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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



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Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

11th November 2022 – Issue 317

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoyed some safe bonfire night celebrations last weekend. We were talking in our assembly last Friday, about how some animals (and people) can find the noise and lights quite distressing and overwhelming and that dogs can be calmed by Reggae music being played in the house. If you tried this and it worked, please do let me know.

Reception

This week we've been revising all of the phonemes we've learnt so far and practised the Tricky Words (no, go, I, the, and, to). In Maths we've been learning to identify Numicon shapes up to 10 and after learning about Children in Need, we decorated Pudsey's eye patch with stickers. We're really enjoying learning some Spanish with Mrs Toro and have been focusing on aiming, throwing and catching in PE.

Year 1

In Science this week, we've been revisiting the differences between garden and wild plants, as well as recapping the parts of a plant. We then had great fun planting garlic and are looking forward to observing how it grows over the next few months. Our plant dyes were ready to use this week and we experimented with them by soaking our socks in a dye bath before hanging them out to dry. We've also started to write our non-chronological reports about Rosa Parks.

Year 2

We have really enjoyed writing paragraphs for our leaflet about Castles and have started to add different photos and diagrams to them. As part of our focus on the story, *The Paperback Princess*, we've been investigating the properties of Everyday materials and trying to use the correct terminology to describe them. In IT, we've been using the Chrome books to help us learn how to access and create Google documents and we've started to learn some Netball skills in PE.

Year 3

This week in English, we have begun writing our explanation text on mummification, structuring it using subheadings and paragraphs. We've enjoyed learning about sources of evidence in History and have been exploring what a death mask can tell us about Egyptian culture, ahead of making our own. In Science we have been looking at what makes a healthy diet for Humans, what different food types there are and why these are beneficial for us to eat and in Maths we've been finding fractions of numbers, including thirds and fifths.

Year 4

It has been a really powerful week for us. We've been learning about the dangers of deforestation and used the information we learned, to draft a letter to our local MP, Matt Roddar, urging him to act on this important matter. In Science we've enjoyed learning more about how humans digest food and the steps involved in the digestive system and in Music we're learning the song *Mamma Mia* by ABBA. We're working on some Gymnastic moves and routines that we hope to perform to you before the end of this term and Mrs E says she'll pass on the dates for this early next week.

Year 5

This week we've continued to read our class book, 'Viking Boy' and have been focusing on the skill of retrieval. In our writing, we've been developing our knowledge of expanded noun phrases and applying these to a piece of writing about Viking Mythology. We've enjoyed learning about separating solutions in Science and converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and mixed numbers to improper fractions in Maths.

Year 6

We have been looking into informal letters in more detail this week, writing from the perspective of soldiers and their loved ones fighting in the First World War. We've been making use of deep, empathetic language to portray the emotions that would have been paramount to these letters to and from home and been studying the tactics and inventions of WW1 and how they changed the state of warfare for subsequent wars. We've also focused on the armistice and our remembrance of those who have given their lives both in the First World War and other conflicts.

In Art, we have been looking at botanical art and poppies in particular and in Computing, we've been continuing to develop our knowledge of online safety and digital citizenship.

In Maths we've been exploring percentages and how to use them interchangeably with fractions and decimals. We'll then learn how to calculate percentages of a given quantity.

Consultation on Communication and Engagement

Many thanks to all of you who were able to attend one of the consultation sessions in person, or email in your thoughts and suggestions. The sessions were really productive and we are confident that we will be able to make some positive and effective changes to some of the ways that we communicate and engage with you moving forwards. We will update you with more information of the details of this in the coming weeks.

Children In Need - Mindfulness

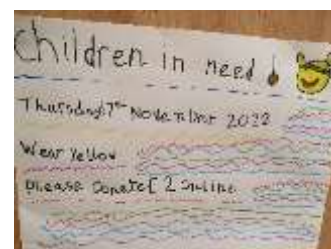
We are celebrating Children in Need, next Thursday 17th November, with a particular focus on Mindfulness. We will be making an effort to have 'moments of mindfulness' across the day and there is the option for the children to wear yellow, if they would like to.

If you would like to make a donation to the charity, you could do so using the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/The-Heights-Primary-CiN>

Please note, we will not be able to accept cash in school, all donations must be made via the online page.

School Council have created some fantastic posters around the school to raise awareness.



MECE X-Country

Congratulations to all the children from Years 1-5, who participated in the X-Country competition last Saturday. We had a record number of runners - 38 in total! They ran and supported each other brilliantly and I am incredibly proud of all their efforts and achievements, both individually and collectively.

PTFA Christmas Cards

Following on from the recent announcements on social media and Whatsapp groups, please find attached a letter from the PTFA regarding this year's Christmas card fundraiser. Also attached is a step-by-step guide on how to order your children's cards and a flyer with further information. Paper flyers have been circulated directly from the classes. Happy Shopping!

Christmas Performances

As we approach the festive season, we would like to come together to celebrate the season. With this in mind, each Key Stage will be holding a festive performance and we would like to invite you to come along. Please see the dates of the performances below in the 'Dates for the Diary'.

All performances will take place in the school hall and will last approximately 45 minutes each. Please note that due to limited space, we need to ask that there is a maximum of two attendees per child and that any siblings who are not at the school do not attend. If this causes any issues for your family situation, please contact the school.

There will also be an opportunity to take photos at the end of each performance. Please can we remind you not to share any photos on social media, unless you have the expressed permission from the parents/carers of all the children in the photo.

St Andrew's Church Community Tea Party on Saturday 19th November

St Andrew's Church is running a community Tea Party on Saturday 19th November from 2 - 4pm. Bring along your family and friends to enjoy delicious home-baked cakes. There will be a raffle and tombola, and for children there will be crafts, activities and lots of books and toys to buy. All proceeds to be divided between the Pre-school and Reading Street Pastors. We look forward to seeing you there. St Andrew's Hall, Albert Road, Caversham. RG4 7PL.

Artisa Christmas Market and Craft Activities - Sunday 20th November

Please see the attached posters for Caversham's Artisa Christmas Market and Craft Activities on Sunday 20th November from 10am to 3.30pm. For further information, please visit the website

www.madebytamalia.co.uk

Twitter

Please follow **@AtHeadteacher** for updates!

Dates for the Diary

Children in Need / Mindfulness Day (details to be confirmed)	Thursday 17 th November
INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	Friday 18th November
Reception and Years 1 & 2 PANTO - Aladdin	Friday 25 th November 1-3pm
PTFA Disco (Years 1 to 6)	Friday 25 th November
Cross Country at Chiltern Edge	Saturday 3 rd December
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 3 rd December 1-4pm
Years 3 - 6 PANTO at the Hexagon Jack and The Beanstalk	Wednesday 7 th December 9am - 2.30pm
Christmas Performances:	
Years 3 & 4 (for the families of children in Year 3)	Monday 12 th December 2.15pm
Years 1 & 2 (for the families of children in Year 1)	Tuesday 13 th December 9.15am
Years 3 & 4 (for the families of children in Year 4)	Wednesday 14 th December 9.15am
Years 1 & 2 (for the families of children in Year 2)	Wednesday 14 th December 2.15pm
Years 5 & 6 (for the families of the children in Year 5)	Thursday 15 th December 9.15am
Reception	Friday 16 th December 9.15am
Years 5 & 6 (for the families of children in Year 6)	Monday 19 th December 2.15pm
End of Term	Tuesday 20th December 1.30pm



Mrs Edwards