

# HEADLINES...

• Issue 2/February 2016

Wow, how this term has flown by! So much happens on a weekly basis from excellent sporting achievements (we took part in football, gymnastics, multi sports and dance) to some Year 5 children writing, producing and recording their own song as part of a Notivate project to name but a few. Well done to all of the children who have represented the school so magnificently. The children will now be accompanied on the endeavours outside school by Ned (the travelling ted), our school mascot. Lilly Prigmore (Class 6) thought of the name which was chosen from all of the suggestions by School Council. Thank you to all children who made a suggestion. Ned will have his own page on the forthcoming new website so that children will be able to share with parents all the adventures that he takes part in.

## *Upcoming dates:*

24 Feb – Phonics information sessions for Parents/Carers

25 Mar-8 Apr – Easter Break

11 Apr – Teacher Training Day

There has been a great deal happening behind the scenes in school over recent weeks. We have introduced Read, Write Inc, a brand new approach to the teaching of early reading and writing for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This has had huge impact with how consistently children are being taught to read and write at an early age. This strategy is a tool to enable children to apply their reading and writing skills to the wider curriculum. The children are enjoying this approach and it seems that every available inch of school is being used to teach the strategy in small groups. As you are aware there is a meeting for parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 about this new approach on Wednesday 24 February at 2.00pm and 6.30pm and it is really important that you attend. We look forward to seeing you.

Following on from phonics, we are introducing a new approach to the teaching of spelling from the start of next term, commencing in Year 2 (when the children have concluded the phonic programme). A guide for parents is on page 3 of this newsletter. We are also looking at the approach that the school takes in regard to the teaching of writing. This is an exciting project as writing will be at the heart of our exciting, dynamic and creative curriculum. It is intended that with the new initiatives and evolution of what Headlands does so well, that academic achievement for all children will be at least in line or exceed with what children achieve nationally and this will be non-negotiable.

Next term we are having a huge focus on presentation. The use of kinetic letters, our handwriting scheme, is having a positive impact and we will build on this with a consistent way the children will be taught to present their work throughout the school.

On the back are the results of the parent survey conducted at the TLCs earlier in the term. The findings tell of your unanimous support and confidence in all that the school does. It is my intention to build on that trust. I will ensure that communication to parents is presented in a timely manner, mainly by the use of our new website from Easter. In September, I will ensure that parents have key dates throughout the year so that plans can be made accordingly.

I hope that you all have an exciting half term. I look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 22 February 2016.



Bad Hair Day- Raising funds for Gt. Ormond St Hospital

*Darren*

# Pirate, Prince and Princess Pandemonium

(World Book Day, 3 March 2016)

For world book day this year, we would like to theme the day by asking the children to come dressed as a pirate, prince or princess. This is in addition to all of the regular activities organized by Mrs. Gorman, our librarian. During the afternoon the children will create pandemonium by constructing nonsense character descriptions inspired by well-known fictional characters. Children will illustrate their work by using collage. We would also like your child to bring in their favourite book to school on this day. We will also be introducing the younger children to an older 'reading buddy' to share their favourite book with. We hope that reading buddies will become a regular feature of what happens in school as our older children are given opportunities to mentor their younger friends. Further details will follow. Go for it with the costumes!

## Covering Classes

As you are aware, we have introduced new approaches to early reading and writing and spelling over the last term. The result of the training is now having direct impact on what is happening for children in class. However, to achieve this teachers have been out of class for periods of time for training. We have often covered the absence with a teaching assistant who has 'cover supervised' the class for this absence. Teaching assistants have been working from the plans left by the teacher. In the absence of a member of staff due to the rare occasions that a teacher is off school ill, then on the first day the teaching assistant will cover the class using pre planned activities to support the children. Our teaching assistants are excellent, know the children and are far better prepared to support them than a supply teacher, who does not know the children, doing the same thing. I am confident that things will now settle down for next term.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Mon<br/>22 Feb</b>   | Hotshots 8.00-8.45am<br>Lunchtime Woodwind Club<br>Change4Life at lunch time at 12.30pm<br>Come and Read (3Cha and 4DC) at 2.45pm<br>Recorder Club 3.15pm – 4.15pm<br>Netball Club 3.15pm – 4.30pm<br>Gardening Club 3.15pm-4.30pm               |
| <b>Tues<br/>23 Feb</b>  | Before school MultiSports Club (Rec, Y1 and Y2)<br>Playtime Library Kids Club<br>Ocarina Club at lunch time<br>After School Ocarina Club 3.15-4.15pm<br>After School Football 3.15-4.30pm<br>Yoga for Kids 5.00-6.00pm                           |
| <b>Wed<br/>24 Feb</b>   | Morning Dance Club 8.00-8.45am<br>Lunchtime Multi-Cultural Club<br>Lunchtime Saxophone Club<br>Phonics Information Session – 2.00pm<br>Gymnastics Club 3.15-4.30pm<br>After School KS1 choir 3.15-4.15pm<br>Phonics Information Session – 6.30pm |
| <b>Thurs<br/>25 Feb</b> | Second-hand Uniform Shop 8.30am<br>Chess Club at lunchtimes<br>KS2 Choir 3.15-4.15pm   |
| <b>Fri<br/>26 Feb</b>   | Morning Orchestra at 8.00am – selected pupils<br>Morning Break Gardening Club<br>Lunchtime Percussion Club<br>2:45pm Awards and Birthdays Assembly<br>After School Gymnastics Club (Y3-Y6) 3.15-4.15pm   |

### Meals Menu - £2.00 per day

| <b>Mon<br/>22</b>   | <b>Tues<br/>23 Feb</b>                 | <b>Wed<br/>24 Feb</b>  | <b>Thur<br/>25 Feb</b>                                    | <b>Fri<br/>26 Feb</b>   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Jacket Potato with a selection of fillings including: Cheese & Beans, Tuna & Sweetcorn, Bolognaise  | Sweet tomato pasta<br><br>Garlic bread | Sausages in gravy<br><b>or</b><br>Quorn sausages in gravy    | Chicken korma<br><b>or</b><br>Quorn korma                 | Fish fingers with tomato sauce<br><b>or</b><br>Veggie nuggets |
| Yoghurt   | Chocolate Sponge                       | Mash, yorkshire pudding and mixed vegetables<br><br>Smoothie | Rice, naan bread and seasonal vegetables<br><br>Ice cream | New potatoes and peas<br><br>Pudding of the day               |
| <b><i>The following are also available every day:- salad, jacket potatoes, fromage frais, fresh fruit, vegetarian option and freshly filled sandwiches.</i></b> |  |  |   |   |



House Point Winner – Oak

Attendance Winners: Classes 4, 12 & 13  
(4 absences)

# TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO SPELL (FROM Y2)

## A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Our spelling strategy is robust, fast-paced and systematic and supports the requirements of the National Curriculum. The aim of the strategy is to make children confident spellers and to apply their spelling knowledge to their written work effectively.

Spellings are taught in class for 15-20 minutes a day. A Spelling Practise Book will be used to support the teaching.

### **Strategies that we use to teach spellings**

**Speed Spell:** Six words are given for children to write, any corrected spellings are recorded in the Spelling Log for further practise.

**Spelling Zone:** This is a video which uses characters to introduce the new words for the week. Children are then asked to write sentences including the key words or complete a related activity.

**Dots and Dashes:** Children identify the graphemes (sounds) made by one letter with dots and sounds made by two or more letters with dashes.

**Word Changers:** A table is completed to help children understand how a root word is affected by a suffix or prefix.

**Words to log and learn:** Children identify and record the words they need to practise in their Spelling Logs.

**Dictation:** Children work in pairs and take it in turns to dictate and check sentences, this supports them with writing words in context.

**Four-in-a-row:** Children select four words that have been previously taught and practise spelling and checking them.

**Choose the right word:** Children are given incomplete sentences and the spelling words, they have to choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

Children mark and correct their own work for each activity as the focus is on **'teaching not testing'**.

### **How to support your child at home**

As part of the strategy each child will also receive a Spelling Log Book to use at home. The purpose of the Spelling Log is to keep a record of the words that your child needs to practise. The Logs enable children to record words to revise, and opportunities for ongoing assessment. Children will bring these books home to share with you so that you can help them practise their weekly selection of words. The Spelling Log Books also contain a glossary of key spelling terms and a chart of Red and Orange words (words on the National Curriculum word list that the children need to know how to spell in each year). A look, cover, write, say approach of approximately 5 of these spellings a week will support the learning of these spellings. A template for this approach is on the back of this sheet.

**Log Books will need to be brought in to school every day.** Please support your child with looking after their spelling logs. Replacements will incur a £2 charge.

Please talk to your child about their spellings and support them with their learning through use of the Spelling Log, this will have a positive impact on their learning and help them to achieve well.

We thank you for your support.

