



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers



Today we had the first Governor Day of the new academic year. This is a special day when our Full Governing Body comes into school for the whole day to complete Learning Walks, speak to children about their learning, looks at books and speak to teachers and leaders about the curriculum, learning, data, the running of the school and much more!

Here are just some of the comments Governors shared at the end of today:

'We were really impressed with the creative use of classrooms and space across the school. The consistency of what was offered by each pair of year group teachers, their curriculum and the set-up of the classrooms was remarkable. This didn't hinder the individual personalities of the staff shining through or the individual needs of the children being met. There was a reassurance in the similar approaches, vocabulary, pedagogy (teaching styles) and expectations between classes of the same year group but also in the progression between year groups so that children were familiar with routines, language used, expectations of them etc.'

'Children across the school interacted with teaching staff and visitors with confidence and they were keen to share their learning and read to us.'

'In Early Years it was fantastic to see the children taking their classroom learning outside to play. They were practising their letters with chalk on the ground, painting with water, drawing in cornflour, writing on white boards. So much was on offer to extend their learning.'

'A range of aids (writing slope, standing desk, tablet, laptop, modelled writing, paired editing, etc) were being used to engage and extend children in their writing.'

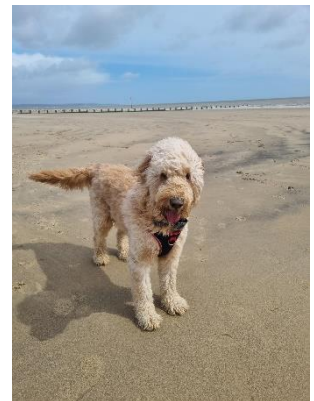
'TAs were being used creatively to facilitate children's learning. They were engaged, well utilised and in many classes, like a double act with the teacher!'

'It was a joy to see OPAL embedded at lunchtime. Such a wide variety of activities provided for children to enjoy their time with their friends, sharing expertise (children in Pony Club were having an in-depth discussion about different types of saddles!), children of different ages playing beautifully with each other, older children supporting younger children, siblings playing together.... all were engaged and happy.'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Governing Body for their support and the time they give in this voluntary role to assist in driving the school forward and bringing leadership and accountability. Each member of the board brings such expertise and wisdom. We are very fortunate to have each person invested in our school.

Have a lovely weekend! Sun's out so summer's not finished just yet.
Teddy's already asked to go to the beach!

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.

Over the next two weeks, our assemblies will be dedicated to commemorating Black History Month 2023. This significant occasion provides us with a unique opportunity to acknowledge and honour the remarkable contributions of black individuals to British society. Under the theme of 'Saluting our Sisters,' we will shine a spotlight on the pivotal role played by black women throughout history in driving change, building communities, and leaving an indelible mark on our world.



Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October: Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs): 3.45 – 6.25pm

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 on 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 on 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!

Scarecrow Festival and Apple day

Saturday 7th October, Headcorn Parish Church yard, 10:30 - 1:00pm.

Come and help judge the scarecrow competition, have a go at one of the many games including the lucky apple stall, or stay for refreshments. The Rotary club will also be serving up a BBQ! (Please see attached flyer)

Sports

Stones In The Community (Stones ITC) are trying to get more Girls involved in sport and football; Girls from Ages 5 to 11 can come along to the Gallagher Stadium each Monday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Known as **Wildcats and supported by Weetabix and The FA**, it encourages Girls to get involved with their friends. This scheme is being run by **Stones ITC** in conjunction with **Maidstone United Women's and Girls FC**

In addition and on behalf of, **Maidstone United Football Club**, we want to enhance the skills of those girls who already play football. This is called our **Girls Player Development Centre** which runs each Monday from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. We also run a **Boys/Girls Player Development Centre** on Thursday evenings at Cornwallis Academy

Please find attached flyers which provide more detail.

Next Week's Curriculum Overview






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

Maths: We will be learning about number 10 and counting out small sets of objects, making 1:1 correspondence as we count.

Literacy: We will be learning to read and write letter sounds 'o', 'c' and 'k' and practising blending and hearing the different sounds in words.

Topic: We will be starting our new topic all about the seasonal changes we see and feel in Autumn.

As the weather starts to get cooler and wetter, please could all children bring in a waterproof suit for them to wear out at playtime which will be kept at school. This will help to keep your child dry and their uniform clean from mud. If you haven't already sent in welly boots for your child to wear out at playtime, please send these in ASAP. Please ensure all items of clothing, including shoes and wellies, are clearly labelled with your child's name as this helps us to return any mislaid items. Thank you!

	<p><u>Year 1 Tiger & Lynx Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u></p> <p>English: We are writing predictions on what we think might happen next in our story 'Wild' based on what we know already.</p> <p>Maths: We are learning to add two numbers together, starting with one and adding a few more. We are looking at addition problems as well as our number bonds to 10.</p> <p>History: We will be looking at everyday life in the 1950s.</p>
	<p><u>Year 2 Puma & Panther Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u></p> <p>Maths: Adding and subtracting ones. Please remember to spend some time on Sumdog to complete the challenges set by your teacher. Remember you can find your login details in your home learning book.</p> <p>English: Writing a persuasive leaflet for a Safari trip!</p> <p>Art & Design: We are going to begin our compositions in art using our knowledge of complementary colours, and focussing on some significant monarchs throughout Britain's history.</p>
	<p><u>Year 3 Jaguar & Pallas Cat Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u></p> <p>Maths: Adding two, two-digit or three-digit numbers together using the formal written method and place value charts, across 10 and 100.</p> <p>English: Focusing on developing our comprehension skills and using the text to help us answer questions using inference.</p> <p>Science: We will be investigating the joints within our bodies and how they work through an exciting experiment!</p>
	<p><u>Year 4 Jungle Cat & Cougar Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u></p> <p>Maths: Subtracting two 4-digit numbers with no exchange and one exchange.</p> <p>English: Introducing DASH; as we write an action story with Description, Action, Speech and How the character is feeling?</p> <p>Other subjects: Following on from our practical digestion session we will be learning about the different parts of the digestive system. In History we will be looking at everyday life in Anglo-Saxon Britain.</p>
	<p><u>Year 5 Caracal & Snow Leopard Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u></p> <p>Maths: Next week we will be moving onto multiplication and division.</p> <p>English: We will be writing our very own stories.</p> <p>Art: We will be creating our final pieces doing a landscape using tints, tones and shades.</p>
	<p><u>Year 6 Lion & Ocelot Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u></p> <p>Maths: We will be learning the method for long division!</p> <p>English: Poetry based on the voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in our book 'Freedom'.</p> <p>Other subjects: we will be listening to a podcast about life on a plantation in History, learning about the structure and function of blood vessels in Science, and beginning our final landscape pieces in Art.</p>