

HEADLINES...

• Issue 9 / April 2017

Welcome back to the start of the summer term. This is the first Headlines for some time this is because I have a temporary teaching commitment in Year 6 (that I am enjoying very much) which is taking up much of my time. I am sure that you have felt updated with texts and emails and the frequent posts on your child's class blog. As ever, I have complete admiration for the hard work and dedication of the staff at Headlands and how the children respond so brilliantly. We have embarked on so many new strategies this year that are developing well in school, you will have seen evidence of them in the work your child has been doing in reading, writing and maths at TLCs before the break. It is of paramount importance to us that your child is inspired to learn and a great deal of work has been done to create new thematic units of work. Children in Year 2 have loved

Upcoming dates:

24-26 April – Y4 Residential
1 May – Bank Holiday
8-12 May – Year 6 SATS
9 May – Class 7 Assembly
'Respect'
15 May – Sports Day
16 May – Class 1 Assembly
'Our Queen'
24 May – Parent Forum (2&6pm)
29 May-2 June – Half Term
15 June – School Photographer
22 June – Dad's Event 1.30-3.00

recreating the great fire of London on the school field as their Tudor houses caught fire! In Year 1, the children proudly demonstrated their slippers as part of the 'Elves and the Shoemaker' topic. Year 5 have exhibited their rivers topic to the entire school, demonstrating their confidence and knowledge. Throughout the school and in partnership with other NPAT trust schools and the Royal Shakespeare Company, we embarked on the Tempest project. It was great receiving a letter from a parent in Reception who spoke about how Shakespeare had captivated their child's imagination at the age of 5. Throughout the school, displays demonstrate the children's enjoyment of the work and how writing is embedded at the core of what we do. To end the term, it was great to welcome lots of mums and grandparents to the Mothers' Day afternoon tea. It was quite a task to produce 600 scones for the event. We are glad that it was appreciated, and your kind comments have been recorded in the visitors' book. We will continue with such events and to involve parents/carers in your child's education. It is by working together that we will achieve. Dads - it's your turn on Thursday 22nd June from 1.30pm-3.00pm. Save the date, details to follow...

I was also proud to see our Years 5&6 children perform at Young Voices in Birmingham and the choir to represent the school at the Big Sing at the Derngate. In addition it was a privilege for Year 5 to represent the school with a brilliant dance at the Derngate as part of the Tempest project.

And so to the summer term, our priorities are to continue to embed the strategies that we have introduced and through inspired units of work and with support and intervention. It is the term of Year 6 SATs. I am so proud of Year 6 for their commitment and hard work. They have been on a momentous journey and could not have tried any harder. Good luck in May Year 6! Statutory assessments will also be made in Year 2 and in Year 1 with progress in phonics. As a school we will be introducing a new approach to the teaching of personal health and social education (PSHE) including mindfulness. We will introduce this to you before the end of the year. The upcoming parent forum at 2.00pm and 6.00pm on 24th May will be focusing on homework, as we review this in readiness for September. A busy, exciting term ahead and we look forward to you being part of it all.



Enjoying afternoon tea for Mother's Day

Darren

Uniform expectations

Visitors often comment on how our children look so smart in their uniform. Please be aware of the following expectations for summer uniform. In the summer children have the option to wear a blue and white gingham summer dress and sensible sandals or grey shorts instead of trousers. We would politely request that **grey** is the expected colour for shorts, trousers and skirts. Thank you for your continued support with this and for ensuring that your child feels part of the school team. (Full details can be found on the website www.headlands.org.uk).

Contacting Mr Smith

Unfortunately, some emails have not been getting through to me. I apologise if you have not had a response. In future, please email me on darren.smith@headlands.org.uk I will always respond promptly to correspondence.

Parking outside school

Unfortunately, I have been sent photographic evidence of cars being parked across driveways of our neighbours when parents at the start and end of the school day. On one occasion, a parent was verbally rude to a neighbour who challenged this. We must live in harmony with our neighbours and so we politely request that you park with consideration to others and at all times, ensure that children's safety is the main priority.

Attendance- children being in school to learn

Attendance at school has always been good and exceeded national averages of 96%. Last year attendance was 96% and our aim is to achieve 97% this year. We have 104 children who have achieved 100% attendance since September. Thank you for all of your efforts. Of equal importance is ensuring that your child arrives on time at 8.50 am each day. Learning starts promptly at this time and is disruptive to the class if your child arrives late and often, children can become upset when entering the class when learning has started.

Exciting times for Northampton Primary Academy Trust (NPAT)

You may have seen in the local news last week that NPAT has been successful in its bid to open a free school in Duston. This new school will open in September 2018 with Reception year and will build up over time. In addition, East Hunsbury Primary School will also be joining NPAT hopefully in September. Being part of a strong group of schools offers strength, challenge and support with our endeavour to ensure that all children succeed and achieve their best in all aspects of school life.



Headlands Nursery

We currently have 6 places left in our morning Nursery. Children can start at the Nursery the term after their third birthday. We offer:-

- **15 hours free childcare (9.00-12.00)**
- **Optional lunch club (12.00-1.00 - £4.00 per day)**
- **FREE swimming sessions**

To visit the Nursery please contact the school office on 01604 407098.

Please tell anyone you think might be interested. Thank you.

