



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school!

We have now finally completed our transformation into a two-form entry primary school with 14 classes! In one way it feels like yesterday that we were approached by the Local Authority to double in size and yet I can't quite believe we are finally in September 2023— a date that seemed so far away when we started talking about the prospect way back in 2015/16. The site is buzzing and vibrant with learning around every corner!



As we have grown we have trialled, revised and sought new ways to adapt to become a larger school. Over the years some of these new ideas have become new traditions. In addition to Teacher Biographies, Meet the New Teacher, Postcards over the summer holidays we have decided to offer **'Welcome to Year X' Meetings** to each year group. These are for parents and carers to hear from the teachers about their child's new year group, their expectations, forthcoming events, curriculum, topics, potential trips, any statutory assessments that take place, how to engage with your child's learning at home, etc. There will also be a chance to ask questions at the end of the meeting. These meetings are being held at 2.30pm just before collection across next week (see below for the dates). If you are unable to attend then please be reassured that all of this information will be shared via a parentmail afterwards, as well as being made available on our year group pages on our new website which is coming soon too!



Please take time to look at the **Dates for your Diary** section below as we have shared some significant dates set for this academic year so you can plan for these **including PTCs, nativities, sports day, statutory assessment weeks** etc.

One of these is coming up soon as this year we celebrate the school turning **150 years old!** The PTFA are kindly holding us a **150th Birthday Party** on **Saturday 23rd September** on the school field. There will be a BBQ, bar, cakes, ice cream van, games, inflatables, photos and so much more! Watch out for more information from the PTFA soon!



Miss Symonds



PLEASE SEND YOUR CHILD BACK IN WITH A NAMED PAIR OF WELLIES READY FOR RAINY DAYS - THESE WILL REMAIN IN SCHOOL!

Next week's school assemblies will focus on the theme of "What is Democracy?" We believe it's essential for our students to understand the principles of democracy and the power of their voices in shaping our community.



Is my child too ill for school?

As the winter season of sniffs, coughs, viruses and illness approaches, the NHS provide information about when you should and shouldn't send your child to school. Take a look as we want to encourage parents and carers to help us continue to improve attendance so that your child doesn't miss out on key parts of their education, socialising with their friends and generally enjoying fun and engaging learning experiences together at school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Thank You...

A massive thank you to the PTFA who have kindly funded a new cricket kit for the school. We had an incredibly successful season last academic year and hopefully our new kit will help us to also look smart as we continue with that success this year.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 29th September the Inclusion Team will be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning in school from 9.30 to 11.00am. Please come along to support this worthy cause while meeting new people and enjoying a cuppa and a slice of cake! This is an opportunity to meet the Team and ask us any questions you may have. Everyone is welcome!

If you are a keen baker, we would love to accept any cake donations on the day. Shop bought donations would also be warmly welcomed 😊 If you are able to donate a cake, please email tracey.jefferson@headcorn.kent.sch.uk Thank you! 😊



Dates for your Diary:

Monday 11th Sept: Welcome to Year 4 Parent Meeting @ 2.30pm – 3pm

Tuesday 12th Sept: Welcome to Year 3 Parent Meeting @ 2.30pm – 3pm

Wednesday 13th Sept: Welcome to Year 5 Parent Meeting @ 2.30pm – 3pm

Thursday 14th Sept: Welcome to Year 1 Parent Meeting @ 2.30pm – 3pm

Friday 15th Sept: Welcome to Year 2 Parent Meeting @ 2.30pm – 3pm

Monday 18th Sept: Welcome to Year 6 Parent Meeting @ 2.30pm – 3pm

Saturday 23rd September: PTFA 150th Birthday Party @ 12 – 4pm

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October: Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs): 3.45 – 6pm

Monday 30th October: INSET Day 2 (No children in school)

Tuesday 31st October: Start of Term 2

Monday 6th November: Book Look: 3.20 – 4pm

Friday 17th November: School Photographer in for individual & school-aged sibling photos

Friday 8th December: Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 12th December: Year R Nativity @ 2pm

Wednesday 13th December: Year 2 Nativity @ 2pm

Thursday 14th December: Year 3&4 Church Service @ 10am

Thursday 14th December: Year 5&6 Church Service @ 11am

Thursday 14th December: Year 1 Nativity @ 2pm

Friday 15th December: End of Term 2 / Christmas Party Day!

Tuesday 2nd January 2024: Start of Term 3

Tuesday 9th January: Book Look: 3.20 – 4pm

Monday 19th February: INSET Day 3 (No children in school)

Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th February: Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs): 3.45 – 6pm

Tuesday 20th February: Start of Term 4

Monday 28th February: Book Look: 3.20 – 4pm

Thursday 28th March: End of Term 4

Monday 15th April: INSET Day 4 (No children in school)

Tuesday 16th April: Start of Term 5

Thursday 25th April: Parents' RSE Talk @ 2.30pm

Thursday 25th April: Book Look: 3.20 – 4pm

Mon 13th – Thu 16th May: Year 6 KS2 SATs Week

Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd May: Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs): 3.45 – 6pm

Friday 24th May: End of Term 5

Monday 3rd June: INSET Day 5 (No children in school)

Tuesday 4th June: Start of Term 5

Week beg 4th & 10th June: Year 4 MTCs (Multiplication Tables Check)

Week beginning 10th June: Year 1 Phonics Screening & Year 2 retakes

Monday 17th June: Sports Day

Wednesday 19th June: RESERVE Sports Day (if unsuitable weather)

Friday 21st June: Year 6 Leavers' Performance @ 6pm

Tuesday 23rd July: End of Term 6 / End of Year



NB These dates are also available on the calendar on our website: www.headcorn.kent.sch.uk

Break Time Snacks

Year R, 1 and 2 are provided with mid morning snacks so parents do not need to provide them.

KS2 (Years 3 – 6) can bring in a snack which is limited to a piece of fruit, vegetables (see the list below).

Snack time is a brief time during the morning and the children will only have time to eat one item.

Children will not be permitted to eat items from their packed lunch or things such as crisps, chocolate bars etc.

We can allow:

- Any fresh fruit
- Dried fruit eg raisins, apricots, etc
- Vegetables eg carrots, peppers, mini tomatoes
- Fruit alternatives such as fruit winders
- Breadsticks
- Small cheese portion eg Babybel



PTFA News

- Don't forget the **SEPTEMBER SOCIAL, Saturday 23 September** on the school field. **FREE ENTRY!** Come along & have lots of fun with games, inflatables, cake competition & so much more! There will be a bar & BBQ. Cash & card accepted. **SEE YOU THERE!** Check out the attached posters form more info!
- The green wheelie bin is now out through the main entrance gates waiting for your pre-loved school uniform. We are always looking for branded school jumpers, jackets, PE shirts & tshirts that are in good enough condition to be worn again!

Heart of Headcorn – Grand Opening

All parents and children are warmly invited to the **HEART OF HEADCORN GRAND OPENING** on Friday 15th September. After the Opening Ceremony at 2pm, there will be a no-vehicle **FETE** on Parsonage Meadow (next to the Church), ready for the children coming out of school. With the support of the Kent County Council, there will be a **FREE** bouncy castle and stalls such as Hook-A-Duck and Hoop-La; face-painting, a **FREE** children's secondhand clothes stall; **FREE** arts and craft activities supervised by the KCC Youth Worker team and other traditional, non-electronic games. The KCC Hardship Team, including Citizens Advice, will also be there with stalls to reach out to families in need of extra support. We hope you will come along and join us in celebrating the opening of Headcorn's new community centre and cultural hub - including a micro-museum to support children's learning. Entry to the fete is free and all proceeds from stalls will go to the Heart of Headcorn charity.

Next Week's Curriculum Overview



Year R Cheetah and Leopard Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

A very warm welcome to all the families in Early Years! We wanted to let you know how well the children are settling into school life and coping with learning new routines; it has been a very positive week! In the next couple of weeks, we will be carrying out statutory assessments in Early Years which need to be completed before any formal learning takes place.

We will soon be offering each child the opportunity to borrow a storybook for you to share together at home. These books will be laid out on a table at collection time for you and your child to choose together – you can simply swap it when you are ready. As a school, we also run a reading initiative called 'My 5 High 5'. We would ask parents to record how many times per week that their child reads or is read to, by ticking on their special bookmark which you will find in their yellow reading record book which will be sent home in their bookbag. You do not need to write any comments in the yellow reading record until your child is ready to bring home a Dandelion phonic reading book that they will read to you! The points earned from reading each week will be counted each term and the winning class who has done the most reading will receive a special certificate!



Year 1 Tiger & Lynx Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

English: This week in English, we are looking at the power of illustrations through our new text, Wild. We will look closely at the first few pictures of the book to explore and recognise the added layers of meaning they hold. We will consider the emotions of the main character and what life is like for her living in the wild!

Maths: This week we will be reading numbers as words, counting forwards and backwards from 0-10 as well as counting one more and one less.

History: In our childhood topic this week we will be learning about the different stages of human life and timelines. If possible, please could your child bring in three photographs of themselves - as a baby, toddler and child. Alternatively, these can be emailed to admin@headcorn.kent.sch.uk FAO of your class teacher and we can print in school.



Year 2 Puma & Panther Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

Maths: We will be writing numbers in words. Try to practise writing some numbers at home, especially the tricky spellings like 'eight' or 'eighty'. We will also be partitioning (splitting) numbers into tens and ones.

English: We will be doing some drama performances and preparing to write a letter to the sky in the role of our main character.

Other: We will be learning about human needs as part of our human survival topic in science. We will be discussing what things humans need to survive such as water and food. In History, we will be learning about significant explorers!



Year 3 Jaguar & Pallas Cat Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

English: Predicting the story of our new class text and investigating the setting and main characters.

Maths: Partitioning numbers into hundreds, tens and ones.

History: ***Through the Ages***, identifying and describing the three periods of the Stone Age; Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic.

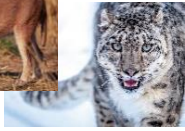


Year 4 Jungle Cat & Cougar Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

Maths: Representing and partitioning numbers to 10000. Looking at numbers on a number line to 10000 and finding 1, 10, 100 and 1000 more or less

English: Recognising and using fronted adverbials to vary sentences and using inference to turn an image into an adventure story.

Other: In History; The Anglo-Saxon Invasion and looking at 4-figure grid references in Geography. In Art we will be learning about the theory of colour.



Year 5 Caracal & Snow Leopard Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

English: We will be continuing to explore diary entries.

Maths: We will be doing numbers up to a million, more or less and partitioning.

History: We will be looking at historic artefacts from the Shang Dynasty.



Year 6 Lion & Ocelot Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

Well done to those children who took the Grammar Entrance Tests this week. We are very proud of you to have the courage to tackle this in the first week back!

English: Next week, we will be continuing our work on diary entries, focusing on our class book 'Freedom' by Catherine Johnson as inspiration.

Maths: We will be developing and consolidating our understanding of place value to set a solid number foundation for the year ahead.

History: We will be continuing our journey into our topic 'Maafa' and understanding the slave trade and its impact on Britain as well as its victims.