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THE HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

20th November 2015 – Issue 49



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you so much to Ivan Scully, Krystof Nowicki, Maggie Bruce, Jagdish Venkitakrishnan and Geoff Parr for helping staff with the move from our 'old' into our 'new' upstairs classrooms last Thursday and Friday. I must also thank the staff for their incredible efforts throughout the weekend, making sure that the classrooms are warm and stimulating learning environments. Many of you have made some really lovely comments about our space upstairs, thanking staff for what they have done. Thank you for your appreciation.



Our new hall where lunches and Celebration Assembly will be next week



Our 'lunchbox' will be leaving us on Monday - so we enjoyed our last lunch there today.

Thank you also for helping us to celebrate International Children's Day today promoting worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. Did you know that on this day in 1959 the 'Declaration of the Rights of the Child' was adopted, setting out a number of children's rights. Thank you for your generous donations (over £100) for the children wearing their own clothes which will go to UNICEF and also for the fabulous Christmas gifts and toys which will be sent to children living in poverty right here in Reading (see photo on p.2).

Reception

This week in Reception classes we have been learning and recording ideas about the changes in ourselves since we were babies. We used time vocabulary including 'morning', 'afternoon' and 'evening' and sequenced familiar events using the words 'before' and 'after'. It has been National Anti-Bullying Week and we have been talking about how we can keep safe and understanding how our words and actions affect others.

Year 1

This week Year 1 have been reading *Room on the Broom* and working on their rhyming skills. In Maths we have been doubling, halving and quartering. We have been looking at past, present and future; how we have changed and how we think we might change as we grow up. We have been investigating children's rights and responsibilities, and doing lots of singing practise for our Christmas performance!

Year 2

We have been reading a non-fiction text about the Aztecs, looking at what they drank and ate. We have also designed headdresses and chosen our favourite design to make using different resources and materials. In Maths we have been measuring volume and capacity. We have been talking about how we can be buddies not bullies and the rights of the child. In Science we have been looking at how materials respond to different forces such as twisting and bending.

NEW CLASSROOMS

We have been happy to welcome parents to look around our new classrooms at the start of the school day this week but would request that, from Monday, Year 1 and 2 children should be handed over the teaching staff at the bottom of the stairs, enabling everyone to settle ready to start lessons at 9am.

SENSORY PLANTS

Mr Crispin's class are planning to develop a sensory garden in some of our tyres outside. If you have any succulents or cuttings of plants such as lavender or rosemary, we would welcome them.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO LEARNING IN YEAR 2

Please remember our invitation to Year 2 parents to an information session with Mrs Mullaney and Mrs H'Edwards on Tuesday 1st December from 7-8pm in the new Year 2 room upstairs.

SCHOOL PHOTOS - reminder

We have arranged for our school photographer to visit on Monday 23rd November to take individual and family group (children within school only) photos. If you do not wish your child included please let us know. Many thanks.

FLU IMMUNISATION

Years 1 and 2 will be receiving a visit from the School Health Nurses on Monday. They will administer flu immunisation via nasal spray (after the photos!) to those who have accepted the invitation as notified earlier this term.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The time for Christmas celebrations is fast approaching and we know it would be helpful for you to have the dates of our panto visit and nativity performances. Full information on ticket arrangements and costumes will follow but please note these dates for your diary:

Friday 11 th December	From 9am	Whole school visit to Hexagon Pantomime
Monday 14 th December	1.45pm	KS1 - Dress Rehearsal for Reception children and KS1 Grandparents
Tuesday 15 th December	9.45am 2.15pm	Reception - Dress Rehearsal for Grandparents KS1 - Performance 1 for Parents
Wednesday 16 th December	9.45am 6pm	Reception - Performance for Parents KS1 - Performance 2 for Parents
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch and class parties in the afternoon	

SPOTLIGHT

Our Spotlight this week falls on Shams in Year 1 who has made huge progress with her horse riding. Well done Shams!

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Our pupils of the week for this week and last week are: Joshua, Frances, Jessica, Theo, Elyon, Amelia, Annabel, Luke (Reception); Scarlett, Rafi, Sammy, Mantra, Holly, Darcey, Tom S, Joshie E (Year 1); Finlay, Joe, Lucy, Rishona (Year 2).



Karen Edwards
Headteacher

PTFA NEWS

TOMBOLA DAY – WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER

Next Wednesday is 'Tombola Day' at the Heights! This is the day your PTFA ask for a contribution to the Tombola stall at this year's Christmas Fayre. We are asking all year 1s to bring in a bottle of alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink, and all Reception children and year 2s to bring in some chocolate. We are also collecting small plastic toys (think cracker/magazine/box of brilliance toys) for the Lucky Dip. PTFA helpers will be at the school at drop-off and pick-up on the day to collect all of your goodies. Thanks so much in advance, we really appreciate each and every donation!

BOOK YOUR SLOT WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS!

The Heights Christmas Fayre is fast approaching (Saturday 5th December, 12 - 2.30pm) and we're hoping to receive a visit from a very special guest – Father Christmas! Anyone who would like their child and/or sibling to meet Father Christmas in his very special grotto and receive a present from the jolly man, there will be a sign up sheet on the wall in the school reception from Friday (20th November) and for the next two weeks. Father Christmas will be able to see five children at a time so simply put your child's name next to the slot you would like and he will do his best to be on time. The cost is £2 per child. If you have any questions please hunt down a committee member rather than anyone in the office as this is a PTFA matter not a school issue.

SANTA REQUEST!!!

Shhhh....! Just one other thing! We don't actually have a Father Christmas yet! If you know of anyone suitable in your family (we will provide costume/fake tummy and beard) then please do let us know. Whisper to any PTFA committee member in the playground or email ptfa@theheightsprimary.co.uk. It was a magical experience for the children at last year's fayre, please help us light up their precious little faces again!

