



Dear Parents and Carers

Yes it's true - we are half way through the academic year! Where does the time continue to fly to? It has been an incredibly exciting week with the children learning and applying all sorts of newly-found skills across different areas of the curriculum.

Reception

Reception classes have been exploring and celebrating Chinese New Year. They have made dragons, masks and monkeys using different media and materials. They have learnt about the animals in the story of the Chinese zodiac and have made a stop-motion animation. We have used Ordinal numbers with our own great races and developed our understanding of money by filling Ang Pows with the correct amounts. We have developed a Dragon Dance, a news report and have tasted lots of Oriental food. We also had pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and learned a little about Lent.



Year 1

This week has been assessment week in Year 1 and we are really proud of how much progress the children are making! We have also been completing our papier maché planets (VERY time consuming) and today the glitter has been out in 1CPF. We will make our junk model rockets after the half-term break. Also this week all the children made a Lenten promise and we learnt about Chinese New Year. In the continuing absence of Mrs Edwards we are delighted to announce that we have interviewed and appointed Miss Vicky Hiles to work with her class full-time from after the Easter holidays. Until then Ms Mol supported by Ms Parker Fraser and two Teaching Assistants will be teaching the class.

Year 2

In Year 2, we have been working really hard and demonstrating lots of perseverance during assessment week.

We have also used our imaginations to write an instruction text telling the reader how to trap their very own Chinese dragon! We have continued to explore our One World topic through movement and dance, experiencing Antarctica as icebergs and Emperor penguins. We have learnt about Aboriginal creation stories and created Rainbow serpent inspired artwork. In RE, we have learnt about the Christian time of Lent and reflected about how Christians around the world respect this time of year. In Computing, we have used Scratch Junior to program our own rainforest inspired games. We can now select the backgrounds and characters we want to manipulate and we are developing ways to make them move.



Message from our new Assistant Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from Wednesday's announcement, I would like to take this opportunity to say how excited and eager I am to start working as Assistant Headteacher with your wonderful children at our amazing school.



I have worked in Primary schools for 14 years. In my current position I am working as an Early Years Educational Consultant and a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

I look forward to working with the Heights School staff team to ensure that your children receive an excellent education and reach their full potential.

Emma Fallon

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. If you do not wish your child to be screened or have any questions about this process please contact the nurses direct on: 0118 938 2145 or at bks-tr.CSNReading@nhs.net. There will also be eye tests on Tuesday 1st March for Reception classes. This is run by RBS Orthoptic Department (0118 322 7671) and a letter about this is attached.

THINKING DAY

Celebrated by the Guiding and Scouting community since 1926, World Thinking Day on 22nd February is a day of international friendship. This year the theme is 'Connect', exploring and celebrating the meaningful connections that make our lives better, whether to the people closest to us, to a place we care about, or to friends on the other side of the world. Any Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers or Cubs are welcome to wear their uniforms (or part of it e.g. scarf or badge) to school on Monday 22nd February to help us all celebrate.

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

Chris Ellison and his Performance Cricket coaching team are running a couple of Little Crickets sessions for Reception and Year 1 children on Monday 15th February and Tuesday 16th February. Loads of fun and games for the children to enjoy from 10am to 11am each morning. And for Year 2 their Get In2 Cricket camps run from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Monday 15th February and Tuesday 16th February and promise a day of fun filled activity. Half day options are available. Both clubs are held at Shiplake College and for more information contact Chris at chris@performance-cricket.com or call 07887 598570.

CAKE SALE

Many thanks to all the PTFA members who organised and ran a cake sale this week. There was a wonderful selection and we hope you enjoyed them.

WATCH US AT WORK

Please note a change to the previously announced dates for this. Watch Us At Work will now be on Monday 29th February for Foundation Stage (Reception) and Tuesday 1st March for KS1 (Years 1 and 2). Both will run from 9.35-10.15am. We plan the following date for Friday 18th March at the same time, but please watch for confirmation of this nearer the time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 22 nd February | 8.45am | School begins Term 4 Thinking Day - see above |
| Wed 24 th + Thur 25 th Feb | | Reception Classes healthcare screening |
| Friday 26 th February | 5-6pm 6-7pm | School Disco - Reception Classes School Disco - Years 1 and 2 |
| Monday 29 th February | 9.35-10.15am | Watch us at Work - Reception Classes |
| Tuesday 1 st March | 9.35-10.15am | Watch us at Work - Years 1 and 2 |
| Tuesday 8 th March | 3.45-5.45pm | Parent Consultations - booking after half term |
| Thursday 10 th March | 6-8pm | Parent Consultations - booking after half term |

SPOTLIGHT: Our spotlight this week falls on Matilda White for **ballet**: well done Matilda!

PUPILS OF THE WEEK : At assembly this afternoon Pupil of the Week awards were presented to: Jack and Freya in Year 2; Isla, Betty, Samuel C and Mantra in Year 1; Joshua, Ava, Laila and Zuhair in Reception. Congratulations to them all.



Karen Edwards
Headteacher



PTFA NEWS

PTFA BINGO NIGHT - SATURDAY 19 MARCH

One for the grown-ups! On Saturday 19th March we are planning our first Heights Bingo Social! Please save the date to join us for some bingo fun at St Andrews Hall Caversham from 8pm till 11pm. Tickets will be £5 and will include all your bingo kit for the evening. Nibbles and drinks will, of course, also be available. Further information will be available after half term. If any parent has match funding available through their company we would be very keen to hear from you!

SCHOOL COOK BOOK - WE NEED YOUR CHILDREN'S FAVOURITE RECIPES!!

We are hoping to put together a Heights School cookbook - packed full of our children's favourite recipes - and need to set all of our families a small bit of homework for half term! We would love to have the cookbook ready in time for Mother's Day and need around 60 recipes to fill the pages. Could parents please discuss with their children what their favourite dish is, make it together during half term, and take two photos - one of the making stage and one of the final meal. All recipes need to include the following: name of meal including names of children at school (e.g. Sophie's Chicken Curry), method (broken down into stages), ingredients list, two photos, plus any other drawings or writing the parent would like to add. If your children would like to get creative with the recipe's name then all the better! Please send your recipes and photos to ptfa@theheightsprimary.co.uk THANK YOU!

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We are currently working on the playground plan with Intext Landscapes and Reading Borough Council to ensure it meets safety standards. We should be able to update you further with a plan and dates after half term.