



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 12 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we have had a brand-new **Cross-curricular Orienteering Trail** installed across our external site. The children all enjoyed an induction session on Wednesday. This trail not only provides a fantastic resource for developing our orienteering topic within our PE scheme but can also be used in cross-curricular activities to improve recall of information, provide consolidation of learning and more.



This trail has been paid for with **Sports Premium Funding** which is funding from the Government for improving the provision of PE and Sport. This also includes provision for the teaching of healthy living, fitness, outdoor education. We are looking forward to providing a wide range of opportunities across this academic year with external providers coming into school such as **Bounce & Beyond** (trampoline sessions), **Roots to Food** (a healthy eating, origins of food, competitive 'Can't Cook Won't Cook' style assembly) as well as increasing our resourcing and activities across this area.



Next Friday is a **non-uniform day** as part of our '**Shaun in Kent Trail**' project to decorate and display our very own Shaun the Sheep! We are raising money for the **Heart of Kent Hospice**. We can accept cash on the gates or donations via our JustGiving page. See below for more information.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Symonds

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 19th January: Non Uniform Day – Heart of Kent Hospice

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

Friday 9th February: End of Term 3

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

Tuesday 20th February: Start of Term 4

Wednesday 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



Spare Shin Pads?

Year 4 and Year 6 are being taught hockey in their PE this term and we would appreciate any donations of spare shin pads if any families have any that they are no longer using. Many thanks! Thank you to the Burger family for providing some additional new mouthguards. This generosity and thoughtfulness is SO appreciated!

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. Next week we will be spending time talking about the importance of Charity and giving, this is linked to our exciting work with Shaun in Kent Trail.

You may be aware that the PTFA has paid for us to have a Shaun the Sheep in the 2024 trail around the Maidstone area. This trail is designed to support the charity Heart of Kent Hospice. Some of you may remember the Elmer Trail a few years ago when 81 Elmers were decorated and placed around the Maidstone area. The larger sculptures are designed by local artists and auctioned at the conclusion of the trail to raise money. Smaller ones (such as ours) are adopted by schools, care homes and community centres, these will be displayed in flocks in indoor spaces and return to their owners once the trail is over.

Ours has arrived and been paid for by the PTFA. As a school we voted to call our sheep Cupcake as we are planning to cover the Shaun with drawings of cupcakes to celebrate our 150th Birthday. Everyone will be asked to contribute a picture, and this will be done during next week.

This will also be a time when we will aim to raise further money for this worthwhile charity. **19th Jan is non-uniform day – Please donate either through our JustGiving page (see link below), or there will also be buckets n the gate.** Thank you in advance.



https://www.justgiving.com/page/headcorn-school-1702295401506?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fheadcorn-school-1702295401506&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

E-Safety Update – Navigating the Metaverse

The metaverse has emerged as a new realm for exploration, interaction, and unfortunately, potential risks. Recent events have brought to light the importance of understanding and addressing these risks to ensure the safety of our children in this digital environment.

Reputable news sources have recently reported an alarming incident involving the abuse of young girls' avatars within the metaverse, leading to a police investigation, and prompting a warning from the NSPCC. This highlights the need for increased awareness and vigilance when it comes to our children's online activities. As a community, it is crucial for us to stay informed about the digital spaces our children navigate.

The National College provides valuable insights into the metaverse, offering a comprehensive guide that emphasizes the importance of educating both parents and children about the potential dangers lurking in virtual worlds. The guide, *which we have attached to this week's issue of Headlines*, stresses the significance of establishing clear guidelines for online behaviour, promoting open communication, and monitoring our children's virtual interactions to safeguard their well-being.

The metaverse, by its very nature, blurs the lines between reality and the digital realm. While it provides exciting opportunities for creativity, collaboration, and education, it also exposes users, especially children, to various risks. As a school community, it is our responsibility to equip ourselves with the knowledge needed to navigate this digital landscape safely.

To address these concerns, Headcorn Primary School is committed to enhancing our digital literacy curriculum. We believe that empowering our students with the skills to navigate the metaverse responsibly is crucial.

Additionally, we encourage you as parents to engage in open conversations with your children about their online activities. Understanding the platforms they use, the communities they join, and the privacy settings they have in place is essential. By fostering a culture of transparency and communication, we can create a safer online environment for our children.

As we strive to prepare our students for the future, we must also equip them with the tools to navigate the digital world responsibly. Together, as a school community, we can ensure that our children embrace the opportunities presented by the metaverse while staying safe and secure in their virtual adventures. Let us work hand in hand to build a digital landscape where our children can thrive, learn, and explore without compromising their well-being.

PTFA News

- A huge thanks to the couple of you who have made contact regarding the PTFA committee vacancies! The more the merrier though, so even if you're thinking about it, get in touch now & have a chat, or email on info@headcornschoolptfa.org.uk & one of us will get back to you. You don't have to commit to hours & hours of your time, come & see what will work for you while helping us at the same time!
- Don't forget the **PTFA AGM, Wednesday 24 Jan, 8pm in the School Hall**. Refreshments provided. Come along, say hi, hear what is going on & share any ideas you may have! If you are keen on a particular role on the committee, please email your interest to info@headcornschoolptfa.org.uk All the committee roles are available for re-election-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair & more!



Next Week's Curriculum Overview



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

Maths: Developing an understanding of composition, or the numbers within numbers, using the Hungarian number pattern (die pattern); securing an understanding of the pairs of numbers that make 5, and using double dice frames to begin to explore 6 and 7 as numbers that are composed of '5 and a bit'.

Literacy: Writing words and phrases about our science experiment.

Topic: As part of our Day and Night topic, we will be talking about bedtime routines and doing a science experiment to find out what would happen if we did not keep our teeth clean. We will be talking about different materials and selecting soft materials to make a bedtime cuddle pet from a sock. Please bring in a sock (and any spares you might have) of your choice for this purpose.

Phonics:

Mrs Day's and Miss Gelder's Groups

[Reading the sound 'th'](#)

[Reading the sound 'qu'](#)

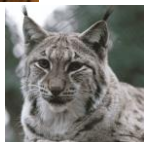
Mrs Griffiths' and Miss Young's Groups:

[Reading the sound 'ng'](#)

[Reading the sound 'nk'](#)

[Reading the sound 'ay'](#)

[Reading the sound 'ee'](#)



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

English: We will be writing our final setting description using the adjectives and adverbs that we have identified during our shared writing. Then we will introduce our new text for the rest of the term - Beegu by Alexis Deacon.

Maths: We will be finishing our place value unit. We will be using number lines to estimate, ordering numbers to 20 and comparing numbers to 20.

RE: We will be looking at symbols of belonging in Islam.

Read Write Inc: Please use the following links to recap sounds that your child has learnt in their phonics group this week.

Miss England and Mrs Tucker's Group: [the sound 'ow'](#), [the sound 'oo' \(zoo\)](#), [the sound 'oo' \(look\)](#)

Mrs Robins' Group: [the sound 'i-e'](#), [the sound 'o-e'](#), [the sound 'u-e'](#)

Mr Allen's Group: [the sound 'i-e'](#), [the sound 'o-e'](#), [the sound 'u-e'](#)

Miss Buxton's Group: [the sound 'e'](#), [the sound 'd'](#), [the sound 'f'](#)



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

Maths: In maths we will be starting our unit on multiplication and division. Next week we will be recognising and adding equal groups and using the language 'lots of' and 'groups of'.

English: Using suffixes and writing a persuasive letter.

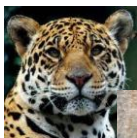
Phonics: If your child is in Miss Hynes's, Mrs Foweraker's or Mrs Baldock's phonics group, please watch the video links below to help consolidate learning. We have chosen sounds that your child's group are currently reviewing so it would be really beneficial if your child could watch these videos at home. Thank you.

Miss Hynes's group: [th sound](#) and [ch sound](#)

Mrs Foweraker and Mrs Baldock's groups: [ou sound](#), [air sound](#) and [ar sound](#)

Other: We will be exploring texture and colour in art and looking at different uses of materials in science.

As the weather is quite wet at the moment, we would be grateful if you could ensure your child has some spare socks/tights and trousers that they can keep in their locker in case they need to get changed.



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

Maths: We will be working on our times tables and continuing to investigate and solve problems involving multiplication and division.

English: We will continue to develop writing skills whilst reading the wonderful books *The Firework Maker's Daughter* and *Wild Robot*. We are seeing great progress in our writing so please keep reading at home as much as possible as this helps with punctuation and spelling.

Art and Design: We will be designing an Ammonite motif which we are going to print onto T-Shirts!

Geography: We will learn about Volcanoes this week within our exciting *Topic Rocks, Relics and Rumbles*.

RWI Links:

[Mrs Baker's group ur sound](#)

[Mrs Baker er sound](#)

[Miss Reigate oo sound](#)

[Miss Reigate ar sound](#)

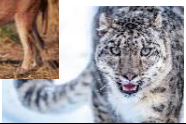


Year 4 Jungle Cat & Cougar Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

Maths: Multiplying 2 & 3 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers using written methods.

English: Focussing on the main character on our book, 'Pugs of the Frozen North', we will be looking at what he has experienced in the text so far and writing a diary entry from his point of view.

Other: In Geography we will be looking at why people might decide to settle on or near a mountain. In Science we will be experimenting with melting, freezing, evaporation and condensation.



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

English: plan and write their own narrative.

Maths: we are going back to looking at fractions.

Science: we are looking at the life cycle of plants.



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

English: we will be using our inference skills to determine information about characters in our new class book.

Maths: we will begin to introduce the world of algebra to the students, looking at function machines before moving looking at algebraic expressions

Art: we will be making some Inuit inspired soap carvings of Arctic animals.