

THE HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

29th January 2016 – Issue 57



Dear Parents and Carers

It never fails to amaze me just how much staff and the children seem to squeeze into each week. This week the children have told me they thoroughly enjoyed their learning: here are some quotes from the school council this afternoon:

- I loved it when the visitor came and taught us about the iPads and Apps we could use: Rishona, Year 1
- I really enjoyed making my own number line: Freddie, Reception
- We've been making things for our international space station: Xavier + Lily, Reception
- We love our space topic: Matilda, Year 1
- We're enjoying learning about multiplication: Ruby and Jonah, Year 1
- Yes - he taught us some animal games: Amelia, Reception
- I loved using a calculator for the first time: Joe, Year 2

The School Council also helped advise us about the school lunches and the design of our new adventure area.

Reception

In Reception this week we have been developing and gathering ideas for a new boat yard area and sound making area (any old buckets, pots, pan, bottles and rope would be really appreciated). In Maths we have been working on writing down our subtraction sums in a number sentence.



In Mr Crispin's class we have been writing about new characters to join Mr Gumpy on his outing and in Mrs Rizvi's class we have made a re-creation of Mr Gumpy's story in a stop motion film. We have spent a lot of time investigating floating and sinking with the children making suggestions as to what might happen when we drop something into water. We have also been working on making our ISS look even cooler by creating pictures on the computers and have really enjoyed trialling Kacper's dad's phonics app.

Year 1

This week in Maths we have been multiplying and learning about arrays. The children have found this really enjoyable so please continue to practise counting in 2s and 5s at home. In English we continue to work on fantasy settings and the children have enjoyed reading *Winnie in Space* and then writing a follow up story. We have been making space portholes in art - with glitter galore obviously!

We are also really excited about linking up with Tim Peake on Tuesday afternoon and although we sadly didn't get randomly selected to speak to him, we will be participating nonetheless. Tuesday will be Tim Peake Day in Year 1 and the entire day will be filled with fun space activities. Look out for lots of photos.



Year 2

In Literacy, we have read and enjoyed The Enormous Crocodile story. We have explored common themes in Roald Dahl books and used this to predict what we think would happen to the greedy croc. We also used this text to learn about the four different types of sentence.

In Maths, we have been working hard to read the time on the clock to the nearest five minutes. We have been drawing the hands on clocks and solving problems involving time.

In Topic, we have been learning about one of the greatest fossil hunters who ever lived ...Mary Anning. We have written information texts about her and used her story to inspire dance and movement.

We have also used the iPads to learn about the Amazon rainforest using an innovative APP called Nearpod. We also had fun using Yakit to animate photos of our partner's faces!

We printed a photo of Miss Parker Fraser's classroom door last week and it seems to have prompted something of a competition! Aren't these doors wonderful!



PARENT MEETING ABOUT THE SCHOOL SITES

Thank you for attending our meeting on Tuesday. I have received some really positive feedback. If you weren't able to attend or would like to discuss different aspects relating to the temporary or permanent sites please don't hesitate to come and see me.

SCHOOL LUNCHES - small change of menu

Owing to the unenthusiastic uptake for Tex Mex, the menu for Tuesday's Week 3 has been amended to the same Gammon or Veg Sausage dish as Week 1 Wednesdays. If you would like to change your school lunch as a result, please email admissions@theheightsprimary.co.uk.

PARENTPAY (from Caroline)

ParentPay - improving school lunch orders and payments. From the beginning of term 5 this year The Heights will be introducing an online system called ParentPay, which you will be able to use to order school lunches and pay for items such as trips and after school clubs. ParentPay is used by over 6,000 primary and secondary school across the country and the introduction of this system will allow us to streamline the process of ordering school dinners and processing general payments. It will also support us in achieving the aim of being a cashless school by September 2016.

Over the next few weeks we will let you know more about its implementation, including providing you with details about logging in. For now we have a lot of work to complete in the school office to learn the system and update our procedures, but if you would like to read more about ParentPay and cashless schools, information can be found online here: <https://www.parentpay.com/Parents-school-online-payment-system/>

HEALTH SCREENING for RECEPTION CLASSES

The Berkshire Healthcare nurses will be visiting school on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th February in order to measure height, weight and hearing for our Reception classes. Information about screening was sent out in November but is also being sent with this newsletter. If you do not wish your child to be screened or have any questions about this process not answered by the letter, please contact the nurses direct on: 0118 938 2145 or at bks-tr.CSNReading@nhs.net.

AWNINGS

Thank you to Gus Guntzenbach and Craig Dolby and all other parents who have offered to help with the awning erection tomorrow. If you can spare an hour or two from 9.30am it would be great to have an extra pair of hands.

PARENT CLASS REPS

We had a really useful meeting yesterday and I know minutes will be winging their way to you shortly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|--|--------|--|
| Wednesday 3 rd February | 8.45am | KS1 Work with Us (2 parents per class - please sign up with your classteacher) |
| Friday 12 th February | 3.30pm | Start of Half Term break Deadline for school disco payments |
| Monday 22 nd February | 8.45am | School begins Term 4 |
| Wed 24 th + Thur 25 th Feb | | Reception Classes healthcare screening |

SPOTLIGHT

Our Spotlight this week falls on Alex and Kacper for **swimming**. Well done!

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

At assembly this afternoon Pupil of the Week awards were presented to: Anna and Kasim in Year 2; Harry, Tom S, Lily M and Thom P in Year 1; George, Megan, Sofia and Rupert in Reception. Congratulations to them all.



Karen Edwards
Headteacher

NEWS FROM THE PTFA

PTFA PLAYGROUND UPDATE

You may have noticed that work hasn't started on installing our new playground equipment yet. Unfortunately we were let down by our original contractor, who pulled out of the project just after Christmas. We are now in discussions with four fantastic new contractors who are all very enthusiastic about the project, and are currently in the process of submitting their bids. We plan to choose a contractor in early February and hope to be able to share plans for the work at this stage, with installation starting not long after. Thanks for your patience!

PTFA SCHOOL DISCO!

Please see attached leaflet for information about this year's School Disco. Please return your slip with payment to the PTFA postbox (under the school office window) by Friday 12 February.