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20.09.24

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week our school community has really embraced our values of 'Respect' and 'Teamwork' and have shown just how great we can all be at supporting one another and the local community.

Today, lots of children wore denim in support of Jeans for Genes Day to raise awareness of genetic disorders. At the last count, we had raised £231. Thank you, this is brilliant and very much appreciated however I know that if everyone digs deep and gives the suggested £2 donation we should be able to achieve over £400 which would be a fantastic donation to the charity. It's not too late to donate if you haven't got round to it yet – [click here](#) or copy the link below into your browser: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/the-heights-primary-1726174671140>

As well as covering our legs in denim, lots of children also used their legs this morning to join the FRidedays BikeBus. We had over 60 cyclists today (including some first timers, welcome!) which was such an amazing sight to see! A PR representative from Reading Borough Council came along and took some photographs and spoke to a few key people involved in the organising the BikeBus so that he can share our amazing example with other schools in Reading – what a way to go Team Heights!! You can see a couple of photos Mark Lyford managed to capture further down in this letter.

On Wednesday evening The Heights hosted a Secondary School Information fayre, providing all of our local secondary schools and Year 5 and Year 6 parents the opportunity to meet and start early conversations about transition to secondary school. This year 10 schools came along: Highdown School, Shiplake College, Leighton Park School, The Abbey, Reading Bluecoat School, Queen Anne's, Gillotts School, St Joseph's College, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge and River Academy, and some of them brought back past Heights pupils, which was a lovely surprise! Thank you to everyone who came along, we hope you found the evening really useful, and special thanks to our School Operations Manager Mrs Kheti-Heer for organising this event!



Communication


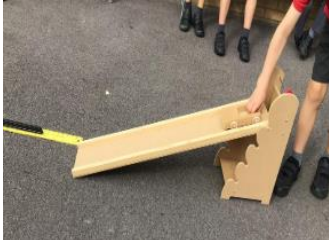

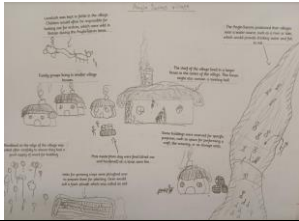

Last week I promised that a new look newsletter was coming. It's not ready to be launched yet however I very much hope to be able to share the new format soon.



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 useful and accessible way to have a window into what goes on behind closed doors at The Heights.

What has my child been learning?

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

Reception	<p>The children have worked hard answering literacy based questions in their Government baseline assessments. Next week, we look forward to finishing our 1:1 time with number and pattern questions. We are still enjoying learning all about our class friends and sharing our 'All About Me' bags. We discovered how we often like the same things and this is how we can make new friends. Friday, we looked at family trees and discovered similarities and differences between our families. We have been learning Phase 1 phonics and the games attached to this can be found on Phonicsplay.co.uk Phase 1. This unit looks at listening to sounds and rhymes.</p> <p><u>Home Learning:</u> it would be lovely if you could discuss your family tree.</p>
Year 1	<p>This week in Year 1 we have continued our English work based on 'Five Minutes Peace' by Jill Murphy. We have joined clauses with conjunctions such as 'and' and 'because' as well using descriptive language about the lovely large family. In Maths we have counted forwards and backwards within ten and practiced one more than a number, the children have enjoyed showing off their skills in counting. In Art we learned about Van Gogh and expressed an opinion about his artwork. Following on from making 3D classroom maps last week we are making a map of the downstairs of the school to show visitors how to find our classroom. We have begun our Year 1 phonics scheme, this week we have been learning the 'ay' sound as in play, day and tray.</p> <div data-bbox="537 1094 1195 1318"></div>
Year 2	<p>This week in maths, we have continued to learn about place value and have enjoyed working with a partner to make posters that show all the different ways we can represent 2 and 3 digit numbers. In English, we have had great fun acting out the story of Zog and now we are writing it ourselves. We have also created our own illustrations in art and these will go together to make our own class book!</p> <div data-bbox="383 1528 1430 1755"></div>

<p>Year 3</p>	<p>In English this week, we have been reading a new story called 'There's a Pharaoh in our Bath' and creating our own front covers. We have also been using drama to think and feel what it may have been like to wake up as a mummy!</p> <p>In Science, we explored the force called friction. We used different surfaces to investigate which surface would enable the car to travel the furthest.</p> <p>In Music we had our first ukulele lesson. It sounded very good!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>This week Year 4 have been reading Escape from Pompeii to support our guided reading and English lessons. They particularly enjoyed acting out the stages of what happened during Mount Vesuvius' eruption. In maths, we have been continuing to look at addition and subtraction. For science we were trying to sort animals into groups and having the rest of the class try to guess how they were sorted. We are looking forward to seeing lots of parents virtually next Monday to talk through any questions for the year and for Longridge.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Year 5 has had another fantastic week of learning. At the start of the week, the children published our character descriptions of Beowulf. They have also been using drama and oracy to write a letter from Beowulf's perspective to his father, the King. In our history lessons, the children have been learning more about the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and what village life would have been like. During gymnastics with Mr Cook, the children have developed their balancing skills and in music with Mrs Cook, they have been learning to play along with Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer' on the glockenspiel.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Year 6 have been focusing on their varied fluency and reasoning in the four operations with a focus on their presentation of calculations. In English, the children have been drafting and editing a piece of descriptive writing based on a personal experience involving a powerful emotion. Meanwhile, in Science they have focused on how animals - including humans - have adapted to their environment. In dance, the children have added to their Scottish dancing repertoire by learning the formations of the Dashing White Sergeant whilst in art all the children have created self-portraits which are now up on the windows and wall to be admired by all passers-by. To introduce the children to the format,</p>

	<p>timings and types of questioning of the SATs, next week they will undertake the first round of practice SATs in a relatively relaxed setting.</p> 
<p>Extra-curricular</p>	<p>Reading Borough Council Communications team came along to the FRidedays Bike Bus at The Heights this morning. There were 60 bikes on the Bike Bus today, so congratulations!</p> <p>A short piece of video footage was taken as we all rode down Woodcote Way to the A4074. The video and accompanying written feature will be used on RBC social media channels and internal communications, no close up shots were taken.</p> <p>A couple of interviews were conducted with parents and children who took part, as well as with Mrs Harrison.</p> <p><i>Mark Lyford</i> <i>Active Travel Officer Reading & Bracknell</i></p> 

Reminders: coming up soon!

- Monday 23rd: Reception classes photo (Henley Standard)
- Monday 23rd at 6:00pm - Year 3 + Year 4 'Welcome meeting' (online)
- Tuesday 24th - Year 4 trip to Warwick Castle **ETA back at school 5:00pm**
- Wednesday 25th at 6:00pm - Year 5 + Year 6 'Welcome meeting' (online)
- *From Monday 23rd the parents of children that have a head bump during the school day will no longer receive a text message to let them know this has happened but will **receive an email instead.***

I hope that you all have a happy and restful weekend. See you on Monday!

Mrs Harrison
 Headteacher