



The Heights Primary School
129 Upper Woodcote Road
Caversham
Reading
RG4 7LB

Tel: 0118 357 0123

Email: info@theheightsprimary.co.uk

27.09.24

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy and wet week here at The Heights but as usual, the staff and children have continued to shine with enthusiasm and energy!

Earlier in the week, our Year 2 children were the first year group to venture off on a school trip this academic year! Luckily the sun shone and as you'll read below, their trip to Warwick Castle was a huge success! The children saw Zog star in his very own show and got up close and personal with a couple of feathery friends! If you haven't already seen the video snippet on Instagram you can check it by following our socials handle @theheightsprimary. Thank you to parents for supporting this trip and to the Year 2 Heights team for organising this wonderful curriculum enrichment opportunity.


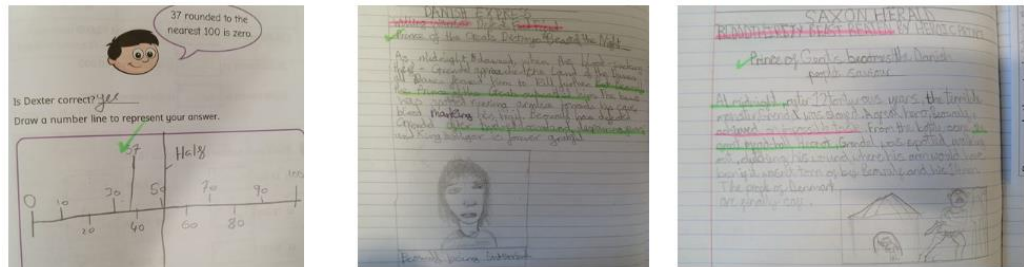


Another thank you, this time to lots of you who kindly supported our efforts to raise money for Jeans for Genes day last week! As a school community we raised £331 - thank you! If you didn't get round to donating, it's not too late to do so, just [click here](#)

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

Reception	The children in Reception have begun learning Level 2 phonics with this week's focus on 's, a, t, p'. We have talked about words that begin with these sounds and also learnt actions to help us remember the sound that each letter makes. We have continued our focus on 'My family' and also talked about 'When I grow up..' and what it means to be an adult. The children spent some time with their teacher talking about what they wish to be when they are grown up. In Mathematics we explored numbers 1 and 2 and how they may be presented; by symbol, in words, Numicon and fingers. We have also explored the idea of matching two items that are the same. Next week we will begin our indoor games and yoga sessions on
------------------	--

	<p>Wednesday (2.10.24). Please ensure children are dressed in PE clothes with appropriate trainers.</p> <p>Home Learning: See if you can help match all your socks together, making sure each creates a pair.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>This week in Year One's Maths lessons, we compared objects by matching, calculating one more and one less and using pictures of a crocodile's mouth to explain greater than, less than and equal to. We have learned the formation of the letter 'u' in pre-cursive hand-writing and the sound 'oy' in phonics (as in 'boy', 'annoy' and 'royal'). In English 'but' was used as a conjunction in our sentences about the Large family, we sequenced the steps of the story and drew a story map which we learned with actions. During our Science lesson we investigated the strength of the wind outside by observing the speed and movement of bubbles in the air. Our Art this week was based on sketching in the style of our focus artist Van Gogh, the children created amazing sketches of sunflowers in their new art books!</p> <div data-bbox="367 783 1438 993"> </div>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Year 2 has had a busy and exciting week! Our trip to Warwick Castle was the highlight of the week. The children were immersed into the world of Zog where they had great fun training as knights and completing Zog's quest. We had the opportunity to look round the castle and learnt about some of its features and thoroughly enjoyed watching a fantastic falconry display where the birds swooped right above us! We then followed this up with a detailed and exciting recount of our day. Meanwhile, in Maths we have continued to develop our understanding of place value to compare and order numbers.</p> <div data-bbox="367 1346 1438 1535"> </div>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>In Year 3 this week, we have enjoyed doing lots of drama and role play in our lessons! In History, we made our own farming tools and then role played being an Ancient Egyptian farmer outside. In English we are exploring the thoughts and feelings of the character 'Sennapod' in our class book 'There's a Pharaoh in our Bath'. We used drama and freeze frames to think about the different feelings he might have and various points in the first chapter. We then used this to start writing a diary entry from Sennapod's point of view. In Science, we have been investigating friction by timing how long spinning tops spin on different types of surface.</p>

	
Year 4	Sadly due to staff absence today, we are not able to share Year 4's highlights.
Year 5	<p>This week, Year 5 have turned their attention to writing a newspaper article on Beowulf's victory over the monstrous Grendel. At the start of the week, they read different articles to identify the features to include in their own articles. In Maths, the children have continued to develop their understanding of place value, particularly how to round to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000 and 10,000. In History, Year 5 continued to learn more about Anglo-Saxon life by exploring who would live in a village and what their role was including carpenters, blacksmiths and the Thane. The children enjoyed a reflective Monday afternoon by learning about how different religions worship through music and prayer.</p> 
Year 6	Year 6 have undertaken the first set of practice SATs about which they showed impressive attitude and resilience. Meanwhile, in Science the children have focused on evolution, specifically Charles Darwin's contribution to the theory of evolution. Watching the children in their guitar lessons, it is clear that they have remembered all that they learned during their ukulele lessons in Year 3! Likewise, in PE the children are developing a great understanding of the formations and game-reading of Tag Rugby which they have developed across the year groups. It's great to watch.

Parking plea from a local neighbour

We have been contacted by a local neighbour who asked where possible, for parents to refrain from parking on Woodcote Way between Westdene Crescent and Fernbrook Road due to the works being completed by Thames Water. The resident raised concerns that cars are blocking access to private driveways and parking inconsiderately causing difficulties for buses to pass through. Thank you in advance for your immediate cooperation.



Reception reading books

Today your child will have brought home their sound book and will hopefully be able to share with you three of the sounds they have learnt this week. We hope you will be able to practice these sounds on a regular basis as repetition goes a long way to embedding the learning. Next week we will be sending home the children's first reading books, which will be in the form of a picture book. It would be lovely if you can sit with your child and discuss the story together throughout the week. We will give more advice on how to use the sound books and reading books when we see you on **Wednesday 9th October at the Parent Information Evening**. This will take place at 6pm in the school hall where the PTFA will be providing refreshments and Harrisons Catering will be providing a taste of the meals they deliver at school.

Parents conduct – polite reminder

We know that there may be times when you need to speak to a member of staff about something that you are worried about, or have concerns over. In these instances we will always do our very best to communicate with you in a professional, clear and timely manner; working with you in the best interests of the child/ren. We ask that you in turn, speak to us in a polite and courteous manner too. Unfortunately, we have had a few incidents recently of parents speaking aggressively or inappropriately to members of staff. This is not acceptable and no member of staff should accept this. We understand that problems that concern our children can be troubling or worrying, but every member of staff has the right to come to work without the fear of aggression.

Headlice alert: Year 2 and Year 5

Please check your child's hair this weekend and treat them if required. You can find helpful advice about headlice and how to treat them by clicking [HERE](#).

BPET Newsletter

Please find here the [BPET newsletter](#) , showcasing what is happening at other schools within the Trust.

The Heights Bike Bus

We were really pleased to hear that our Bike Bus was featured on the Reading Council Facebook page! Thank you to all those parents and children that have been participating.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/nqU429cMP3SspMNs/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

Collection for Reading Food Bank

The school and eco council would like to continue to focus on more local charity fundraising this year, as well as our larger charity fundraising days. One way we'd like to do this is through food donations. In the key stage assemblies last week, school and eco councillors

shared our harvest donation plan. This will be the fourth year we have collected food for Reading's local food bank called Readifood (<https://readifood.org.uk/>)

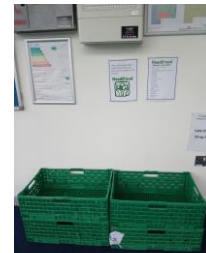
Here are some of the items Readifood are currently in urgent need of and that we would encourage to be donated:

These are our current shortages:- Tinned tomatoes, Tinned vegetables (carrots, peas, sweetcorn etc.), Tinned fruit, Cooking oil, Tinned meat, Pot noodles, Long-life or UHT milk, 40s tea bags, Basmati rice, Rice pouches, Cartons of juice, Drinking squash, Coffee

Specialist foods needs: Dried noodles, Dried lentils, Dried couscous, Plain flour



Please can any donations be brought to the **front of the school office** into the green crates provided that are placed there. Our donations will be taken to Readifood at a certain date so we will be asking for donations to finish by **Monday 10th October**



Reminders: coming up soon!

- Wednesday 2nd -4th October: Year 4 Longridge
- Thursday 3rd October: The Heights Golf day!
- Monday 7th – 11th October: Year 6 to Skern Lodge (Please arrive by 6:30am as departure from school will be at 7:00am!)

I hope that you all have a happy and restful weekend.

Mrs Harrison
Headteacher