



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 29th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who donated cakes for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** today. It was lovely to see all who were able to join us!



We are busy planning events to celebrate our **150th Birthday of a school being on this site (1873 – 2023)**. These will include activities for the children, a display by **Headcorn Historical Association**, the creation of a **permanent commemorative display** and a **whole school panoramic photograph** to be taken on Tuesday 30th April 2024. We will also be holding a **special event** being held on the afternoon of our INSET day, **Monday 30th October 2023**. We will be sending details out next week but, in the meantime, if you are or know of any ex-pupils or are in contact with any previous staff, please mention this date to them!

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Symonds



Assemblies

Every day the children have assemblies that are aimed at developing their understanding of the wider world, sharing our Core Values, and encouraging self-reflection. To celebrate World Space Week, we're planning assemblies all about space. These assemblies will help our students learn about stars, planets and space exploration. Learning about space can be a lot of fun and inspire a love for science. It's out of this world!



E-Safety Update

In today's digital age, having a chat with your children about online safety is more important than ever. The internet can be an amazing place, but it also comes with its own set of challenges. To make this conversation a breeze, here are some easy-going tips and a helpful resource for starting the talk with your family.

1. Keep It Casual

First off, make sure your children know they can talk to you about anything online without getting into trouble. An open, judgment-free space is key for these discussions.

2. Do Some Homework

Before you dive into it, spend a bit of time getting to know what your children are up to online. Familiarize yourself with the apps, social media sites, and games they're into. Knowing their digital world will help you address specific concerns.

3. Timing Is Everything

Pick a relaxed time and place for your chat. A family meal, a car ride, or any downtime when you have their full attention will work wonders.

4. Real-Life Stories

Use real-life examples to explain online safety. Share stories about online experiences, both good and not-so-good, and talk about how they can relate to what your children are doing online.

5. Think Critically Together

Encourage your children to think critically about what they see online. Talk about the importance of fact-checking, spotting clickbait, and questioning whether a source is reliable. Let them know it's okay to ask questions and come to you for help.

6. Check Out This Resource

We've attached a great resource from InternetMatters.org. It's like a digital survival guide covering everything from privacy settings to being kind online.

7. Set Some Ground Rules

It's a good idea to set some ground rules for internet use in your home. Discuss things like screen time limits, which websites and apps are okay, and what to do if they run into something weird or upsetting online. Keep these rules fair and consistent.

8. Stay in the Loop

Technology is always changing, so make sure you stay in the know about the latest online trends, risks, and safety tips. It's a team effort to keep things safe.

9. Lead by Example

Show your children the way by being a responsible digital citizen yourself. Practice what you preach when it comes to online behaviour.

10. Keep the Conversation Going

Remember, talking about online safety isn't a one-and-done thing. Keep checking in with your children regularly to see how things are going online. Encourage them to speak up if they ever feel uncomfortable or come across something strange.

So, there you have it! Starting a conversation about online safety can be easy and relaxed. Use these tips and the InternetMatters.org resource to get started, and together, we'll help our children have a safe and enjoyable online experience. Stay safe online!

Dates for your Diary:

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



NB For the full set of dates for this academic year please see previous week's Headlines or they are also available on the calendar on our website: www.headcorn.kent.sch.uk

PTFA News

- Halloween Trail-Sunday 29 October-more information to follow over the coming weeks but save the date & get ready to have some spooky fun!
- Save the date - **Sunday 5th November** - Headcorn Fireworks Show
Tickets will be on sale very soon for our annual fireworks event so put in your diaries now. As ever we can't run these events without volunteers. Please sign up at <https://forms.office.com/e/PNSrPSFP9x> if you can help on the day. We need a multitude of people to help set up, throughout the event and afterwards.
- Get swotting! Quiz & Fizz is back-**Saturday 18 November**-adults only in the school hall, tickets on sale soon, keep your eyes out for more information! Come along for a night of fun to start the 2023 silly season off!

Next Week's Curriculum Overview



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

Literacy: Learning to recognise, sound out and write 'p' and 'g'.

Maths: Learning to recognise, write and represent 8 and 9.

Topic: Marvellous Me! We will be thinking about our family, our likes and what makes us marvellous! We will be making Marvellous Me boards so please send in a family photo and any others showing the people and things that are special to your child to add to their design.

Your child is now beginning to develop their phonic knowledge (how to say the sounds represented by a letter or group of letters and then blend them together to read a word). At school we use the Read Write Inc Phonics program to help children learn how to read and write. To develop this knowledge as rapidly as possible, you can support your child with this at home. The Ruth Miskin (Read Write Inc) website (link below) has a number of informative parent videos which we would kindly ask you to watch. You might like to begin with the three listed below which give a general overview of the way Phonics is taught and how you can support this at home. You can then explore further through some of the other videos. When reading at home it is very important to ensure that you are saying the sounds in the way the children have been taught at school; again this is explained in the clips. Thank you for your support in helping your child to develop their reading and writing skills.

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents/>

Understanding Phonics

How to Say the Sounds

What is Read Write Inc Phonics?

In Reception we work in partnership with you to help your child to learn. We enjoy being part of the learning and milestones they reach at school, but also love to find out about their experiences at home. We will soon be sending home a Learning Journey book for you to complete over the year. This is your way of celebrating your child's achievements or any events that might be significant to them. For example, you might have photos from a day trip that was enjoyed, they might have done something for the first time, baked a cake and weighed ingredients, learnt to ride a bike etc. There is no right or wrong way to complete this learning journey "scrapbook" as it is unique to you and your child. We might ask you to share the books with us at points over the year, so that we too can celebrate and share in your child's development. Thank you for your support in the home/school partnership.



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

English: Using our imagination to think about and draw what a scene might look like based on a description from our story 'Wild'.

Maths: Starting our addition and subtraction unit looking at building number sentences using the part, part and whole model to help up, for example 3 is a part, 4 is a part, 7 is the whole. $3 + 4 = 7$.

RE: Learning about what the Bible teaches Christians about God. We will be learning the story of Jonah and the Whale.



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

English: Writing an alternative version of our class text 'Lila and the Secret of Rain'

Maths: Focussing on number bonds to 10 and 20 and looking at patterns. For example $2 + 8 = 10$ and $2 + 18 = 20$

Please continue to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s at home. You can use this interactive hundred square to help you: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/paint-the-squares>

Science: Learning about good hygiene routines.

Please can we remind parents/carers to book school dinners in advance on Scopay.



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

Maths: Exploring and looking for patterns when adding and subtracting and which digit changes and why.

English: Looking at expanded noun phrases and using them to describe the next page in our class text.

Geography: Exploring primary data, what is it? When do we use it?



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

Maths: Adding 4 digit numbers with and without crossing 1 boundary.

English: For and against mind-mapping leading onto persuasive writing.

Other: Geography: Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn and in Art: starting our own compositions



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

English: Composing some scene descriptions

Maths: Continuing to look at addition and subtraction, including finding missing numbers

Geography: Focussing on 6 figure grid references including physical and human features of a map



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

Maths: Exploring square and cube numbers at the start of the week and will finish the week with short division.

English: Exploring and using a range of conjunctions in our writing.

History: Learning about the triangular slave trade, and in Science we will learn about the structure and function of blood, creating our own representative sample!