



HEADLINES...

• Issue 8/ December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we quickly approach the end of the autumn term, I would like to celebrate with you all of the children's magnificent achievements and inform you of upcoming events next term. Our children have been excellent in their recent Christmas productions. We have seen excellent Nativities presented by Reception and Years 1 and 2 and a brilliant pantomime presented by Year 4. In addition, our extensive musical accomplishments were showcased in the carol concert, an evening of musical entertainment. All productions have wowed everyone. We have amazingly talented, confident and enthusiastic children and incredibly hardworking staff who make it all happen. To everyone, I would like to extend my thanks and a well-deserved 'well done!'

As you will be aware, it has been a year of great change in the way in which we teach the core subjects and our approach to the curriculum with the intent to raise standards and meet the requirements of the new national curriculum. At the start of the year we introduced a new early reading (phonics) strategy, this was followed by a new writing approach and reading approach, post phonics. We have continued to develop the approach to maths in line with the trust. As a result of the teachers' hard work, drive and commitment, we are now consistent in our approach to all that we teach and the strategies are having striking impacts on the outcomes for children. You will have seen the evidence of all of the children's hard work in their books during TLCs. In November, the trust (NPAT) visited the school to do our annual audit of teaching and learning. They commented favorably on the impact of all that has been done at Headlands and the impact this was having on the children. In making their judgements, they spoke to children, observed teaching and looked in the children's books.

We look forward to embedding all that has been introduced in 2017. I am looking forward to further ensuring that children are inspired to achieve and that school continues to be a place of excitement and ambition. Children are responding positively to the themes of learning and we have published the long term curriculum plans on the website (although this year, the themes may not be done in the order that they are presented). It is great to see classrooms and corridors transforming into rainforests, nocturnal places and WW2 Anderson shelters! These experiences make learning sparkle, fosters curiosity and a desire to achieve. Promoting excitement drives me as a Head and we have lots of things coming up next year to further enhance and inspire all that we do. Watch this space.....

Our successes have been celebrated beyond our school, as we have welcomed other schools to Headlands to observe how we are teaching phonics and writing. We are of course very proud of this!

We have also enjoyed welcoming parents into school to join in with the learning process. We have seen lots of parents at Thoroughly Thrilling events in Years Reception to Year 4. Also, we had an amazing response to Deck the Halls day recently. Thank you to everyone that attended. Future events are detailed on the red sheet issued at the start of the academic year. This can also be viewed on our new website www.headlands.org.uk.

Your children continue to be presented brilliantly in their uniform. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that trainers are not permitted as uniform and that grey trousers and skirts are expected. In addition, please would you ensure that your child's long hair is tied back for school and that nail varnish and jewellery are removed for school. **Please also ensure that your child has their PE kit in school all week. This is imperative.**

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made 2016 the success that it has been. I am privileged to lead highly committed, professional and aspirational teachers and assistants. We have exceptional support from our admin and site team. Also, the Governors and Northampton Primary Academy Trust (NPAT) continue to provide support and challenge in equal measure. Thanks also to the HSA for their continued support throughout the year, although I hope that numbers of volunteers will increase next year to enable the HSA to sustain what it is doing. Finally, I would like to thank our amazing children who, every day, rise to the challenge and inspire us all. I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year. I look forward to seeing the children back in school on Thursday 5th January 2017.

Darren

Welcome to the Emporium

Next term, to inspire children and immerse them in the world of William Shakespeare, we will be opening the Emporium. We have been creating the Emporium over the last few months upstairs, in a disused classroom. The Emporium is a mysterious setting, filled with curiosities from around the world. We are very excited about opening this unique, enchanted provision to the children and seeing their reaction. Below are a few photographs to inspire curiosity...



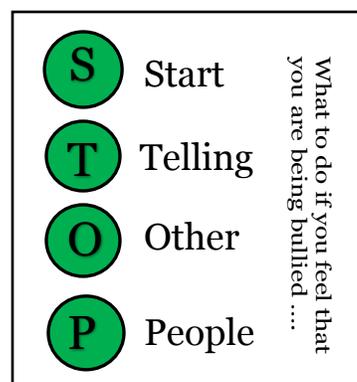
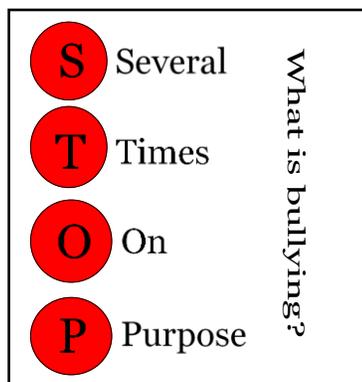
The Tempest – A Whole School Project



We are really excited about introducing all of the children to the work of William Shakespeare next term. As a school and trust, we will be working with the RSC to bring Shakespeare's work to life. The themes of the play will be explored and will inspire the children to lead their own lines of enquiry. We will be working with actors, artists and dancers to bring the theme alive. Details to follow next term.

Behaviour and making sure that everyone is safe and happy

It is of paramount importance that your child is happy and safe in school to enable them to enjoy and make progress with their learning. I am pleased to say that I continue to be highly impressed with how children look after and support each other in class and around school and thankfully incidents of inappropriate behaviour are rare. Nonetheless, as with all schools, incidents do sometimes occur and Year 6 recently presented an assembly promoting anti bullying to the school as part of national anti-bullying week. They spoke to the children about what bullying is, that we define as 'STOP', something that happens 'Several Times On Purpose', and that if children feel that this is happening, then they should 'STOP', 'Start Telling Other People'. Those people being trusted adults such as their parents or teachers. We reminded the children that bullying could be physical, emotional, name calling or cyber. Our STOP posters (below) are displayed in every classroom. Please discuss them with your child to ensure that they know what to do if they have a concern.



Parental questionnaire

Thank you to all of you who completed the parental questionnaire at TLCs earlier this term. There were 163 questionnaires returned, which provides a good representative sample of the opinions of parents. Whilst we are really pleased with the outcome and the continued high regard that you have for the school, we nevertheless consider very closely the comments made and use them to shape future developments.

Parental survey November 2016 163 responses (37%)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at the school	63.19	32.52	3.07	0.61	0
My child feels safe at this school	61.73	35.8	1.85	0	
My child makes good progress at this school	60.74	37.42	0.61	0	0.61
My child is well looked after at this school	64.81	31.48	1.23	0	0
My child is taught well in this school	67.48	30.67	0	0	0.61
My child receives the appropriate amount of homework for their age	46.01	42.33	6.75	0.61	0
The school makes sure that its pupils are well behaved	49.08	46.01	1.84	0	1.23
The school deals effectively with bullying	37.42	34.97	4.29	1.23	22.09
The school is well led and managed	46.63	44.17	2.45	0	6.13
The school responds well to any concerns that I raise	46.85	39.26	3.68	0	8.59
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	41.72	44.79	3.68	0	9.2

Would you recommend this school to another parent*	Yes 91.40	No 2.45
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*6 questionnaires did not record this information and 4 questionnaires recorded 'don't know'.

Our school values are (DARE) Determination, Achievement, Respect, Enjoyment*	The school values are having a strong impact on my child. 45.4	The school values are having some impact on my child. 31.9	The school values are having no impact on my child. 2.45
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*33 questionnaires did not record this information.

A message from Catherine Capell, Chair of the Governing Body

Dear Parents/Carers

As the end of a very busy autumn term draws closer, on behalf of all the governors of Headlands, I would like to let you know how immensely proud of ALL the children and staff in the school we are.

It has been an incredibly busy term, with lots of magical events to inspire your children. Staff work tirelessly to make sure that your children receive the BEST education and care that they can. Whenever I visit the school, I never cease to be amazed by your children's enthusiasm and delight in learning. In addition, they are respectful, thoughtful and polite; you should be very proud of them.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Headlands Primary School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We take this role very seriously and always welcome any feedback from you that can make us even more effective. Please don't hesitate to contact us, through the school, should you have any queries, concerns or comments to make.

The Governing Body has had a busy term focusing on school improvement. The annual School Development Plan sets out priorities for the year and, as governors, we track and monitor the progress that the school makes towards these priorities. We are pleased to see the progress and attainment the children are making: our job is to make sure that these outcomes continue to improve. We would like to note our thanks to Mr Smith, the Senior Leadership team and all staff for their continuous hard work and dedication.

Governors are responsible for Safeguarding and we now have two nominated governors for Safeguarding – Adam Eakins (parent governor) and Tony Covington (NPAT appointed governor). They can be contacted through the school. An annual safeguarding audit is carried out to ensure that all procedures in school are kept up to date. Governors also focus on how the Pupil Premium grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on outcomes.

In addition, Governors are responsible for ensuring that all school policies are reviewed and agreed regularly and in line with statutory guidelines. A number of key policies have been reviewed this year and we will continue to update others as we progress through the year.

Governors would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and exciting 2017.

Best wishes

Catherine