



HEADLINES...

Proud to be part of Northampton Primary Academy Trust Issue 14 / January 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers

We were pleased to see all the children back safe and well following the Christmas holiday and on behalf of the whole school community we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

2018 promises to be a busy and very exciting time for Headlands. Teachers kick started the year on Wednesday with training on the teaching of science and inspiring the curriculum through drama. The day was very productive and all staff felt inspired. The school now has a consistent approach to the teaching of science and allowing the children to be scientists and to lead their own lines of enquiry. As you know, we are deeply committed to inspiring the children through engaging learning experiences and the second part of the day was designed to support staff to further develop this. In doing so, we also discussed how to further promote children's ability to work both independently and collaboratively; further strengthening the aims of the school to nurture and develop ambitious learners, responsible citizens and dynamic individuals.

Inspired by the training day, all year groups will immerse themselves into their thematic work with exciting stimuluses. For example, Year 4 will be investigating the arctic and the disappearance of the polar bears and as a stimulus for their theme, the year group will be ice skating at Beckworth Emporium, Wellingborough. The children will be inspired by the frozen environment to explore vocabulary and discuss what life is like living on the ice. Year 3 will be visiting the Emporium to discover artefacts from long ago to inspire their theme on communication. We look forward to displaying the children's work throughout the school during the term.

At the end of last term, we had our first of three assessment points in the year. We have set aspirational targets for all children such as our ambition for all children to achieve their best. All children's achievements were discussed as well as any pastoral needs that were relevant. Teachers have a secure understanding of the needs of the children and if a child is not on target to reach their potential, intervention is planned. We will be reporting to parents at the end of term on how your child is progressing. If we have concerns, be sure that we will be working with you to ensure that your child is supported to achieve their potential. Our assessment protocol is in line with other schools in the trust, and later this term the trust will be conducting their annual review of the school.

We were delighted with the results of the parental questionnaire that was completed by you during TLCs last term. There were 203 responses providing a highly representative sample of parental opinion. Your confidence in the school is overwhelming and it is by working together that we will achieve the best for your children. We always have excellent attendance at school events such as thoroughly thrilling events and whole school events such as deck the halls. It is great to have you all involved in school life. I am also pleased that we have parents joining the governing body starting this term. Their role is crucial in supporting the school and holding it to account. However, it is regrettable that our parents association had to fold last year due to lack of enough participation. As a result we have been unable to host discos etc, events that the children love. Nevertheless, some parents have come forward with ideas for the future and Mrs Worrell, Assistant Head Teacher, will be working with them on a new approach to parental support and working with the community. She will also be looking at how to evolve parent forum. Historically, we have had little turnout to parent forum and we look at other ways of engaging parents in the strategic development of the school.

Our attendance remains slightly above the national average. We would of course like to improve on this. More importantly however, is the great number of children arriving late that is causing concern. Last term, there were 639 lates. I wrote to those parents who had been late on 3 occasions. This must improve this term. When a child arrives late it is detrimental to their learning and can be upsetting and frustrating for them when they have to catch up with the lesson. It is also hugely disruptive to the smooth running of the school and the work of the admin team who have to take children to class. Please remember that learning starts at 8.45am and registers close at 8.55am, after this time children are registered 'late'.

Last term, we were pleased to be open on the day it snowed. Opening in adverse weather conditions will always be our default position. We are responsible for making the decision based on knowledge of a range of variables. As stated in a previous letter, we were disappointed that some parents took to social media to complain about the school being open. We were supported by a great number of parents for opening. We recognise the importance of the responsible use of social media in effectively communicating to parents, especially with our blogs. Next week, Mrs Worrell will be writing to parents about the new approach that we are taking to social media and the expectations that we have of parents who use it. We are always open to parents concerns and are eager to discuss them, however social media is not the place for this. Derogatory comments are offensive to the school and the work that we do and to those parents who support us.

It is with great pride and excitement that I inform you that Julia Kedwards, Chief Executive Officer of the trust (NPAT) has been awarded an OBE by the Queen for the work that she has done establishing NPAT and for what she continues to do in the Trust. I have known Julia for many years and I was privileged to be her deputy when she was Head Teacher at Ecton Brook. I know first-hand of her tenacious commitment to improving the education and life chances of all children. It is reassuring to know that we have someone like her leading the trust with a moral and uncompromising vision.

As we announced last term, we warmly welcome new members of staff to the Headlands team. These include Mrs Singh our new teacher in Nursery, Miss Cheng, our new teacher to Foxes class in the Unit and Mrs King, our new Early Years Practitioner in Foundation Stage. In addition, welcome to Mrs Carter our new librarian (aka Reading Warrior) and finally to Miss Kaur, a new teaching assistant in Rabbits class.

So, indeed a busy and exciting time ahead. Not forgetting that Years 5 and 6 will be taking part in Young Voices, a 7000 strong choir in Birmingham later this month. This is always a highlight of the year.

Darren

School Council

Congratulations to the school council who last term raised £223 towards establishing a permanent reflection space in the school. They achieved this by raffling hampers donated by the Co-op on Bushland Road. This term, the children will be working with their buddy to plan this new facility in school. Led by the school council, we raised £553.27 for Children in Need. In other business, the school council will be researching healthy lunch boxes; they will be presenting their findings to the school.



Supporting the children's personal, social, health education (PSHE)

As you are aware, we introduced a new PSHE curriculum in September. Monitoring of the subject has found that the children are enjoying their lessons which are taught consistently throughout the school. Last term, the theme was 'being me in my world'. This included the work on anti-bullying and as part of this each class decorated their classroom door to represent themselves as being 'all the same, all different' (pictured). This term, the theme is 'Dreams and Goals'. The children will also be doing further work on protective behaviours. You can support your child at home by talking about aspirations for the future.

This term we will be promoting safe use of the internet. A parent session will be held on 6th February at 3.30 and 6.30. We strongly advise parents to attend this important session. More details to follow.

Key dates this term –

Monday 15 January – KS1 SATs meeting 3.30pm and 6.30pm

Tuesday 16 January – KS2 SATs meeting 3.30pm and 6.30pm

Friday 26 January – Young Voices in Birmingham

Tuesday 30 January – Thoroughly Thrilling Event – Year 3 and Year 4

Tuesday 6 February – Safe Use of the Internet Parent Session – 3.30pm and 6.30pm

Thursday 8 February – Thoroughly Thrilling Event – Rec, Year 1 and Year 2

Friday 9 February – Woodlands Unit Assembly at 9.00am

Friday 9 February – Mental Health Awareness Day

Friday 9 February – End of Term 3

**Headlands Primary School Parental
Questionnaire 2017-2018**

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Don't know		Box not filled in	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
My child is happy at the school	128	63	74	36.5	1	0.5						
My child feels safe at this school	130	64	72	35.5	1	0.5						
My child makes good progress at this school	141	69	58	29	4	2						
My child is well looked after at this school	143	70.5	55	27	1	0.5			2	1	2	1
My child is taught well in this school	140	69	59	29							4	2
My child receives the appropriate amount of homework for their age	113	56	76	37	3	1.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	7	3.5
The school makes sure that its pupils are well behaved	114	56	78	38.5	5	2.5			4	1.97	2	1
The school deals effectively with bullying	81	40	71	35	5	2.5	2	1	37	18	4	2
The school is well led and managed	101	50	84	41	2	1			5	2.5	11	5.5
The school responds well to any concerns that I raise	109	54	76	37	5	2.5			10	5	3	1.5
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	124	61	69	34	6	3					4	2

	Yes		No		Not Completed		Don't Know / Maybe	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Would you recommend this school to another parent	197	97.00	6	3				

	Count	%
The school values are having a strong impact on my child	115	57.00
The school values are having some impact on my child	41	20.00
The school values are having no impact on my child	2	1.00
Box not completed	45	22

Number of children on roll (November 2017) 449

Number of forms returned 203

% of forms returned 45%