses for our Year 5 pupils. They have absolutely loved it and I can't thank Dawn and Sean enough for all their time and effort in making these Year 5 and 6 courses so enjoyable and valuable.

Reception

Following all our work on phonics and the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' we have actually been writing our own story about it and performing it as a year group. As part of this, we have really enjoyed making our brick/straw/stick costumes for our performance. Our Foundation Stage staff filmed the performance and we're really looking forward to sharing it with you. In Little Pig Maths we've been doubling with numicon and bricks using different objects on our number table to help us. We've been 'out and about' using our senses in our Forest School area to sense the world around us and have been looking at the strongest material to build a house as part of Science Week. Next week is going to be even more fun as we have our trip to Bucklebury Farm on Tuesday 6th, our Sports Day on Wednesday 7th and Early Move Up Day on Thursday 8th.

Year 1

In English this week, we've continued to write our animal non-chronological reports and label our own innovative bug design that has adapted itself to suit its habitat. This has been really interesting. We've enjoyed being scientists for the week and have created chemical reactions, making elephant toothpaste (yes, really!) and butterfly wings and investigating what happened and why! We learnt about animal evolution and adaptation and invented futuristic robobugs and explored communications technology from the past and into the future. We even made our own cup and string telephones.



We explored how animals move. We watched the super movers of the animal kingdom and learnt how high fleas can jump as we watched our 'flea' canisters fly into the sky and we learnt about Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion. We practiced our weighing and measuring skills in Maths and made our own edible potions with fantastical names such as Colour Code or Zoom Boom Potion. Some made our skin colour change, animals talk or even gave us super strength. We made solar ovens and melted chocolate using the solar energy of the sun and also looked at the water cycle and made links with our work on African animals and those that live in the desert, the savannah and the rainforest areas and how the amounts of water differ so greatly depending on these areas. We have really enjoyed all the visitors who've joined us throughout the week to make it so special including Mrs Scully, Katie from Maiden Erlegh School and of course Professor Fallon.

Year 2

In English this week, we've been writing about our amazing trip to the beach last Friday. We had so much fun and want to thank all the Year 2 staff and parent volunteers who helped make it such an enjoyable trip. In preparation for our writing, we looked at photos from the day to remind ourselves of the fun we had. We then used these to write a recount of the day. In Science we've made our own rainbows, mixed colours, created an ice trapeze, designed our own parachutes and had a workshop about animal poo!

Year 3

This week we've been planning a leaflet to persuade someone to visit Caversham or Reading. We tried to use all the features we looked at last week such as rhetorical questions, emotive language and subordinate conjunctions when we were planning. We thought about the reasons why someone would want to visit, and put these into an appropriate structure, then we wrote out introduction, paragraphs and conclusion. In Maths, we've been measuring capacity and volume and learnt how to convert millilitres to litres. We also compared different volumes and capacities, and added and subtracted volumes. In Science Week, we enjoyed all the different workshops and experiences. We learned about the importance of vaccination and 'herd immunity', enjoyed the practical investigation led by Maiden Erlegh Science teachers on Tuesday and the online Forensic session yesterday. In IT, we've continued to develop our understanding of presentation software. We've been using Google Slides and focusing on typing in the correct position, changing the size and style of the text including relevant information. In Music, we've been working hard on our end of term performance and are looking forward to being able to share this with you.



Year 4

We began our new unit of work on myths this week and have been focusing on mythical creatures. In Maths, we've been revising areas of the curriculum that our assessments have shown us as areas of development and these include adding and subtracting fractions, fractions of amounts, multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and money. In Science Week, we loved the different assemblies and Forensic Science workshop and are really grateful to Ms Turnbull for donating some science lab coats which help us get into the mindset of a scientist. We were so excited when we walked to visit our local Banksy as part of our unit on Banksy in Art and we've also really enjoyed learning about Banksy's rise to fame as an artist as well as some of the history of Reading Gaol.

Year 5

In English this week, we've been studying Shakespeare's classic 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This links really well into our studies of play scripts for this term and what better way than to explore a timeless tale, set to the backdrop of Ancient Greece. We began the week by looking at a range of play scripts, including Macbeth and now feel confident that we understand the features of a script and have used this to write our own. We hope we may be able to perform these in class. In Maths, we have been revisiting measures including recapping metric units and how to convert them. We also revised time, in particular the use of bus and train timetables and used some of these to work out which bus or train we would need to catch to arrive at an agreed

destination on time. In Science, we've been exploring the similarities and difference between the life cycles of different plants around the World and enjoyed using Jenga to explore vaccines and 'herd immunity'. In Computing, we've been practising our typing, editing and publishing skills on Google documents and in Music, we've been looking at formal musical notation and recording the notes from our compositions and glockenspiels.

Year 6

This week we started full cast and production rehearsals where we went through the play in order, fine tuning the acting and letting our sound and lighting engineers fully take on their roles. Next week, we're really excited about rehearsing at Queen Anne's School to familiarise ourselves with the venue. This will be on Tuesday and Friday. In English, we've been completing our books about a dragon and a backwards walking person and in Science, we've enjoyed exploring all the variables in our planning for a fair test on developing an effective bottle rocket. We looked at the aerodynamics, water capacity, bottle shape and size, angle trajectory and then tested our rockets with Professor Cook's hand crafted rocket launcher.

Sports Day

We're really looking forward to the two Sports Day mornings next week (Weds Rec/KS1 and Fri KS2). Please can we remind you that only one person per child will be able to come along and support, that you complete a lateral flow test on the morning of the event, wear a face covering, stand as socially distanced as possible and in the designated parent watching areas for your child. We also need to stress that parents will not be able to walk around to different areas to support the children. This is to ensure we are fully compliant with Government Guidance. Thank you so much for your understanding and support.



Early Move Up Day

The children will be moving up to their new classrooms next Thursday to spend the day with their new teachers. Year 6 will be doing something different with Mrs Fallon and myself. We're all really looking forward to the day.

St Andrew's Church Choir

St Andrew's Church is planning to run a singing workshop for 7-12 yr olds on July 26, 27 and 28th, with a view to hopefully building up the Church Choir and also simply to do something nice in the holidays for local families. The former Head of Music at Queen Anne's School will be running the choir, along with Paul the Church organist. If you're interested in supporting this, Nigel Jones would love to hear from you - you will need to be DBS checked to be able to do this.

Farewell

We would like to say a fond farewell to Miss Miller who leaves The Heights today. She has taken up a new position with CAMHS (Children's Mental Health Service) and will be very much missed by us all. We wish her all the very best in her new role - stay in touch please!



Dates for the diary

Reception Trip to Bucklebury Farm	Tuesday 6 th July
Year 6 Rehearsal at Queen Anne's School	Tuesday 6 th July 1.30-3.30pm
Sports Day - Reception & Key Stage 1	Wednesday 7 th July (morning)
Early Move Up Day	Thursday 8 th July
Sports Day - Key Stage 2	Friday 9 th July (morning)
Year 6 Rehearsal at Queen Anne's School	Friday 9 th July 1.30-3.30pm
Year 6 Leavers Party	Friday 9 th July evening
Year 6 Performances at Queen Anne's School	Monday 12 th July and Tuesday 13 th July
Year 6 Visit to the Permanent Site	Wednesday 14 th July

Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Thursday 15 th July
Year 6 to Skern Lodge	Friday 16 th July to Monday 19 th July
Last Day of Term	Friday 16th July

Twitter

The school has a new Twitter Feed - please follow **@AtHeadteacher** for updates!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Edwards