



HEADLINES...



Part of Northampton Primary Academy Trust Issue 13 / November 2017

Dear Parents/ Carers

We were pleased to see the safe return of the children following the break and the term as ever has got off to a busy and exciting start.

To inspire the children with their learning, all year groups have experienced their 'sparkling start'. In Year 1, the children have begun to enquire about whether their toys are better than toys from long ago by coming to school dressed as their favourite toy. It was great to see Buzz Lightyear and Lego bricks walking through the corridor. Year 2 dressed as builders to begin their theme and in Year 5 the children came dressed as evacuees in the Second World War as they began to enquire about what life was like for children in the war.

This term is one of the busiest in school as we prepare for Christmas. There will be the usual Nativity in Reception, the Year 2 Nativity and the Year 3/4 pantomime. These occasions are really important to a child's time in school. They are not only the stuff that memories are made of but also such experiences help to increase children's confidence and aspirations as well as providing the opportunity for talented children to shine. As usual, Mrs Cornforth and Mrs Reamsbottom will be hosting the annual Christmas musical extravaganza. Dates for these events were published on the red letter at the start of the year and are on the website. They are also listed below.

In addition, the choir has been invited by the county music service, NMPAT, to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, in London next week. This is a true privilege and we are currently working hard in rehearsals. Watch my blog on the day to see how the children are getting on.

As our academic outcomes at Headlands improve, the trust is now supporting the school to return to a local governing body rather than being governed by an academy improvement board (AIB). Earlier this term, the Chair of Governors, Catherine Capell wrote to all parents and carers asking if any of you would be interested in becoming a parent governor. This is a great opportunity for parents to become involved in the life of the school by having influence over the school's strategic direction. The role of a school governor is to challenge and support. There are two vacancies on the governing body for parents and I hope that you will consider supporting the school in this way. For further information, please contact the school office.

As you know, the school is keen that all children in Years 4 and 6 experience the residential visits to Kingswood, West Runton which is an outward bound experience (Y4), and France (Y6) which is a cultural visit with some outward bound activities. Both residential significantly promote aspiration, self-esteem, collaboration and independence and to date have been hugely successful. Please see me if payment is an issue because a plan can always be found. No child should miss out!

Our children are often commented on favourably with their uniform. Clear expectations of what the children should wear for school can be found on our website. For health and safety reasons, we expect children with long hair to have it tied back. Also, please note that children are expected to wear black shoes and not trainers or boots of any kind.

Finally, Mrs Steventon, our Nursery teacher will be leaving at the end of term due to personal issues. Mrs Steventon has established great provision for our Nursery children since September and we hope to retain her in school in some capacity. We are confident we will make a great appointment and we will ensure that there is good transition arrangements in place to support the children. I will write to you shortly with news about the appointment.

Thanks you for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting term.

Darren

Year 3 celebrate Diwali

Last term, the children in Year 3 worked with Festive Road to create beautiful peacock lanterns from wicker and papier mache. The artwork was created to celebrate the Hindu festival of Diwali, the festival of light. The peacocks were illuminated with fairy lights and many of the Year 3 parents joined their children to parade the lanterns from the Guildhall in Northampton and through the town centre. This was an amazing experience for the children to take part in and to celebrate global diversity.



Michael Ellis MP visits Year 6

In Year 6, Michael Ellis MP, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons visited the school. We invite Mr Ellis into school every year to discuss his role in Parliament and democracy with the older children. This term the children are enquiring about democracy in Ancient Greece, so it was fitting that Mr Ellis should make his annual visit at this time. Mr Ellis commented favourably about how confident and well-spoken the children were when asking questions. We were very proud of them and how they represented the school. We feel sure that such confidence is as a result of children being supported with their oracy skills consistently through school as part of the approach we are taking to the teaching of reading and discussion about books. In addition, Mr Ellis was highly complimentary about how the children conduct themselves around the school and how the school is presented.

Polite notice

It has been brought to our attention by other parents that offensive language has been heard amongst parents on the playground during drop off in the morning and at home time. In addition, there have been incidents outside school between motorists and pedestrians where tempers have occasionally flared. This is unacceptable and we expect those parents to demonstrate respect to each other and the community on and around the school grounds and especially when children are present.

Also, whilst most parents are parking responsibly when dropping off and picking up their children, some parents are still not. We all have responsibility for the safety of our children and so again, please do not obstruct the zig zag lines or white lines that are reserved for blue badge holders. Thank you.

Don't forget Deck the Halls day on: Thursday 30 November 2017



Year 1 sketch explore portraits at the National Portrait Gallery

Last term, our Year 1 children had an amazing opportunity to explore portraits at the National Portrait Gallery in London. This was their fabulous finish to the theme on 'My Super Self'. Led by an artist at the gallery, the children discussed how portraits were made and what inspired them before exploring the gallery to make sketches. For the second part of the day, the children went for a stroll and saw the Houses of Parliament, Horse Guards, River Thames and Buckingham Palace before posing for a group photograph on Trafalgar Square! This was a memory making day and as ever our children were great ambassadors for the school.

National Portrait Gallery

Prayer Space at Headlands

Once again, St Peters Church have hosted a prayer space at Headlands for children in lower key stage 2. Prayer space is a non-religious activity where experiences are set up to promote reflection and wellbeing. Thanks to St Peters, all children from Year 1 to 6 have now experienced prayer space and it is becoming embedded in our school. Children demonstrate great maturity and sensitivity towards each other during and throughout prayer space. Thank you to St Peters.

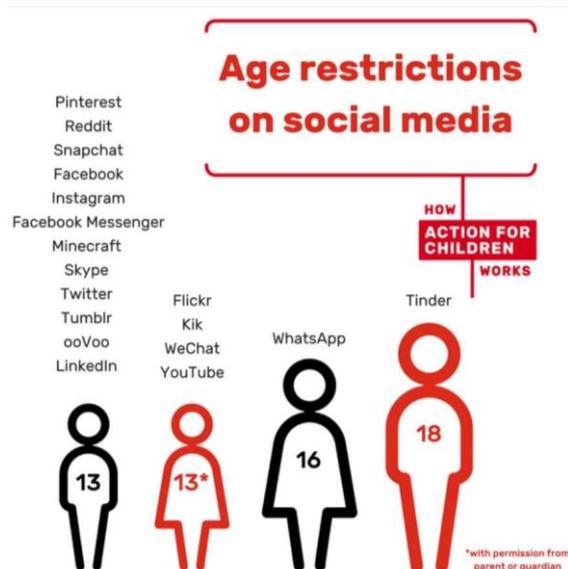


Keeping safe and Wellbeing

A leading priority for the school is to ensure that all our children are safe and that their wellbeing supports them to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life. In this and in future editions of Headlines there will be a focus on what we are doing in school to promote this key area. In this addition, there is a focus on keeping children safe online and anti-bullying. Each week the children have a PSHE lesson and the theme this term throughout the school is 'Celebrating difference'. Also, we teach a protective behaviour lesson each term and the key messages are 'everyone has the right to feel safe' and that 'we can talk with someone about anything, even if it feels awful or small'. The lessons explore these themes in detail and they are well publicised throughout the school.

Keeping children safe online

Unfortunately, we have been made aware of the difficulties that children have been getting themselves into when using the internet. We do much to advise and support children to stay safe online, but frequently we are finding that children have free access to many sites and apps that are inappropriate and/or not meant for their age. As a result, children are becoming upset by the activities and behaviour of others when acting inappropriately and unsupervised online. **In the strongest terms, we recommend that parents follow the age recommendations that are illustrated in the chart opposite and that devices connected to the internet are supervised at all times.** We encourage parents to report misuse of the internet to the school. It is important that our children are as safe in the virtual world as they are in the real world, and can make the distinction between the two.



Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is Anti Bullying week in school. The theme this year nationally is 'All different, all equal' and the children will be exploring a range of activities to understand this issue. Year 6 will be presenting an assembly that explores this issue also. Our school definition on bullying is 'several times on purpose' and the children know to 'start telling other (trusted) people'. We will promote this message again next week and we would like you to support the school with this message.

S Several
T Times
O On
P Purpose

What is bullying?

S Start
T Telling
O Other
P People

What to do if you feel that you are being bullied

Coming up...

- Tuesday 14 November – School Prom at the Royal Albert Hall
- Friday 17 November – School Nurse to give Flu Vaccinations to children in Rec, Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4
- Thursday 30 November – Deck the Halls
- Tuesday 5 December – Woodlands Christmas Afternoon Tea Event (1.30-3.00pm)
- Wednesday 6 December – Christmas Carol Celebration (6.30pm)
- Wednesday 13 December – KS1 Nativity (1.30pm and 6.00pm)
- Thursday 14 December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime (1.30pm and 6.00pm)
- Friday 15 December – Whole school to Kettering Lighthouse for Panto/Christmas Lunch/Party Day
- Monday 18 December – Reception Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)
- Tuesday 19 December – Woodlands Unit to Milton Keynes/Father Christmas