



The Heights Primary School
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13.09.24

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that we have reached the end of our first full week of the Autumn term. Time certainly flies when you are having fun! It has been great to see all of the children engaging well in their learning, adapting to their new routines and really trying hard to show their very best behaviour and conduct. **To say a big well done and thank you to everyone I awarded an extra 5 minutes of time at playtime today!**

Communication

Last week I promised that a new look newsletter was coming. It's not ready to be launched yet however, I very much hope to be able to share the new format soon.

Thank you to everyone who has followed our new Instagram page @theheightsprimary. This platform is in the early stages at the moment but I hope it becomes a useful and accessible way to have a window into what goes on behind closed doors at The Heights.

Contacting the School Office

Did you know the Office receives approximately XX emails and XX phone calls per day, which impacts the team's time in to managing and running some of the vital processes that keeps our school ticking along smoothly. We are currently reviewing how we share information with you to help avoid some of the need for you to pick up the phone or email us. We are also reviewing how we share information in a timelier manner – watch this space for more information.



To that effect, from Monday 16th September, the School Office will be closed each day between 1-2pm. The office email info@theheightsprimary.co.uk will be monitored for *urgent communication only* during this time.

What has my child been learning?

Staff have spent time considering the ways in which we can communicate with you in a succinct, informative and accessible way without bombarding you with lots of emails and letters during your busy week! To help everyone manage their time more effectively, teachers have decided to move away from 'parent planners' and instead provide a weekly newsletter summary of what their year group has learnt to enable you to talk to your child about their learning, and recap things if you wish. This will enable teachers to focus more on teaching and learning rather than admin and allow them time in the week to revisit content, or spend longer on a specific objective/s rather than having to predict and stick to what they *think* the children will learn next week. In addition, providing a retrospective summary will also give children a 'level playing field' in lessons -

historically some parents would pre-teach content, meaning that often some children weren't *learning* in lessons. You will still receive a curriculum overview each term so you know what your child will be learning about in each subject.

Enjoy reading below what the children at The Heights have been up to this week....

<p>Reception</p>	<p>We have had a wonderful first week in Reception with the children. We have been exploring the different areas of the classrooms and meeting our classmates. We have focused on keeping the classroom tidy and making sure that we tidy each area before moving away. You can also see the wonderful hot air balloons the children have created in the windows of the classrooms. The children also enjoyed their first lunch at school on Thursday, the teachers were very impressed by all the empty plates. Just a reminder that pack lunches must be healthy and all grapes and cherry tomatoes must be cut in half. We look forward to our first full day on Monday with all the children. Please bear in mind that even if your child is used to a full day in nursery, a whole day at school may well prove very overwhelming and may lead to tiredness and tears.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>In Maths, we have practised counting and sorting objects. We have begun our work on 'Five Minutes Peace' by Jill Murphy, writing sentences about our families and questions for the characters. Seasons were our focus in Science this week and we created a colour wheel with primary and secondary colours in Art.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Our first full week of Year 2 began with us undertaking a Big Write about a giant egg that a little boy finds in his mum's henhouse. We all had a great time discussing what might be inside it as it definitely wasn't a chicken!</p> <p>We've also begun our place value unit in maths, where we spent time building 2 digit numbers using Base 10 and then we represented them in place value charts and part-part-whole models. Our teachers were very impressed as some of us even got on to working with 3-digit numbers! The most exciting part of our week happened when we went out to the Sensory Garden to remind ourselves of the behaviour expectations in that area. We didn't even get past the gate because we discovered a letter for our class! It was from Zog and he had left us a scavenger hunt, in which we had to find certain items and then use the clues to locate a present for the class! We worked together so well and quickly realised our prize was in the hall - Zog had left us a copy of his book and a little teddy version of himself! We will be using both in our English learning this half term!</p>

Year 2 cont'd..



Year 3

In Maths this week the children worked in teams to solve problems and crack a code. The children were able to use lots of concrete resources to help them solve the problems. We were really impressed by how well everyone worked together to include each other, listen to one another and cross the finish line!

In Science we explored pushes, pulls and twists as forces. We used different equipment to investigate what was needed to make an object move. We drew diagrams with force arrows to show the effect of the force.







Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant first full week back. They have written some fantastic calligrams (shape poems) about a volcano erupting. In PSHE, the children have been thinking about how we can work together effectively as a class team. They have then demonstrated these collaborative skills in PE in both our tag rugby and dance lessons. In computing they loved researching Roman inventions ahead of our next history lesson.

Year 5

Year 5 have loved being back in school and enjoying our 'Invasion' topic. We explored what happened when the Romans left Britain and looked at different artefacts to learn about the lifestyle of Anglo-Saxons. We also read our class text, Beowulf, before writing our own character descriptions of the Viking hero. In Science, we explored the properties of materials and thought of vocabulary to describe them.



<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Year 6 have got off to a flying start by recapping all their learned strategies in SPaG and Maths and creating detailed self-portraits in art, which links to their scientific enquiry on Inheritance and discussions about which features they have inherited and from whom. In PE the children took different partners by the hand for the Gay Gordons Scottish dance...and enjoyed it! It has also been great to see them all setting a good example in good behaviour for the rest of the school to follow. This should stand them in good stead for when they take on their ambassador roles in the coming weeks.</p>  
<p>Extra-curricular</p>	<p>Every week children in Gardening club will get an opportunity to sow various vegetable seeds and take them home. They will also be using materials from nature to create their own art. This week children enjoyed observing useful bugs under the microscope and have sown Swiss Chard seeds in eggshells.</p>  

Congratulations!

In assembly today, we congratulated the following children who have been chosen to represent our school in a new Arts Council.

Well done to:

- Year 2** Otilie and Matilda
- Year 3** Martha and Meryem
- Year 4** Kate and Edie
- Year 5** Sylvie and Yusuf
- Year 6** Matthew and Ralfie



Reminders: coming up soon!

- Wednesday 18th 7:00 – 8:00pm - The Heights will be hosting a Secondary School information fayre for parents of children in Year 5 or 6.
- Friday 20th September - Jeans for Genes day. Your child can wear jeans to school for a voluntary donation of £2. Click here to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/the-heights-primary-1726174671140>
- Friday 20th September - New Reception Parents Welcome Coffee Morning – details to follow

Thank you again for supporting your child in their return to school and for helping to make this week so successful. See you on Monday!

Mrs Harrison