



HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



Email:
info@theheightsprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Karen Edwards

Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, this half term has gone really quickly but it's been full of so many exciting experiences for all the children. It has been wonderful being able to plan and lead such a wide range of curriculum enhancing activities, both during and after school and to watch the children grow and progress in so many ways.

Reception

In Phonics this week, we've been learning to recognise and say the phonemes ck, e, u and r and then blending them to read words and segmenting the sounds in words. We've enjoyed writing in speech bubbles, pretending that we are characters in The Little Red Hen and absolutely loved performing our Little Red Hen Story and some Autumn songs in both Key Stage Assemblies and to our parents this afternoon. We used our gross motor skills to mix and knead our bread dough and then asked staff to pop it in the oven to make delicious bread. In Maths we've been consolidating our learning with numbers up to five, including learning about number bonds and finding all the combinations for numbers up to five.

Year 1

In preparation for our first 'Big Write' of the year, we've been doing a little review of captions, as well as working to remember the key features of a sentence. In Maths we've been revising numbers as words and revisiting work on the number line and in Science, we've been reviewing the parts of a flowering plant and matching collected leaves to our leaf ID wheels. In DT, we looked at examples of greenhouses and investigated why they are effective at helping plants grow. We then followed this up by planning and building our own mini greenhouses and then planting seeds in them.

Year 2

Following on from our amazing trip to Warwick Castle last Friday, we've been planning and writing recounts all about the day. The Falconer's Quest show was brilliant and we loved exploring inside the Castle, the Maze and climbing the 500 steps to the top of the Beauchamp Tower! Thank you again, to all the staff and parents who organised and came on the trip with us. We've also completed some drama, art and writing around Black History Month and continued to learn about being safe online in IT.

Year 3

This week in English, we've been looking at the inspirational text 'Say something', by Peter H Reynolds. This links to our whole school focus on Black History Month. We've been learning about why Nicola Adams is an inspirational person and created a fact file on her and also looked at inspirational quotes and tried to create our own. In guided reading, we've been developing our predicting and inference skills, identifying inverted commas in the text and exploring how they represent speech. In Maths we've been working on recognising multiples of 4 and multiples of 8 and considered the link between multiplying by 2 and doubling. In Science we've continued to explore 'forces and magnets', learning about the north and south pole of a magnet as well as which poles attract and which repel.

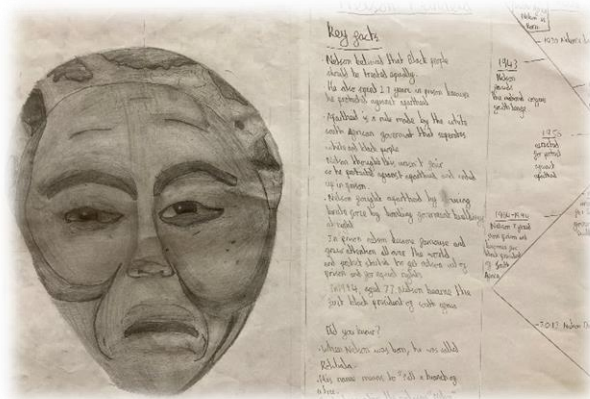


Year 4

This week we've been finishing our unit on moral stories. After hearing so many of each other's wonderful stories last week, we worked independently to create an ending to a new moral story. We've also been looking at 'The Explorer', by Katherine Rundell and exploring how we can infer the meaning of vocabulary using the context of the word to support. In Maths we've been consolidating our work on place value and in Science we've recapped our knowledge of endangered animals and shared this with the rest of our classes. We really enjoyed our topic related work this week as we looked at reasons why deforestation happens and then participated in a class debate about the benefits and drawbacks of deforestation. Immigrant song, a Viking invasion map. In our Gymnastics lesson with Mrs E on Wednesday, she was so impressed with how we worked together and the paired routines that we developed and performed, that she gave every one of us 2 house points! We are looking forward to performing the skills we've been learning to you in December. Mrs E says, 'watch this space'!

Year 5

In our topic work this week we've been exploring why the Vikings came to Britain. We used a number of sources, including the Led Zeppelin Immigrant song, a Viking invasion map and a short BBC clip. In RE, we've been looking at pieces of Art work that link to a variety of religions. We've considered how artwork can be an expression of how a person is feeling and not just merely a pictorial representation of something religious. In guided reading, we finished the final Beowulf story, 'Beowulf and the death dragon of the deep.' We then used evidence from the text to explain how the character, Wiglaf is feeling and wrote our Beowulf adventure stories.



Year 6

We had the most amazing, actioned-packed and fun filled week at Skern Lodge last week and have so many wonderful memories as a result. We hope that we may have captured these in the recounts that we wrote and shared with you in this afternoon's assembly. As part of our celebration of Black History Month, we've been looking into the contributions of black soldiers to the war effort on both the Allied and Central Powers sides of the war. We've learned about the treatment of these soldiers by both modern peoples and their contemporaries and compared this with the treatment of white soldiers. In Art, we have been honing our observational skills by learning to observe like a scientist or botanist. We have learnt how important it is to pay close attention to the subject when creating a piece and sketched objects and scenes from around the school site to make practical use of these skills. In Science we've continued to explore the concept of natural selection and looked into how various environmental factors impact on a species ability to survive within its habitat.



Thanks and farewell to Cath and Caroline

Where do I begin to say thank you to Cath and Caroline.

We have been so spoilt and privileged to have had two such incredibly talented, lovely, caring and dedicated individuals working for and as a part of our school community for the past 7 years. They have both been such an important part of our journey and development as a school and we will be eternally grateful to them for everything they've done. We wish them both all our love and every success in this next exciting chapter of their lives and hope they'll come back and see us ~~every day~~ whenever they can.



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Dates for the Diary

HALF TERM	Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October
Parent Consultations	Week Commencing 31 st October Week Commencing 7 th November
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
Junior Music Festival - Choir Performance at the Hexagon	Thursday 10 th November
Children in Need / Mindfulness Day (details to be confirmed)	Thursday 17 th November
INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	Friday 18th November
Cross Country at Chiltern Edge	Saturday 3 rd December
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 3 rd December 1-4pm
End of Term	Tuesday 20th December 1.30pm

Wishing you all a lovely half term.

Mrs Edwards