



# HEADLINES...

Issue 11/ September 2017

## Welcome to the new school year!

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to see the children return to school following the summer break and we are looking forward to an exciting school year.

The summer break was dominated by major refurbishment in school; this time in our special needs provision. The provision, previously the designated special provision, has become a School Unit that is known as Woodlands. This new provision offers 28 places for children with communication difficulties including autism. We are very excited about evolving the provision for children with such difficulties here at Headlands, working alongside other School Units in the trust.

Headlands proudly welcomes some new faces to the school this year. Miss Boileau is our new Unit teacher, Mrs Steventon is our new Nursery teacher and Mrs Bellamy our new part time teacher in Year 1 and part time special needs coordinator. Finally, welcome to Miss Gordon who has returned to Headlands as a graduate teacher in Year 2.

Attached to this edition of Headlines is the 'red sheet.' This has all key dates for the academic year to enable you to plan your diary accordingly. We look forward to you being in school, immersed in the learning experiences alongside your child. We have planned several termly learning experiences, an event for parents as we did last year. We will also keep you well informed via the class blogs (at least every two weeks), Twitter and Facebook. The website ([www.headlands.org.uk](http://www.headlands.org.uk)) is also a great reference point for all information. Please note that there will always be events that come into the diary over the year or events that have to change, we will give you notice when this happens.

This year we will be continuing to inspire the children's learning through meaningful, exciting themes of learning. Nurturing an enjoyment of school and a passion for learning is our priority alongside ensuring that the children are safe at all times. Our vision for the every child is *'to pursue academic, artistic, athletic and pastoral excellence for every child to empower them to shape the world in which they live'*, and we are determined that every child will reach their potential in all aspects of school life. By achieving this, we will continue to build on the previous two years of sustained improvement in national assessments.

A priority for us this year is to raise the profile for wellbeing. We will be doing this by implementing a new personal, social, health and emotional (PSHE) scheme of work across the school. Each term will have a theme and the theme in term 1 is 'being me in my world'. There will also be an emphasis on mindfulness to enable children to express their feelings. Coupled with this we will be teaching Protective Behaviours to ensure that children can express how they feel positively. Underpinning a child's sense of self is fundamental to ensure that learning has strong and sustained foundations.

Alongside school being exciting every day, we look forward to taking part in prestigious events such as Young Voices (Years 5&6), Kingswood residential (Year 4), France residential (Year 6). Alongside the trust, the school will be working with the Royal Shakespeare Company on a whole school project in Term 3. This year choir have also been selected to take part in the School Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. There will also be a number of events that the school will take part at the Derngate theatre including the NPAT Festival and the performing Arts Festival. In addition, we have a full sporting calendar that the school will participate in. Every class will go on a school trip this year costing approximately £16 and a shorter trip/visitor to school, for approximately £6. All of these exciting opportunities are designed to secure the aim of the school- to promote *ambitious learners, responsible citizens and dynamic individuals*.

There is additional funding for children who are eligible for free school meals however, financial restrictions must not be a barrier for children taking part in planned activities. Please see your class teachers or myself in the strictest confidence and a plan can always be found.

We are re-issuing the Home School Agreement, please share this document with your child. In particular, please discuss the school rules with your child.

Headlands has amazingly dedicated, hardworking staff. We are fully staffed with permanent teachers. Staff have made the school look fabulous for the start of term. I have the privilege of leading the school, alongside Mrs Smith (Deputy Head Teacher) and Mrs Worrell (Acting Assistant Head Teacher). Mrs Worrell will continue phase leading the Foundation Stage, Mrs Smith will temporarily lead Key Stage 1, Miss Wilson will phase lead Year 3&4 and Mrs Evans will phase lead 5&6.

We would like to invite you into school to meet your child's new teacher. This will take place on Monday 18 September at 2.50pm. There will be a presentation about homework expectations and an opportunity to walk round the school. (If you have more than one child, please listen to the presentation in one class and then visit the next.) Written information about homework expectations will be sent if you are unable to make this event.

We also hope that you will help to shape the future direction of the school. We will be asking your opinion on school issues through online questionnaires and we are eager to hear your voice at parent forums. We will also be seeking parent governors to strengthen the governing body that supports the school and holds it to account. Details on all of this to follow.

We look forward to an exciting school year. It is by working together that we will achieve.

*Darren*

## Homework

We have revised our expectations for homework taking into account parental feedback. Our intention has been to ensure that what children do at home supports learning at school. Most importantly, we need you and your child to keep on reading. We will teach your child to read (decode) fluently by the end of Year 1 and then teach them higher order reading skills as they go through the school. We need you to support us on this mission and so please ensure that you hear or share a book or facilitate reading of any type at least 4 times a week and sign in their Home/School Partnership Book. We have lots of exciting reading opportunities planned in school to inspire the children to love reading that we will introduce over the year as part of our reading strategy. Homework across the school will be distributed on a Friday for collection on the following Wednesday. Details of this will be on curriculum newsletters and in the policy which can be viewed on the website from the end of next week.

## Uniform

As we detailed in Headlines before the end of the school year, we want our children to look incredibly smart and be part of the Headlands team. We will be maintaining a strict approach to the standard of uniform. For information, please see below the uniform expectations:-

- All children are expected to wear the royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with the school logo.
- Children are expected to wear a gold polo shirt (preferably with the school logo).
- Children may wear **grey** trousers/shorts/skirt with grey tights or socks. Girls may wear a blue and white gingham summer dress.
- All shoes and sandals must be black. Sandals must be secured with a strap and must be worn with socks. Trainers are not expected to be worn other than for PE.
- Hair accessories should be minimal and preferably in school colours. Hair should be kept out of children's eyes using headbands, clips and slides; again using school colours.
- If you wish your child to wear a headscarf for religious reasons, then this item must be royal or navy blue. Headscarves must not have any embellishments, such as diamante decoration .
- If your child has shoulder length hair, for health and safety reasons, we request that it is tied back in a ponytail.
- Earrings must be a plain stud and definitely not a hoop for safety reasons.

In addition, children are expected to have coloured t shirts for PE (Cedar = Green, Cherry = Red, Birch = Blue, Oak = Yellow)

## Please note that children must have their PE kit in school all week.

Children cannot take part in PE if they are wearing earrings and it is their responsibility to remove them. As advised before the end of term, if you wish your child to have their ears pierced, please wait until the long summer break. If they are unable to remove earrings they miss out on the statutory entitlement to two sessions of PE a week and this is also disruptive to the class.

**Your school needs YOU! We are very welcoming of parent and community support. We will be sending out a separate letter shortly to ask for parental/community volunteers.**

### **The children are in charge!**

Increasingly, we want the children to be responsible for the decisions that they make and for their own actions and this will be promoted throughout the curriculum and will be a focus with our PSHE curriculum and Protective Behaviour initiative. We will also be relaunching our school Parliament to enable the voice of the children to be heard. Year 6 will lead the way with this. For each of the Houses we have named two House Captains. For the autumn term these children are, Cherry-Zaara and Bailey, Birch- Ridwana and Jake, Oak- Ellis and Natasha and Cedar- Jess and Davey. The Prefects are- Oliver, Eve, Imaan, Jack, Luca, Lillie. These children will support others positively at the end of play and lunch time to return to the classroom efficiently to start learning promptly. Also for Year 6 are the Value Ambassadors. These children will demonstrate the embedded values of DARE (Determination, Achievement, Respect and Enjoyment), by supporting in the school office, library and in Reception first thing in the morning. We are incredibly proud of all of our children, especially our Year 6 who will be the ultimate role model for others to follow.

### **Residentials and school trips**

There will be a Year 6 and Year 4 residential this year. Residential experiences are important and cherished experiences that make memories for children. Taking part on a residential supports team building, independence and above all self-esteem. We would like to invite all present Year 5 parents to a meeting regarding a proposed visit to France in September 2017 when the children are in Year 6. This will be on Thursday 12 October (time to be confirmed). For Year 4, we are planning to return to Kingswood in April 2017 and we would like you to attend on Tuesday 10 October at 3.30 or 6.00pm. Even if you are uncertain about your child taking part, we strongly recommend that you come to the meeting to find out more. We also look forward to ensuring that learning is inspired by trips out and visitors into school. Last year 48 children went to Kingswood and had an amazing time and in a couple of weeks we are taking 39 of the Year 6's to France. We strongly encourage you to support your child taking part in these incredible experiences.

### **Assemblies**

We look forward to welcoming all parents into school to share class assemblies. Dates of when your child is presenting their assembly is detailed on the curriculum newsletter, red sheet and website. We also look forward to continuing to celebrate all of the DARE achievements in school with everyone and the children's birthday. This year we will be introducing Head Teacher's Tea for children who display excellent conduct at lunchtimes. Celebration assemblies start at 2.40pm, so please be at school at 2.35pm. Please would you enter through main reception and sign in for safety and security reasons. Please then take a seat at the back of the hall and enjoy! Your child's teacher will send a letter the week before inviting you to see them being awarded for their great achievements.



### **Harvest Festival**

Our Harvest Festival will be held on Tuesday 3 October at 2.40pm. We will be celebrating this in school with the support of St Peters Church. We would like to ask you for a donation of dried or tinned food for this event. All produce will be donated to the Hope Centre for the homeless in Northampton. Please send donations in with your child on this day only please. We will be making a display of the produce and talking about the work of the recipient with the children as part of our Harvest celebrations.

### **Parking and traffic near school- Keeping our children safe**

Please be mindful of where you park when dropping off and collecting your child from school. First thing in a morning and the afternoon are always extremely busy times on roads near schools. It is imperative, for the **safety of all children**, that parents are mindful of where they park. Our car park is strictly for staff only and taxis bringing children to school. For safety reasons, it must not be used as a short cut. Please do not park on the zig zag lines or across driveways that upsets our neighbours. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**Year 5-** Please note that children in Year 5 should enter and exit the school from outside of the main office. However, if you are dropping siblings off on the playground, the children may enter through the Year 4 door. The same in the afternoon, if you are collecting other children from the playground, Year 5 will be allowed to exit through the Year 4 door.

Safeguarding our children. It's everyone's business...

Safeguarding the welfare of children is paramount at our school. The poster below, detailing who is responsible for safeguarding is published extensively around school and on the website. Please see one of us in the strictest of confidence if you have concerns about a child. Alternatively you can call the MASH team at the local authority on 0300 126 1000.



# Safeguarding Children

**“Our school is committed unreservedly to safeguarding and protecting all of our children”**

Designated child protection members of our staff are:-



**Mr Darren Smith**  
Head Teacher



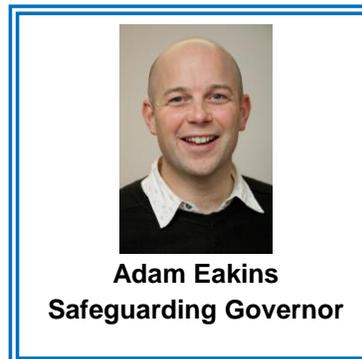
**Mrs Karen Smith**  
Deputy Head Teacher



**Mrs Sharon Richie**  
Family Support Worker



**Catherine Capell**  
Safeguarding Governor



**Adam Eakins**  
Safeguarding Governor

**Mash Team Contact**  
**0300 126 1000 Ext 13**