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# THE HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Achieving Success Promoting Individual  
Responsibility and Excellence

26<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Issue 60



Dear Parents and Carers

It was wonderful to see everyone again after the half term break. I do hope you enjoyed the week and managed to have some quality family time together. It was a treat to start the week celebrating World Thinking Day on Monday with some of our pupils wearing their Rainbow and Beavers uniforms and the whole school helping to design a Happiness Superhero in our assembly.

## Reception

We have loved exploring 3D shapes this week and can recognise and name so many! We have been designing junk model rockets to make next week and singing the 'Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer' in our music lessons. We love the book *Whatever Next* so much that we have been writing our own versions.

## Year 1

It's been all about numbers this week. We've been forming them correctly, demonstrating that we know our number bonds to 10 and 20 and how to count on in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have written our own books about the Solar System and relished the challenge of making boring sentences more interesting.



## Year 2

Our classroom has been visited by a friendly but mischievous crocodile this week. As a result we have been planning and writing about how to trap him to stop him getting up to any more mischief. We have been mastering multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We have been exploring the world's diverse habitats: Lemi returned from his travels to help us and we recorded this information in our topic books. Finally, we visited Antarctica with our Dance this week.

## PARENTVIEW

Parentview is an online questionnaire for parents and carers to feed back to Ofsted on their child's school. It is now the main mechanism that Ofsted use to gather parents' views. There are just 12 questions to answer. The questions look at the key areas such as pupils' happiness, safety and progress, the quality of teaching, behaviour and school leadership. The final question asks if you would recommend the school to another parent. Everyone's responses are put together and are available to view on the Parentview website. In order to minimise the risk of abuse you are required to register and create a password. Your views and feedback are important to us and we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to visit: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> and complete the questionnaire.

## PARENTPAY

Further to our announcement in Highlights no. 57, you should have received a letter via bookbags this afternoon giving a unique username and password so you can set up a Parentpay account for your child/children. We have joined this scheme to avoid having to handle cash and cheques for visits and other events in the school office and to simplify school lunch choices and payments from September. If you have any problems or questions about this system please contact us through our dedicated email address: [parentpay@theheightsprimary.co.uk](mailto:parentpay@theheightsprimary.co.uk). Thank you for your support.

## NEW STAFF

We are delighted to welcome Rachel Nicholson to our office team. Rachel will be helping us during this busy period of recruitment and admissions.

## HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

I have been concerned to note a growing number of requests for leave of absence for children to be taken on holiday during term time. Whilst I appreciate it can often be difficult for parents to arrange time off the Government is clear that any leave of absence should only be granted in exceptional circumstances. The expectation is that attendance for all children should be at least 95% and anything below 90% can have a significant detrimental impact on their educational development, progress and attainment.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

We had a really productive School Council meeting today and discussed and reviewed the plans for the new adventure area and how we should organise our new literary area. The councillors voted on the local charities they would like us to support as a school this year and decided on Reading Family Aid and Caversham Good Neighbours. Rose came up with the suggestion of a community litter picking afternoon after she raised concerns about the amount of litter on her way to school and we agreed on the afternoon of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March.



## WATCH US AT WORK

Please do join us next week for Watch us at Work sessions on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March for Years 1 and 2 from 9.30-10.15am and on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March for Reception classes from 9.30-10.15am. PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE DATES ADVERTISED LAST WEEK. These will be interactive sessions and we ask that siblings are not in attendance. We are happy to set up some activities for siblings to engage with in our spare downstairs classroom although we would need parents to offer to supervise this.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

It's World Book Day next Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We are inviting the children (and staff) to come in dressed as their favourite book character. To steer the children away from simply thinking of superheroes we are suggesting they might like to dress as a character from a traditional tale e.g. Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk or a fairy tale.

## DISCO

Thank you so much to Hannah Smith, Tamsin Pagella and everyone for their hard work organising this evening's disco. The children are so excited and I can't wait to see their moves on the dance floor later.

## CREATE'N'MAKE

Mrs Clarke has 2 spaces available on her Create'n'Make after school club on Monday afternoons. If you are interested in this for your child please contact her on: 07831 429794 or [michaela@createnmake.com](mailto:michaela@createnmake.com).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	5-6pm 6-7pm	School Disco - Reception Classes School Disco - Years 1 and 2
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30-10.15am	Watch us at Work - Years 1 and 2
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	9.30-10.15am	Watch us at Work - Reception classes
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March		World Book Day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	3.45-5.45pm	Parent Consultations - booking now
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	6-8pm	Parent Consultations - booking now

**SPOTLIGHT:** Our spotlight this week falls on Sara for **skiing**; Eva, Matilda, Aoibh, Rishona for all sorts of **dance**; Kacper for completing an **underwater voyage**; and Indi for **ice skating**. What talented and adventurous children we have!

**PUPILS OF THE WEEK:** At assembly this afternoon Pupil of the Week awards were presented to: Eva and Lucy in Year 2; Ruby, Ben, Joshua P and Jenna in Year 1; Dominic, Myka, Reyaansh and Freddie in Reception. Congratulations to them all.



Karen Edwards  
Headteacher



## PTFA NEWS

### HEIGHTS DISCO TONIGHT!!

We have had a fantastic response to the school disco and can't wait to welcome the dancing kings and queens onto the dance floor tonight. If any of your disco divas still require a ticket, please just bring £3 and they can pay on the door. Just to reiterate, there will be very little space at the event for spectators so benches will be set up for parents in the hallway but if you can lift share, please do. We have enough parent volunteers to allow you to drop off children and pick them up at the end of the session - you will just need to make sure that you state which adult on site is responsible for your child. Sadly, there will definitely not be enough room to accommodate any siblings. Please drop off at the school reception and collect the dancers from the double doors in the hall to avoid any bottlenecks between sessions. Thank you for helping to ensure that all goes smoothly and the children have a great time dancing up a storm!

### PTFA BINGO NIGHT - SATURDAY 19 MARCH, 8 - 11pm

Tickets are now on sale for our very first Bingo night! Come join us for some bingo fun at St Andrews Hall Caversham from 8pm till 11pm on Saturday 19 March. Tickets are just £5 and include your bingo cards for the evening and nibbles, and there will of course be a cash bar! There are some fabulous prizes to be won, including a wine tasting course for 2 worth £50, a £50 Boden voucher and a £25 book voucher. To book your tickets simply put your payment (cash or cheque made payable to 'The Heights Primary PTFA') in an envelope marked 'PTFA BINGO NIGHT'. Please clearly write your names and the number of tickets you require on the envelope too and leave in the PTFA postbox outside the school office. Thank you!

### THE HEIGHTS COOKBOOK - AVAILABLE TO BUY FRIDAY 4 MARCH!

Thank you again for your fabulous recipes and photographs, we have been overwhelmed by the effort everyone has put into this project and can't wait to share the finished cookbook with you! We have started work on designing and hope to have the finished cookbooks ready for sale hot off the press afterschool on Friday 4th March - just in time for Mother's Day! They will be priced at just £5 each so please bring along enough cash (or your chequebook!) to buy one or more copies on the day. Please note the cookbooks will also be available to purchase after this date.