



Headlines (Term 1)

Educational Excellence

Creating Opportunities

Enriching Lives

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been really exciting to welcome all of the children back to school this week. They have settled well back in class and every minute has been used for exciting learning. Early next week, the school will email information about what your child is learning in school this term together with how you can support the Virtue of Honesty at home, what additional endeavours the children will be doing to support their character development and how you can support your child at home with their reading. School dates for the year will be sent to parents in the next week.

The start of the year is always a good time to remind everyone what the vision of our school is and what we plan to achieve during the course of the year. Our vision to achieve **educational excellence, create opportunities and enrich lives** is underpinned with our established **DARE Values** (*Determination, Achievement, Respect and Enjoyment*) and our *Virtues* (*Honesty, Compassion, Gratitude, Curiosity, Responsibility, Ambition*) as we endeavour to provide opportunities, in the curriculum for children to **understand themselves, understand their world and understand others**. The diagram on the reverse provides greater detail of our intent.

Over time we have worked hard to ensure that all children reach their potential with their academic learning. The way that we teach reading, writing and maths and the wider curriculum is consistent throughout the school and outcomes go from strength to strength. It is also important that school supports the development of children’s character. To enable the children to *understand themselves, understand their world and understand others* we are intentional and ambitious with the experiences that the children will encounter during the year. We are calling this ‘The Journey’. During the year, your child will engage in ambitious experiences with prestigious organisations that will support their curriculum learning, and their personal, cultural, moral and social understanding- all that contributes to the development of character.

Looking forward this year, we are keen to give greater prominence to supporting children to be confident speakers through engagement with an oracy project. We also recognise the importance of impacting positively on the environment which will be a priority in all aspects of school life from now and onwards. Other highlights will be a whole school project inspired by ‘The Iron Man’ by Ted Hughes and our continued work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Gallery.

What further makes our school successful are the established relationships that we have with each other based on a shared language derived from our DARE Values. Staff at Headlands care deeply for the children, as such the conduct of the children in class and around school is exceptional (although not without incident!). We have discussed the importance of kindness and generosity to others and we seek to extend, as a result, and receive this from all members of our school community.

Over the summer, the Woodlands redevelopment was completed. The 40 children now in the setting have a great environment bespoke to their needs. The refurbishment of Year 1 was complete, much of the communal areas of the school were redecorated and new, bright playground markings have been created. In October, the new soft play surfaces will be laid in the playground and our central courtyard will be completed. The school looks great and we can’t wait to welcome you in with events planned in school.

We look forward to an exciting, forward thinking and ambitious school year for everyone.

13 September	Year 6 residential to Longtown (5 days)
20 September	Harvest Festival
28 September	Residential meeting for Year 5 parents- 3.30pm/ 6pm (when children are in Y6) (details to follow)
5 October	Kingswood residential meeting for Year 4 parents 3.30pm/ 6pm (details to follow)
7 October	Welcome to Reception- 6pm
18/ 20 October	Termly Learning Conversations

Safeguarding children is our priority. If you have a concern about the welfare of a child please contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) [03001267000](tel:03001267000). In school the lead designated person for safeguarding is Mrs Smith. Other designated safeguarding leads are Mr Smith and Mrs Fadal. It is everyone’s business to keep children safe.