

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was so lovely to welcome the children back after their half term holidays and to hear about the different things they did throughout the week. They were very excited about their Halloween celebrations on Tuesday, including the costumes they wore when they went 'trick or treating'. They have also been talking about the Bonfire Night displays they're hoping to go to this weekend. Please stay safe everyone.

### Reception

We were so excited to come back to school after half term and really enjoyed writing our own spooky soup recipes using our known phonemes and crazy ideas about what would go in a witches brew. We also explored poetry around Halloween and Bonfire Night and discussed it together and made fireworks from junk modelling. We discussed Bonfire Night and Fire Safety and the history behind Halloween. In Maths we've revised our number bonds to 4 and been using the terms greater than and less than.

### Year 1

We have been learning about the 'igh' sounds this week in phonics, as in night, sight, light and might. Emily Gravett's lovely book, 'Meerkat Mail' is our text for this term and we are going to be writing postcards relating to this. In Maths we have been focusing on addition problems, finding a part of a 'part-part-whole model' in addition and subtraction number sentences and fact families. In our History lesson we have been learning about past and present modes of transport, household items and toys. We are excited about designing and creating our own sewn Christmas tree decorations.

### Year 2

Our English work crossed with Science this week. We received a letter from Zog, thanking us for our advice about where to live. As part of his thank you, he sent us our very own Golden Star! He also mentioned that he is doing some training with Princess Pearl and he asked for our help to write a recipe for a new potion that will cure dragon pox! We're on the case! As part of our mission to create this for Princess Pearl, we have been revisiting how to classify things as living, non-living, or never been alive. (Princess Pearl has requested some of these things as ingredients in her potion, so we need to learn about them first.) In Maths we've started our unit on addition and subtraction and completed some reasoning challenges connected with this and we have really enjoyed creating our own clay dragon eye in Art. What do you think of them?



### Year 3

This week, we have been focusing on our spelling, grammar and punctuation skills. We have been learning about vowels and consonants, apostrophes for possession and revising our knowledge of past, present and future tenses. We really enjoyed learning about the process of mummification in our topic work - even though it was rather gruesome. We also considered why the Ancient Egyptians mummified their dead and the significance of this process. In Maths we have started a unit on division and in RE, we have been discussing 'Has Christmas lost its true meaning?'

### Year 4

In English we re-read 'The Great Kapok Tree' and answered comprehension questions about the text. We also used the information that we have learnt so far about rainforests, to help us write a descriptive passage about them. In Maths we've been subtracting two 4-digit numbers with one or more exchanges and in our topic work, we have started to learn about the Mayans and used a timeline to see where they sit in our historical/chronological understanding. We were learning about tooth decay in Science and completed a really interesting practical experiment, looking at the impact different sugary drinks have on a tooth substitute.

### Year 5

This term, we've started to explore a new text linked to our topic: Viking Boy. We have learnt the difference between primary and secondary sources and have been using and analysing a range of them, to aid our understanding of who the Vikings were. We also began to write our newspaper reports on the Lindisfarne Monastery attacks. In Science we have been beginning to explore how materials can change, both physically and chemically and focused on the process of dissolving particulates (e.g. sand) into a solvent (e.g. water) to create a solution this week. In Computing, we have been delving into the more complex coding blocks available within the Scratch toolkit and will be learning how to create, change and utilise variables in a range of ways, alongside operator blocks.

### Year 6

We have been exploring the structures of informal letters linked to our topic of WW1 and have started to write an informal letter from home in Britain, to someone on the front line. To help us with this, we have been discussing how people lived and worked as part of the Home Front in small communities. We have also been looking at the role of Black and Asian soldiers within the battles undertaken by the British as part of the Allied Forces. In Art we have been developing our observational skills within the genre of botanical art, with a focus on poppies, some of which are below. In Maths we have begun a two week exploration of fractions which involves learning how to carry out the four basic operations with fractional numbers, including improper fractions, mixed numbers and exploring multi-step problem solving.



### **X Country at MECE tomorrow**

It's the second Winter series X Country event at MECE tomorrow morning. The weather is looking rather wet and chilly, so please do have the children come wearing layers and with a waterproof coat. I will be there, with the X Country vests from about 9.30, before the start of the Year 1 races. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

### **Change of INSET date - 2024/25**

As communicated earlier today, there is a change in INSET day, next academic year, from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November to **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

The PTFA will be holding a Scholastics Book Fair on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2:00-4:30pm at Mapledurham Pavillion, where every purchase earns rewards to spend on free books to stock our library and classrooms. Books start at just £2.99 so there's something for everyone - perfect in time for Christmas. The PTFA look forward to seeing you there!

### **Primary school applications**

Applications for Reading primary school places for children starting in September 2024 can now be submitted online. Brighter Futures for Children produced a helpful guide to support parents through the process. Everything can be found on their website [here](#).

### **Twitter**

Please follow **@AtHeadteacher** for updates

Please follow **@TheHeightsArts** for updates

### **Dates for the Diary**

X Country at MECE	4 <sup>th</sup> November
Heights PTFA - AGM (see attached flyer)	6 <sup>th</sup> November
School Photos	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 6 Football Festival	8 <sup>th</sup> November
KS2 Choir at the Hexagon	8 <sup>th</sup> November
Come and look at us work (Yrs 1-6)	9 <sup>th</sup> November - 8.45-9.15am
Year 2 Diwali Workshop	9 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 6 Heights & Weights	10 <sup>th</sup> November
Prospective Reception 2024 Parent Open Morning	14 <sup>th</sup> November
Parent/Teacher consultation meetings - in person	16 <sup>th</sup> November - 3:30pm and 6:00pm
Children In Need (wear yellow)	17 <sup>th</sup> November
Parent/Teacher consultation meetings - in person	21 <sup>st</sup> November - 4:45pm and 7:25pm
Year 3 Egyptian Day	21 <sup>st</sup> November
Year 4 Football Festival	22 <sup>nd</sup> November
Governors Meeting for Parents	23 <sup>rd</sup> November
EYFS & KS1 Panto - <i>Jack &amp; the Beanstalk</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> November
The Heights Christmas Fair	25 <sup>th</sup> November
Scholastic Book Fair	1 <sup>st</sup> December
X Country at MECE	2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Prospective Reception 2024 Parent Open Morning	5 <sup>th</sup> December

Year 4 Gymnastics performance	6 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas jumper day & Christmas lunch	8 <sup>th</sup> December
KS2 Panto at the Hexagon - <i>Sleeping Beauty</i>	14 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Holidays	20 <sup>th</sup> December -1:30pm finish

I hope you have a fabulous weekend.



Mrs Edwards