



HEADLINES...

Issue 1 / September 2018

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 that has already got off to a cracking start with an archaeological dig in Year 3, a planetarium visit in Year 5 and a visit by some tropical animals in Year 4 amongst many other events that have happened to inspire children's learning.

In my first assembly, I spoke to the children about 'building success'. The children clearly understood what success meant from our work that we have done previously. We discussed that 'success' in all aspects of school life can only be achieved if we all work together. I am looking forward to seeing the children continuing to working collaboratively and with a positive mindset, and also continuing to demonstrate resilience. Continuing with these expectations will further secure our aims of nurturing and developing *ambitious learners, responsible citizens and dynamic individuals* and strengthen our values of DARE (determination, achievement, respect and enjoyment).

The children have returned to school looking smart in their new uniform. Years 5 and 6 look incredible with their shirt and ties. This really does set the standard of expectation and the children are clearly really proud of it. We are as disappointed, as you are, that the School Uniform Shop ran out of stock of the tie. We have addressed this with them. I have been informed that they are now back in stock. Please ensure that all children in Years 5 and 6 have a tie for w/c 23rd September. Please could I remind parents that nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted.

The summer break was dominated by major refurbishment in school; this time a new boiler and heating system has been installed at a cost of 0.25m. This was a huge job to complete within the holiday period. Completion will be during the next holiday. We will all be warm this winter! In addition, our Nursery has been refurbished and is now a bright space for children to start their learning journey.

A priority for school improvement this year in school and across the trust is vocabulary. We will be promoting a wide range of specific and technical vocabulary throughout the curriculum and it will be a specific focus in our teaching of reading. In addition we will be continuing to develop our curriculum, again to ensure that vocabulary is presented but also to ensure a secure knowledge base is established.

In addition to 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. 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**. Headlands will also be leading the trust on a bespoke project with the **National Gallery**. More detail about this will follow shortly... In addition, we have a full sporting calendar that the school will participate in. These events will not only support learning and contribute to the schools values and aims; they will also be memory making experiences for all of the children. The cost of the planned experiences must not be a barrier to children taking part. Please contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Fadal louise.fadal@headlands.org.uk our learning mentor or myself in the strictest confidence if financial support is required.

Headlands has amazingly dedicated, hardworking staff. I have the privilege of leading the school, alongside Mrs Smith (Deputy Head Teacher) and Mrs Green (Assistant Head Teacher). Miss Harvey will be leading the Foundation Stage, Mrs Wall will be leading Key Stage 1, Miss Wilson lower Key Stage Two and finally, Mrs Evans will be leading upper Key Stage 2.

We would like to invite you into school to meet your child's new teacher. This is an informal meeting for you to put a face to the name of your child's class teacher. This will take place on **Tuesday 25th September**. The children will exit as normal at 3.15pm and will then bring you back into class and introduce you to their teacher.

Homework

The intention with homework is to ensure that what children do at home supports their learning at school. Most importantly, we need you and your child to keep on reading and to promote vocabulary with what is read and said. 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

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 ear pieced, 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. If children cannot do PE due to having their ears pierced, it will be a parent's responsibility to supervise their child during PE sessions. A full description of uniform expectations can be found on the website.

Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming all parents into school to share class assemblies. Dates of when your child is presenting their class assembly is detailed on the curriculum newsletter, red sheet and website. This year, for children in Years 3-6, the celebration assembly will take place at the end of every term rather than weekly, this is to ensure that we maximise learning time and also to make the event far more prestigious to recognise the children's hard work. The Friday celebration assembly will remain the same for Reception and Years 1-2. Parents will be given a week's notice if their child is to receive an award.



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be held on Tuesday 2nd October. 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.

School information

Please find the 'red sheet' that will be sent as a hard copy. The red sheet contains dates for upcoming school events. These are provided from the outset to allow parents to plan diaries and hopefully take part in what is planned.

Please could I also remind everyone that we are a nut free school. This is to ensure the safety of children in our school with severe nut allergies.

We look forward to an exciting year, working together to ensure that children achieve their very best in all aspects of school life.

Darren