

HEADLINES...

• Issue 5/ May 2016

INTRODUCING AN EXCITING, NEW APPROACH TO THE CURRICULUM

Since the start of the year, teachers have been working tirelessly behind the scenes on many new initiatives aimed at inspiring the children to love learning and to raise standards of achievement in our school. The work that we have been doing coincides with the biggest change to national curriculum and assessment system since its creation nearly 30 years ago. The foundations to the work that we have been doing are in line with those of NPAT, as we work together to achieve the best for all of our children. Read on to find out more...

Upcoming dates:

- 6 June – School Re-Opens
- 10 June – Queen's birthday party
- 13 June – Parent forum 2pm & 6pm
- 15 June – Nursery new parents eve
- 16 June – Reception new parents eve
- 16 June – Group Photographs
- 27 June – Sports Day
- 4 July – Transfer Day
- 8 July – End of Term Reports
- 13 July – Year 6 Leavers Event
- 20 July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- 20 July – School Closes for Summer

NEW APPROACH TO THE CURRICULUM

Throughout my career, curriculum design and creativity has always been my passion and it has been a privilege to work with staff and other professionals to create something bespoke for Headlands. From next term, we will be introducing an enquiry based curriculum. At the heart of the curriculum will be the teaching of the core subjects, reading, writing and maths. We have taken the requirements of the national curriculum and grouped them to make connections between subjects, so that they can be taught thematically.

There will be a new theme each term and at times throughout the year we will be working on whole school projects and projects across the Trust. Each theme has a question to inspire learning and challenge; we call this our prime learning challenge. Themes will start sensationally with an inspiring stimulus. This might be discovering artefacts about the Stone Age in the school grounds or an educational visit. From such a rich stimulus the children will be inspired to ask questions that will lead their learning. Children will work together collaboratively and for much of the time will be up and doing. The curriculum will promote all subject areas and is geared to the interests of children.

The curriculum promotes depth of learning and mastery in all academic subjects. Each of our themes will have a creative endpoint where children share their learning with you during our 'Love Learning' events throughout the year. We will give you plenty of notice of themed events which will be displayed on our new website from the beginning of the year.

School visits and visiting speakers will be integral to the curriculum as we immerse children in inspiring concepts to provoke thinking. Again, we will be giving parents plenty of notice of upcoming events on the website, for the year, from September. Also, look out for the transformational learning environments. If you happen on year 4 next term, you will have to find yourself ploughing through the rainforest to get there! Again, we look forward to sharing this with parents throughout the next academic year.

To start off your child's theme next term, they will be bringing home an inspired challenge which we call the 'brilliant beginning'. Please support your child with this mission.

I would very much like you to join us for a parent forum when curriculum and assessment will be discussed on 13 June at 2pm and 6pm.

Darren



Year 3 at the zoo

A NEW APPROACH TO WRITING

As you are already aware, since January we have implemented a new phonics programme, Read, Write Inc. Yesterday we had a development day from their consultant who has been supporting the school. They were highly complementary of the school and how far we have come in a short period of time with the implementation of the strategy. In future, it is our intention to ensure that all children at the end of Year 1 are competent and confident decoders of text before they enter Year 2. This year we are hopeful of our best results ever with phonics, hopefully smashing the national average!

You are also aware that we have introduced a new spelling strategy from Year 2 which is developing well in school.

Much time and effort has been spent planning the writing curriculum. To significantly raise standards in this area we are enhancing all that we do as a Trust with drama for learning, we have then had some consultant support to advise us how, as a school, we can ensure we have a consistent approach to the teaching of this subject. Everyone has been inspired by the training and where we have tried it out, children have been really enthusiastic. Writing will be always inspired by the theme that the children are investigating at the time, it will be fun and exciting. Watch this space...

HOW WE WILL ASSESS THE NEW CURRICULUM

Underpinning the curriculum is the teaching of depth and mastery. Gone are national curriculum levels nationally and schools are now allowed to design their own curriculum and assessment protocols. Again, our school is doing this alongside the Trust. From Year 1 children will be taught at milestones. KS1- milestone 1, lower KS2- milestone 2, upper KS2- milestone 3. Unlike levels, children are expected to be working at a standard expected of their year group either at a basic, advancing or deep level. The fundamental difference is that children will master skills and concepts and be supported to reach a deep level of understanding in the milestone before moving on to the next milestone. This is in line with the national curriculum and assessment expectations. I will write to you again with more detail about this before the end of the school year. Information will be posted on the website and it will be discussed at parent forum as detailed earlier.



CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

To celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, the school will be having a tea party on Friday 10th June. The afternoon will start off with an assembly about the Queen and her visits to Commonwealth countries. The children will explore this further in class before celebrating with a tea party. We would like to see children wearing red, white and blue for this event. There is no cost. We look forward to sharing photographs with you. **Please note there will be no school assembly on this day.**

Don't forget Sports Day on:
Monday 27 June 2016



HEADLANDS AT THE DERNGATE

Following the amazing success of our dance troupe in the Junior Strictly dance competition at the Dergate in November, the school has been invited to take part in the Grand Final on **Saturday 9 July 2016** where our children will be competing against the top schools from Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. I am sure you will agree that this is a fantastic opportunity for the children to represent the school and showcase their talents. If you would like to come along and show your support tickets are now on sale. Our children will be taking part in the 6pm performance and this year there is a very special guest judge - Giovanni Pernice from Strictly Come Dancing! Tickets can be bought in person at the box office, over the phone on 01604 624811 or through the website by copying the following into your web browser. <http://www.royalanderngate.co.uk/WhatsOn/SelectSeating/?pid=372609&perfID=43054#PrimaryNav>. Family tickets are available at the box office for parents wishing to bring siblings/grandparents and are four tickets for £40.