



HEADLINES...

• Issue 7 / September 2016

Welcome to the new school year!

I am delighted that the children have arrived back to school safely following the summer break. The holidays were a very busy time in school with the refit of the library and upper key stage 2 classrooms. We are very pleased with the result as I am sure that the children will have told you. Also completed (nearly) is our 'Emporium.' This is a special room that has been created in the school. It is very exciting, details to follow soon.....

We welcome to Headlands this term, Mrs Smith our new Deputy Head Teacher and Mrs Evans, our new upper key stage 2 Phase Leader. We also welcome new teaching assistants to the school to support learning in class, with individuals or as part of our Unit team.

Last year brought successes as the school achieved, for the first time, above national average in the Year 1 phonics check and also the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Foundation Stage. Children achieved well at the end of key stage 1, although as yet there are no national comparisons. At Year 6, whilst the school achieved the government floor target, still too many children and groups of children did not achieve as well as national. This as I have informed you about in the past, has been an historic trend and something we are addressing rigorously in all that we do.

Much work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure what happens in the classroom ensures great outcomes for all of our children. The main theme has been creating consistency in school in all that we do. We have introduced a consistent approach to the teaching of reading, writing and maths and there has been a great deal of training and ongoing support to make sure that the strategies thrive. Crucially, I am fortunate to lead an amazing and committed staff who are determined to make it work, and it will! Underpinning all that we do is the new approach we are taking to the curriculum. It is crucially important that children love coming to school and that they are safe and happy. **We are determined that in all that we do that we make memories and have fun.**

This week, year groups will be sending home their curriculum newsletter. This will give you details of what is happening in each year group. We want you to be part of it. We will inform you via the class blog of what has been happening in class and we want you to join in with the fun at school. We have scheduled Thoroughly Thrilling events at the end of most terms to ensure parental involvement for years Foundation to Year 4. We are also re-introducing a long established Headlands tradition of class assemblies for all year groups. Dates for these events will be detailed on the curriculum news.

Communication is really important to ensure the smooth running of the school. We have launched the new website:

www.headlands.org.uk

This will detail all dates for this academic year to enable parents to plan ahead. The key dates are also attached as the 'red sheet.' There are always things that occur along the way, but we will keep key events as planned.

We look forward to working effectively together with all parents throughout the year. On **Monday 19 September** we would like to invite all parents into school at 3.25pm-3.45pm to meet your child's class teacher. This will be an opportunity for you and us to say 'hello' and get to know each other. (We will dismiss the children in the usual way, and then invite you back into the classroom.)

We look forward to a happy, exciting and productive school year as we embark on our journey together.

Darren

The role of the new phase leaders

We are delighted to be developing the role of phase leaders in the school. The phase leaders will be responsible for ensuring that year groups work together collaboratively and consistently and that all children reach their potential. All staff will promote an open door policy as we ensure that we work effectively with parents. If you have an issue, or kind comment, please see your child's class teacher in the first instance (after school is a more preferable time as teachers have greater capacity to discuss things with you then). Often issues can be easily resolved, however, if they are not you are welcome to contact the phase leader responsible for your child. In Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) this is Mrs Worrell, in Years 1 and 2 this is Mrs Fryers (Assistant Head Teacher), in Years 3 and 4 this is Miss Wilson and in Years 5 and 6 this is Mrs Evans. Mr Smith's door is always open if you need to chat (especially about great things!)

Homework

We have revised our expectations for homework. Our intention has been to ensure that what children do at home is relevant and age appropriate. 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 of any type at least 4 times a week and sign in their Home/ School Partnership Book. (We have had a problem with these being delivered, but they should be with us by the end of the week.) 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.

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 preferably 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.

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.



YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

We would like to gather an army of parent/ carer helpers to support us in school next year. Support can be for one session or more depending on how much time you are able to give us. We would like support with hearing children read and practicing basic maths such as their times tables or supporting in the library. We would also like help with preparing books and resources as we have upped the expectations in regard to presentation. Full training and support will of course be given. If you are interested please email. Annie Booth bursar@headlands.northants-ecl.gov.uk for an information pack or just pop into the school office. You will be required to agree to a DBS check to be done and a satisfactory reference. This is free of charge and we would organise. Any support would be incredibly appreciated.

Year 6 are in charge!

We have told the children that it is 'their' school and that they are responsible for it! We have increased the expectation of Year 6 to lead the way with this. For each of our houses (that all children belong to) we have named two House Captains. For the autumn term these children are, Cherry = Charlotte McRobbie and Joel White, Birch = Emily Neale and Luka Novakovic, Oak = Finley Wake and Lily Wilson and Cedar = Aleksander Khan and Ciara Mahney. We have also introduced the role of Prefects. These children will support others positively at the end of play and lunch time to return to the classroom efficiently to start learning promptly. These children for the Autumn term are John Abraham, Zakkaria Ahmed, Aaron Carter, Lana Higgs, Erin Holtby, Nasreen Hussein, Edwin Joy and Chloe Landy. We have also introduced Value Heroes. 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.

Residential and school trips

We are planning two residential experiences for children this year. As planned these will be for Year 6 and Year 4. Residential are crucial and cherished experiences that make memories for children at school. Crucially, 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 **Tuesday 20 September at 3.30pm and 6.30pm**. For Year 4, we are planning to return to Kingswood in April 2017 and we would like you to attend on **Tuesday 11 October at 3.30pm and 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 will discuss cost although we will ensure that this is never a barrier to the children taking part. We also look forward to ensuring that learning is inspired by trips out and visitors into school. Usually, the cost of this is approximately £16 for the one large trip that we do annually and approximately £5 for a short trip or visitor that we may invite into school. (We are able to subsidise the cost for children in receipt of free school meals by 75% through additional, ring fenced, money given to us

Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming all parents into school to share class assemblies. Dates of when your child is presenting theirs 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. Due to time commitments, we can no longer celebrate home awards during this time as the assembly was becoming too rushed. We would, however, still like your child to bring in their great achievements into school to share with their class. 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 4 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 Daylight 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 taking about the work of the recipient with the children as part of our Harvest celebrations. We thank in in advance for this.

Parking and traffic near school- Keeping our children safe.

Please would parents 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 their conduct and how they park. It is imperative that driveways are not obstructed by traffic. We had several complaints from our neighbours last year about obstructive parking. Such behaviour is not fair on them and I have asked if their property is obstructed again, that vehicle registrations are recorded. Thank you in advance for your understanding with this matter.

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:-



Mrs Karen Smith
Deputy Head Teacher



Mr Darren Smith
Head Teacher



Mrs Sue Marriott
Family Support Worker