



HEADLINES...

Proud to be part of Northampton Primary Academy Trust

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Dear Parents/ Carers

As we end the spring term, I am finally able to send out a belated Headlines.

The term, as always has been extremely busy with so many events taking place. It was great to welcome lots of mums and grandparents into school for Mother's day celebrations. The children very much enjoyed building and then launching their rockets; this caused great excitement! In addition, parents have been in school for thoroughly thrilling events throughout the term as well as for termly learning conferences this week. As always we really appreciate parental participation in school. It is by working together that we will continue to achieve great things.

The children have been excellent ambassadors for the school at large events. In January, the Years 5&6 children sang as part of a 7000 strong choir at Young Voices in Birmingham. A group of children that play instruments in school were invited to the Royal Albert Hall to listen to a concert performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. This week, Year 5 have been on a nights residential at Benham Sports Centre, participating in a range of sporting activities. In addition, the school is set to achieve Silver Award for all of the sporting activities that it takes part in outside of school. Please explore the blogs to see what other amazing things the children have been up to.

This term we have been celebrating reading. Our celebrations culminated on World Book Day (in school we had a World Book week). Several events happened in school during the week; class doors were transformed into iconic book covers, teachers visited other classrooms to read extracts of their favourite children's stories and all children met with their buddies to celebrate reading. Although belated due to the snow, the week culminated with book at bedtime in the school hall. Many families returned to school in the evening, in their pyjamas, to read by touch light whilst enjoying biscuits and hot chocolate. Supporting and encouraging children to read for pleasure is really important. Together we will keep celebrating the joy of reading with the children at home and at school. I would like to thank Mrs Carter, our new librarian for all of the new initiatives for reading for pleasure that she is establishing in the library. Her passion for children's literature is infectious!

And so an eye to the summer term... We will continue to support our hardworking Year 6 children to achieve their best in their SATs. The Year 6s have had a special invitation to meet our MP, Michael Ellis at the Houses of Parliament for a tour of the iconic building. They will then take a clipper boat down the Thames to see London landmarks. This will be a memory making day, thoroughly deserved. In addition there will be sports day, our orchestra will be performing at the Arts Festival at the Deragate and Headlands music festival all before the end of the year.

It is also heartening to know that parents are coming together to support the school with a resurgent Friends of the school. Money raised is for the good of every child in the school. I hope that parents will support the planned events coming up and help out when you can.

At the end of this term we are saying goodbye to Dawn Smith who has been a TA at the school for 18 years. Dawn has been a committed TA throughout this time and she will be much missed. Also, as you are aware, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Worrell who will be taking up her first headship at Spaldwick Primary School on 30th April. More on Louise's goodbye next term.

As always, I would like to thank the entire school community for your support. The children at all times impress us and we are always proud of their achievements. Headlands has the most committed staff who work incredibly hard and are determined to achieve the best for all children. It is by continuing to work together that we will achieve the best for all.

Wishing all of our families an enjoyable spring break. School will reopen on Tuesday 17th April 2018.



A change of uniform

We are planning to make some changes to our school uniform next year. The changes will roll out over two years due to our contractual obligations with our uniform provider. From September, it is planned that children in Years 5 and 6 only will replace the gold polo shirt with a white shirt and tie. The jumper with the logo and grey trousers/ skirt and black shoes will remain the same. There will be no change to PE uniform expectations. The rest of the school will follow in the following year. Children in Year 5 are positive about the changes. More information will be sent in a separate letter. We would very much like to receive your positive comments via a questionnaire, following the link below: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5w5mJndzfEuDveV_yyid-Lf-dO4LM2xOpnKAWHLMbnBUODQwRjJENDEzUIM3OUZaUUNTNEpNQ1RBNC4u

Attendance and punctuality

As we have informed parents previously, our attendance has fallen below the national average for the first time. Much of this can be explained by genuine sickness and other factors. However, some absences cannot be explained and are not valid sometimes resulting in children becoming persistently absent (below 90%). Education is essential and the school seeks for all children to achieve their best. As already advised, holidays in term time will not be authorised, and children missing 10 session (5 days) or 10 unauthorised sessions over time will be referred to the local authority who may serve a penalty notice. In addition, we are averaging 35 occurrences of children being late for school. Lateness is highly disruptive to children and staff. It is a parent's responsibility to get their children to school on time. Please can a concerted effort be made with this in the summer term. Thank you.



Keeping the children safe

This week the local authority have been out to school to observe the safety of children when exiting the school. The school does not currently benefit from a school crossing or any other traffic calming provision. There will be other visits before the local authority suggest what they can do to support safer access and exiting from school. In the meantime we continue to strongly urge parents to be responsible when dropping off and collecting children as it is everyone's responsibility to keep them safe and to respect our neighbours. We would strongly encourage parents to park in the mosque carpark or on Bush Hill and walk through the alley. Thank you.

An invitation to all dads: Please attend our Dad's Event on Thursday 21st June at 1.45pm



Keeping your child safe online

Again, we ask parents in the **strongest terms** to supervise and monitor their children's activities when using the internet. Largely affecting the older years, we continue to have parents showing us unkind behaviour, sometimes using bad language that has been posted on platforms such as Instagram, Whatsapp and Snapchat. There is a clear age restriction on these sites that we have published repeatedly. We **strongly advise** that parents do not allow their children to access to these platforms and that you supervise at all times as often such conversations are happening late at night when we suspect that parents are not aware.

Key dates next term

25th-29th April- Y4 residential to Kingswood, West Runton

14th-18th May- year 6 SATs week

15th May- Year 3 assembly- Mr Kelly

21st May- Sports Day (23rd May- alternative sports day if wet)