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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

22nd October 2021 – Issue 276

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a half term! It's been very special in so many ways, having moved into the new school building and site and the children's feedback has been wonderful. They have passed on how much they love walking to school, playing in the park after school, how much they love the space inside, playing on the MUGA, having hot dinners in our Hall and how quiet and calm the classrooms are. It has clearly been challenging, managing the large number of Covid cases and we really hope that after half term, we can enjoy a more Covid-free run up to Christmas. I have everything crossed!

Farewell to Nick Walden

Thank you all so much for your kind words for Nick and generosity. He was quite overwhelmed when he received the gifts and lovely comments made by pupils, staff, parents, Governors and Trust Members, thanking him for all his hard work and support over his 7 year tenure as Chair of Governors. He has asked me to pass on his sincere gratitude.



Reception

In Reception this week, we performed The Little Red Hen to all the Reception staff and were even filmed doing it. Mrs Edwards happened to be showing some prospective parents round said they peered round the door to the Activity Studio to see us and were blown away by how good we were. Apparently, the recording is going to put put onto Tapestry, so please look out for it. We've been learning the sounds g and o and blending with all the sounds we've learned so far this term. We've been subtising in Maths, which is when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting. We're really enjoying our Wake-Up, Shake-Up and Funky-Feet-Friday sessions and have had a wonderful first term. We're already excited about next term and hope that all our friends who have been poorly with Covid, as well as Mrs Bentley and Mrs Loveday will be feeling much better.

Year 1

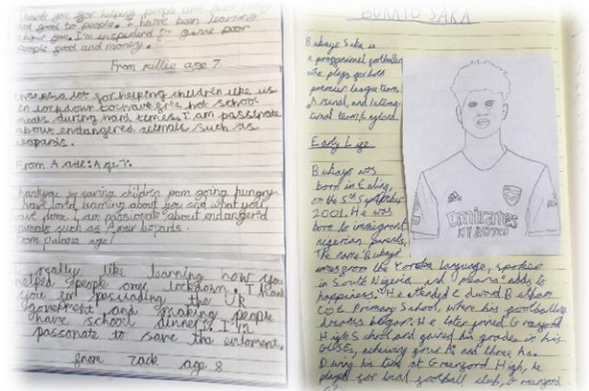
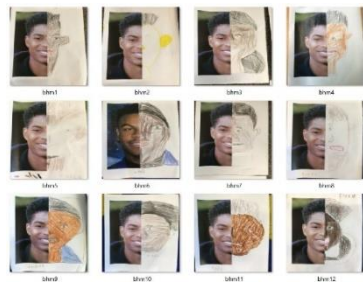
As part of our celebration of Black History Month, we've been learning about Rose Parks, Mo Farah and Usain Bolt, celebrating their lives and achievements. Whilst we've been thinking about them, we've also been thinking about ourselves and our voices, through words, actions and creativity. In Maths, we are learning to measure length using uniform non-standard units such as cubes, feet and hands and about standard units of measure such as centimetres. We've been inspired by the work of Alma Woodsey-Thomas in art and enjoyed designing colourful shape paintings. In Science, we've been getting our hands on different materials, investigating and comparing them and considering their properties and uses and we can't wait to perform the September 1666 song we've learned to sign and sing.

Year 2

As part of Black History Month, we've been listening to black musicians during our early morning work and music lesson this week. We also learned about Ruby Bridges, her fight to be educated fairly and exploring what her life was like through drama. We've found it really interesting to compare the protests that she faced to the current Black Lives Matter movement in the UK. We've completed different end of term Reading and Maths Assessments and have enjoyed the Tag-Rugby and Yoga sessions this term.

Year 3

This week, we've been thinking about what we care deeply about, who inspires us and how we can become an inspirational person. We completed a reading comprehension about Marcus Rashford and his achievements and used the information to create a fact file about him. We then created a collaborative letter to Marcus, sharing how he has inspired us to collect food for charity. In Topic, we've continued to create and paint our Ancient Egyptian collars with patterns and symbolic animals and used a variety of materials to create a realistic effect.



Year 4

In English this week, we've been completing Big Writes and have written our own Just So stories drawing from our learning so far this term. We've worked in groups to create our own rafts from materials we collected over the weekend and beginning of this week. This links to our guided reading book 'The Explorer' where our heroes, who are lost in the Amazon, attempt to build a raft to make their way back to civilization, using only what is available to them in the rainforest.



Year 5

After planning some pretty exciting Beowulf stories, that included a range of interesting beasts and ghoulish monsters, we wrote them this week. We've tried hard to keep the reader engaged with powerful and exciting vocabulary. In Maths, we've continued our statistics topic, reading and interpreting tables, timetables and line graphs and using these to solve problems. We've really enjoyed collaborating and investigating which type of material will make a good cloth for cleaning. Here is Noah's sketch of Katherine Johnson, the NASA scientist who we have been learning about as part of our Black History study.



Year 6

Well, it's certainly been quite a week for us. After our truly fabulous week at Skern Lodge, we returned to discover that many of us had caught Covid, including Ms Rogers and Mrs Nicholls. For those of us at home we've adapted to learning remotely with Ms Rogers leading the sessions whilst Mr Cook has been teaching an ever decreasing number of us in school. We're really hoping that our friends and staff who do have Covid really don't become too poorly and recover well. Thank you again to ALL the staff who led and supported us on our Residential last week, it was amazing!

School Council

Wow, what an amazing first term this has been! New site and lots of exciting projects from school council. We started fundraising as soon as we got back into school in September with our Jeans for Genes day. The school raised nearly £500 for a brilliant cause and the assembly that week raised awareness of genetic disorders. In October, we raised awareness for Mental Health week by creating a group poster all about student well-being, giving advice to our classmates on how to feel better when we are feeling low. We've had three meetings together to share our views on the new site and how everything is going for us children. We feel so proud of our achievements in this first autumn term. But wait, there is more planned for next term including Children in Need day (Friday 12th November, 'wear yellow' non-school uniform day) and Christmas Jumper day (Friday 10th December for Save the Children).

Eco Council

There is an important UN Climate Change meeting (CoP26) coming up from 1st -12th November. The Eco Councillors have prepared a narrated presentation for all the classes to use. At The Heights we are making a Forest of Promises, where we write and display our Climate Change commitments on a tree. We have invited local Councillors to come and visit our tree and meet the Eco Councillors so we can find more about Climate Change action in Reading.

Twitter

The school has a Twitter Feed - please follow [@AtHeadteacher](#) for updates!

Dates for the Diary

Year 6 Heights & Weights	Tuesday 2 nd November
Flu Immunisations (Rescheduled Date)	Friday 5 th November
Tempest - Individual/Sibling School Photos	Wednesday 10 th & Thursday 11 th November
Children in Need - Wear Something Yellow	Friday 12 th November
INSET Day - School Closed to Children	Monday 22 nd November
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 27 th November 3:00-5:30pm
Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch	Friday 10 th December

Wishing you all a happy and health half term.

Mrs Edwards