

HEADLINES...

• Issue 3/ March 2016

Easter is early this year; however, it doesn't seem five minutes since the start of the spring term in January when I took up my post as Head Teacher. Getting to know 450 children and their families has proven to be a huge task and I cannot declare that that I have yet remembered everyone's name. It is a work in progress! However, we have undergone a significant amount of change to ensure that the school builds on its previous success and achieves the best possible outcomes for the children. To date we have successfully introduced a new early reading strategy, Read, Write Inc. This is proving to be hugely successful at accelerating the children's progress in reading in Reception and Year 1. Building on this, we have introduced a new spelling strategy. This builds on from the children's ability

Upcoming dates:

11 April – Teacher Training Day

12 April – School Re-Opens

29 April – Spring Term Reports
(Y1,Y3,Y4,Y5)

2 May – School Closed May Bank
Holiday

30 May – 3 June – School Closed
End of Term 5

6 June – School Re-Opens

to use phonics to decode and starts at the end of Year 1 up to and including Year 6. (I have included a brief description of the strategy and how you can support your child again overleaf.) In the new national tests for Year 2 and 6, spelling has a much higher priority and so the way that we teach it in school has to have impact on the children's ability to apply their spellings in context. The focus of the strategy, as with the curriculum, is about deepening children's understanding of spelling strategies rather than giving children harder words to learn. We also continue to work with NPAT to support maths teaching within the school and this week all staff are having training on a new approach to teach writing. With all the new initiatives introduced this term, the major theme is ensuring that what we do is consistent across the school to have the highest possible impact on all children reaching their potential. Next term we will be looking at the wider curriculum and launching a new curriculum vision that will further inspire, challenge and make learning relevant, contextual and fun. This is the reason that I am a Head Teacher and I cannot wait to get started with this. Watch this space!

A special and heartfelt goodbye...

We will be saying a sad farewell this week to both **Mrs Deighton** and **Mrs Gittos**. Mrs Deighton has been at the school for 25 years and Mrs Gittos for 18 years. It is hard to describe how much both of these ladies have achieved for the good of all children during their time at HPS. Sue leaves an extremely well respected special educational needs unit, and Jenny her passion for curriculum and love of teaching and learning. Headlands is where they have put their professional heart and soul and together they are responsible for sustaining the ethos of nurture, care and positive behaviour that our school is known for. Their legacy will be built on with all that we do in the future. On behalf of the whole school community, I wish them well with their future ventures.

Overleaf is a pictorial summary of what has gone on beyond the classroom this term with your children. In all that they do they demonstrate the core values of DARE (determination, achievement, respect, enjoyment) and I am extremely proud of each and every one of them. Enjoy the spring holiday and I look forward to seeing all children back on Tuesday 12 April 2016.



Year 6 having great fun at the Sealife centre

Darren

We have appointed a Deputy Head Teacher and restructured the leadership team

We have recruited a Deputy Head Teacher, **Karen Smith** (no relation!) Karen was amazing at interview last week and will fit in brilliantly well at Headlands. She understands teaching and learning incredibly well and she will be hugely committed to strategically leading the school forward. Karen's passion is inclusion (special educational needs, etc) and she has led inclusion as a lead special educational needs consultant within Northamptonshire. She will be in school next term although she will not take up the post formally until September. In addition to Karen's appointment we have restructured the leadership team. **Mrs Worrall** will continue to lead Foundation Stage, **Mrs Fryers** (Assistant Head Teacher) will lead Key Stage 1, **Miss Wilson** will lead lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3&4) and **Mrs Lynes** will lead upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5&6). **Mrs Clark** will phase lead the Unit. Further information about their roles will follow.



Pirate, Prince and Princess Pandemonium

Thank you for all of your efforts to ensure that your child looked the part for the Pirate, Princess Pandemonium to celebrate World Book Day. Throughout the day the older children worked alongside and supported the younger children to create nonsense characters by combining descriptions of pirates with princesses. The children also shared their favorite book with each other. It was great to hear the older children supporting and encouraging the younger ones. The children really enjoyed working together and we want to create further opportunities for the children to do this as we relaunch the curriculum over time. The work that the children produced, with photographs from the day, are displayed at the front of the school. Please take time to have a look when you are passing. The work includes that completed by Reception. They made 'precious volumes' including a letter to the pirate inspired by the book 'The pirates next door' by Jonny Duddle

Our children triumph at the Big Sing

Children from Years 3-5 took part in the Big Sing, organized by Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) at the Derngate theatre earlier this term alongside other primary and secondary schools in Northamptonshire. They were brilliant. Singing a wide range of songs from the Lion King and music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals, the children demonstrated confidence and their love of singing. Well done to Mrs Cornforth and Mrs Reamsbottom for supporting rehearsals and being there on the night and for also taking part in the adult NMPAT choir.



Year 6 at Osmington Bay

Year 6 had an amazing time at Osmington Bay this term. During the visit the children took part in outward bound activities such as Abseiling, Zip Wire and Beach Walk they also visited the Sealife Centre and Monkey World. Throughout the trip the children were excellent ambassadors for the school and we would like to thank those parents who have expressed their gratitude to the staff who supported this trip. Residential trips offer a unique experience for children to develop self-esteem and to work collaboratively as a team, we would encourage all children to take part and the cost should not be a barrier. Please see Mr Smith if financial support is required for future residential trips.



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.

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.

DIARY DATES AND MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 11 APRIL

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Mon 11 April | School Closed Teacher Training Day |
| Tues 12 April | Before school MultiSports Club (Rec, Y1 and Y2) Playtime Library Kids Club Ocarina Club at lunch time After School Ocarina Club 3.15-4.15pm After School Football 3.15-4.30pm Yoga for Kids 5.00-6.00pm |
| Wed 13 April | Morning Dance Club 8.00-8.45am Lunchtime Multi-Cultural Club Lunchtime Saxophone Club Gymnastics Club 3.15-4.30pm After School KS1 choir 3.15-4.15pm |
| Thurs 14 April | Second-hand Uniform Shop 8.30am Chess Club at lunchtimes KS2 Choir 3.15-4.15pm |
| Fri 15 April | Morning Orchestra at 8.00am – selected pupils Morning Break Gardening Club Lunchtime Percussion Club 2:45pm Awards and Birthdays Assembly After School Gymnastics Club (Y3-Y6) 3.15-4.15pm |

| Mon 11 Apr | Tues 12 Apr | Wed 13 Apr | Thur 14 Apr | Fri 15 Apr |
|---------------|--|---|---|---|
| School Closed | Jacket potato with a selection of fillings including: cheese & beans, tuna & sweetcorn, bolognaise | Roast turkey in gravy or cheese & potato pie roast potatoes, carrots & cabbage | Mild chilli con carne or mild quorn chilli rice and nachos | Breaded fish fillet or vegetable carbonara new potatoes and beans or pasta |
| | <i>Yoghurt</i> | <i>Pudding of the day</i> | <i>Fruit salad</i> | <i>Smoothie</i> |

School meals are great value at £2.00 per day

A copy of the full menu for the term can be found on the school website www.headlandsprimary.co.uk



House point winner for this week is Oak but the overall winner for the Spring Term is Birch House – big well done! ☺

places available

FREE Swimming sessions

FREE Yoga sessions

Great outdoor space

HEADLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pursuing excellence for every child

Call us to arrange a time to have a look around

The Nursery

Newly refurbished Nursery space, inside and out

“The Nursery has high expectations and gives quality time to establishing routines and good behaviour” - LA inspection 2014

FREE Forest School

“Children move around the nursery with a great deal of independence... children are able to be creative and solve problems” - LA inspection 2014

£20 high street voucher when you register your nursery children 01604 407098