



Dear Parents and Carers

I went to a 'Leading Free Schools' conference in London yesterday (thanks for the lift to the station and company on the train Mr Miller). Throughout the day I was able to reflect on and share how exciting it is to be leading a new, developing school in a community where everyone shares the same passion and determination to provide the very best learning experiences and opportunities for the children.

I listened to fellow Heads talk of the challenges of engaging parents and felt incredibly grateful and proud of the support and trust you all have given to the staff and school and also full of pride for what we have jointly done to make our school a very special and close community already.

OK, I'm off my sippy soap box now - back to what the children have been up to this week.

## Reception

Our Reception children have been busy forming and writing numbers in their Maths sessions. They have been experimenting with different things sinking and floating and making their own hypotheses. In literacy they have been exploring and writing about where the wild things are and Mrs Rizvi's class have designed and made from very creative collages. Mr Crispin's class will be doing this next week. The children have been discussing and learning about Healthy Eating and using musical instruments to explore the different sounds they make.



In PE I led an indoor agility and hurdling and relay session and was so impressed with how quickly the children picked up, demonstrated and developed some complex hurdling techniques. I know I'm biased but we have amazing children at the Heights.

## Year 1

In Year One we have been very excited to start our Space Journeys topic this week. Our role play area has been transformed into a Space Station, and we have been wondering all sorts of things about 'zero gravity'. In order to find out, we have been watching video clips of astronaut Chris Hadfield 'doing things in space', so we now know how astronauts wash their hands in space, how they sleep, and how they brush their teeth! We have been learning about Neil Armstrong, what he was like as a child, and why his footprints are still on the moon today. We have been thinking about why rockets are shaped the way they are, and making lists (using commas) of items that we would take on a journey into space.



Our visit to the library this morning has provided us with more answers to our Space Questions. The children behaved beautifully on their trip and both Mrs Edwards are very proud of them. In PE we have started a Tag Rugby unit. The children love the Velcro tag belts and playing 'Tag Bulldog'.

## MOBILE PLANETARIUM

All three of our classes are starting to learn about space and we have booked a mobile planetarium to come to the school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The children will spend time in the 'blow-up' Planetarium enjoying a practical experience of our galaxy. Watch this space for more information in a couple of weeks.

## AWNINGS

Thank you so much to Craig Dolby and Jerry for giving up two weekends to prepare and erect many of the posts needed for our awnings. Also to Matt Taylor, Richard Hepwood and Otri Sen. We hope you can see that good progress was made.

## DISCO

Thank you to Emma Palk and the PTFA for organising our first school disco this evening. The children loved learning some dance moves earlier in the week and I am sure they will have a fabulous time.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Don't forget we are celebrating World Book Day next Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The children can come into school dressed as their favourite book character. We are looking forward to seeing who they will portray. Will we have a Gruffalo from Julia Donaldson's books, different Mr Men or Little Miss characters, or a character from traditional tales such as Little Red Riding Hood?

## PHOTOS

Just a reminder that we will be having a whole school and individual photos this coming Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## SHARE A BOOK - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 8.50am

Please do come and join us in school next Wednesday morning to share a book with your son or daughter. The children really enjoy these sessions.

## STORY SACKS

Many thanks for all the contributions for the Story Sacks that are being made for us. The children are really looking forward to using them.

## SPARE CLOTHING

Please could we ask that any spare school clothing used for in-school accidents is washed and returned to school as soon as possible? Our resources are running low!

### ACTIVE KIDS

We have registered with Sainsbury's for their Active Kids scheme, so please collect vouchers for us when you shop there to help us obtain resources for our school - more details on the scheme at:

<https://activekids.sainsburys.co.uk/>.

## DATES TO NOTE

Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb - Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> April		Term 4 - school closes at 1.30pm on 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> March		School photos
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> March	8.50-9.15am	Share-a-Book session for parents+children
Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> March		World Book Day
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March		Red Nose Day
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> March		PTFA Boden Party

## SPOTLIGHT

Our spotlight this week falls on Zachary Dolby, Indi King Gomez and Sophie Lowe for **swimming**; Matilda White for **ice skating** and over the half term holiday Zak Guntzenbach learnt **ski-ing** skills and Rose Wood learnt **Circus Skills**. Well done everyone!

**PUPILS OF THE WEEK:** Awards were handed to the following this afternoon: Joshua Packer and Mira Markella (Mrs Rizvi's Class); Rafi Aslam and Mantra Vivek (Mr Crispin's Class); Roshni Taylor and Freya Carter (Year 1). Congratulations to all of them.



Mrs Edwards  
Headteacher