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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



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Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the end of September already and we're starting to see, feel and smell the first signs of Autumn. It's a gorgeous time of the year and we're enjoying it in many different ways. The children in Year 4 noticed it in particular when they were participating in their outdoor ed activities at Longridge, just outside Marlow. We were so fortunate with the weather.



Reception

We can't believe how much we've been learning since we started school. In Phonics, we've been learning to recognise and say the phonemes s,a,t and p and to blend the sounds together to read words like s-a-t, sat, p-a-t, pat. Mrs Bentley and Mrs Abbott, have set us a home challenge of finding as many things around the house as we can, that begin with, s, a, t, p.

In Maths we've been learning how to recognise, count and describe quantities, with number 1 and 2 and to identify odd and even numbers. We started our topic of The Little Red Hen and were visited by a real hen!! We've also been learning about what the harvest is, why we have a harvest festival and what animals hibernate. We've been learning to sing Autumn songs and drawing and labelling the different parts of a hen. Haven't we been busy!

Year 1

This week, we've begun a unit on Poetry, in preparation for next week's Poetry Week. We've been reading poems together and thinking about the differences between poetry and prose. As part of Reading Climate Festival week, we've been learning about plastic, about Caversham's 'Plastic Free Communities' status and both the work being done around abolishing single use plastics in Caversham and what we can do to reduce our own single use plastic waste. In Maths, we continued with our counting and focused on representing numbers as words. We've been building our confidence to count on from any number but staying within 10.

Year 2

This week we published our writing from last week and then looked at innovating the story of Zog, by thinking about what Sir Gaddabout might have learned at Knight School. We used the same structure as Zog to plan and write our own version where we described what Gaddabout learnt in each year of Knight School. We've also completed some artwork this week and used a video guide to learn how to draw Zog before using pastel colours to colour him in.

Year 3

This week, we continued writing our diary entry from the perspective of Sennapod, editing as we went along. In our IT lesson, we used the chrome books to research the geography of Egypt using the British Museum website and we also learned about how the Ancient Egyptians could farm because of the River Nile. We enjoyed starting to create our own Ancient Egyptian farming tools. In Maths, we continued our unit on addition and learnt a new method, called the expanded column method. We built up our confidence using this method throughout the week and used it to solve addition word problems today. In Science, we investigated how different surfaces affect the time it takes for a spinning top to slow down and learned more about friction and gravity in the process.

Year 4

After spending time exploring 'just so' stories and Aesop's Fables and practising punctuation and other grammatical features, we began planning and writing our own moral story this week. We used our senses to help us write more descriptively and thought long and hard to create our own morals for the story.

In topic we've been learning about different types of forests and compared the Amazon rainforest with a forest found in the UK. We had an amazing time at Longridge, Kayaking, Climbing, Cratestacking, Paddleboarding and Orienteering. Thank you so much to all the Heights staff and instructors, who supported us and helped us to overcome some of our fears and challenge ourselves to achieve more than we thought we could.



Year 5

This week, we've been reading the first part of the second Beowulf story, The Sea Hag and practised our vocabulary skills by discussing how we could use the text to figure out a meaning of an unknown word. We also completed and published our newspaper articles. In topic, we used the chrome books to research the roles within an Anglo Saxon village and in Science, we worked collaboratively to carry out an investigation for the organisers of Camp Bestival into the best materials for food prep surfaces. We considered independent, dependent and control variables, and recorded our results and conclusions.

Year 6

This week we developed our narrative skills by putting our character with a distinctive personality trait, into a setting with hobbies, behaviours and mannerisms. As we continued to explore the starting months of the First World War, we looked into the meaning of Conscription and Exemption. We researched the different ranks in the armed forces and the roles of the different regiments. In Art, we've continued to develop our observational skills and focused on drawing accurate drawings of insects. In Science, we've been exploring a range of Scientists who have contributed to humanity's understanding of evolution. We've learnt about the studies of Charles Darwin, as well as many earlier Scientists for whom he owes much credit for his work. We've been comparing the changing scientific theories from thousands of years ago to those of today, and discussed how they have grown in accuracy.



X-Country

We have our first winter series competition at Chiltern Edge school tomorrow morning. I am looking forward to seeing many of our runners from Yr 1 to Yr 6 there. I will be there before the first Yr 1 race and will have Heights vests for the children to wear over their other running clothes. Please do ensure that they have plenty of layers for before and after their race.

Twitter

Please follow [@AtHeadteacher](#) for updates!

Dates for the Diary

Poetry Week - Workshops with Ashley Harrold	Monday 3 rd October
Skern Lodge - Final Meeting for Parents	Tuesday 4 th October 5.30pm (Zoom)
Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 & 4) Welcome meeting for parents	Tuesday 4 th October 6-7pm (Zoom)
KS1 Q&A Session for parents (Y1 & 2)	Thursday 6 th October 6-7pm (Zoom)
PTFA Golf Day	Thursday 6 th October
Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge	Monday 10 th October to Friday 14 th October
Welcome to Reception - Meeting for Parents	Wednesday 12 th October 6.30pm
PTFA AGM	Monday 17 th October 7.45pm
Year 6 Heights & Weights	Tuesday 18 th October (pm)
Year 4 Tag Festival at MPF (details to be confirmed)	Tuesday 18 th October (am)
Year 5 Tag Festival at MPF (details to be confirmed)	Thursday 20 th October (am)
Flu Immunisations Catch Up Clinic	Friday 21 st October (am)
Year 6 Trip to London - Imperial War Museum	Friday 4 th November
Cross Country at Chiltern Edge	Saturday 5 th November
School Photos (Individual/Siblings)	Monday 7 th November Tuesday 8 th November
Children in Need / Mindfulness Day (details to be confirmed)	Thursday 17 th November
INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	Friday 18 th November
Cross Country at Chiltern Edge	Saturday 3 rd December



Mrs Edwards