



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 2 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy week we have had! On Tuesday we had a visit from our School Improvement Advisor. This went very well and he was pleased with the strong position that our curriculum provision is in, the quality of learning in the children's books and the confidence with which children spoke to him about what they were learning.



On Wednesday our Young Voices choir went up to the O2 Arena to perform the songs that they have been learning since September alongside 9036 other children from across the Southeast region. This is considered the largest choir in the world with approximately 150 000 children across multiple venues and performance dates – 8 evening concerts at the O2 Arena alone!



Each year they move the choirs around the arena and this year we were right up in the gods! The views and the sound were incredible. We sang a wide variety of songs including snippets from ones such as Lambeth Walk, These Boots Are Made For Walking, Walking On Sunshine, Phineas and Ferb's Today's Gonna be a Great Day, to Gospel songs and even a Korean Folksong.

There was a medley of Matilda songs, a Moana mash-up and a pop medley which included songs such as A Sky Full of Stars, Crazy What Love Can Do and Somebody. We had a guest performer called Natalie Williams, a well-known jazz singer (who wrote her own song for the YV choir called Extraordinary), a talented 13-year-old drummer who had played with the Foo Fighters and other well-known artists, and our personal favourite, the Urban Strides dance group, who taught us all some moves! It was quite a feeling when everyone was singing, jumping and dancing around to their 90s medley of well-known dance themes – even the audience got involved!



A big thank you Mrs Hutchison and Miss Brook for the time given to running the YV choir club since September, teaching the songs and routines. Thank you to Mrs Morgan and Mr Wood for supporting the YV club and to these people and our parent chaperones: Mrs Henderson, Mr Jones, Miss Bari for their support and care in looking after our lovely choir on the day. And not forgetting Mrs Jefferson who was the mastermind behind all the complicated administration and arrangements involved in such a day trip. It was a long tiring one but SO worth it. As many children as possible should do at least once if they can. Roll on YV25!

Look out for the Assessment Information coming out with your child today. This is in response to requests for more information on your child's progress. Please read the accompanying parentmail about these data envelopes.

We look forward to seeing you all at Parent Teacher Consultations next Monday and Tuesday.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Symonds



Dates for your Diary:

Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th February: Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs): 3.35 – 6pm

Thursday 8th February: Inclusion Coffee Afternoon 2pm

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 21st February: PTFA Meeting 8pm

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

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



Inclusion Coffee Afternoon – Thursday 8th February 2pm

This term, the Inclusion Team will be sharing the 'Mainstream Core Standards'. These outline the provision available in mainstream schools for children with additional needs. We will look at the support and provision we provide here at Headcorn Primary School, including our Nurture Provision. Please join us for a cuppa and a piece of cake! All welcome.

Assemblies

Every day next week our assemblies will be around the theme of Internet Safety. This is a national theme at this time of year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, especially for children and young people. This year's theme is: '**Inspiring change? Making and difference, managing influence and navigating change online.**'



E-Safety Update

This week we bring to your attention to some important changes on the social media app Instagram, specifically designed to enhance the safety of our children online.

It is crucial for us as parents and educators to stay informed about the platforms our children are using.

Instagram has recently implemented stricter settings to create a safer online environment for young people, and we believe it is essential for you to be aware of these changes. (Although the age range for Instagram is 13 and above, we are aware that some pupils are using this forum.)

We have attached a document from National Online Safety to this newsletter, which provides detailed information on Instagram. We encourage you to take the time to review this document, as it offers valuable insights into how these changes will impact your child's experience on Instagram.



Here are some of the key features of the new stricter settings on Instagram:

Enhanced Privacy Controls: Teens will now have more control over who can send them direct messages. They can choose to receive messages only from people they follow, providing a more secure communication environment.

Restricted Interactions: Instagram has introduced measures to limit adults' ability to interact with teenagers who are not following them. This aims to protect young users from unwanted interactions and ensures that their online connections are with people they trust.

Safety Notices: When Instagram detects potentially suspicious behaviour, it will display safety notices to encourage teenagers to reconsider their actions. This is a proactive measure to prevent young users from sharing personal information with unknown or potentially harmful individuals.

Limits on Sensitive Content: Instagram will use technology to identify and restrict the display of certain types of content that may be inappropriate for teenagers. This includes limiting the visibility of posts that may contain self-harm or other sensitive material.

By being aware of these changes, we can work together to create a safer online environment for our children. National Online Safety's document will provide you with a comprehensive guide on navigating these new settings and ensuring your child's online experience is as secure as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

PTFA News



- Did you see our new facebook post this week about Toni, our new Chair? Follow our facebook page & discover fun facts over the next few weeks about both the PTFA's work & our new committee members! Click on the link to go to our page, <https://www.facebook.com/HeadcornPTFA> We'll also be posting about events & some new, fun activities in the near future, so make sure you 'follow' us to keep up-2-date with what's happening! Keep your eyes peeled & get involved NOW!!
- Here are our MAIN events for 2024. Make a note of them so you can come & join the fun! More info about each event will come out nearer the time.
 - Sat March 16th, our new event...what could it be?
 - Mon May 6th, May Fair
 - Sun Oct 27th, Halloween Trail
 - Sun Nov 3rd, Fireworks
 - Sat Nov 30th, Quiz & Fizz
- Please, please, do get in touch if you have any ideas or comments about who we are, what we do, or what you'd like to see us do. Email us on info@headcornschoolptfa.org.uk or come & chat with one of us at the school gate-we don't bite, promise!

Next Week's Curriculum Overview



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

Maths - Through games and practical activities, the children will begin to develop their own 'mental number line', as well as the ability to understand which number is more than or less than another.

Literacy - Using digraph sounds (two letters making one sound) to write lots of different words and sentences.

Topic - Learning all about Chinese New Year.

RWI Links

[The sound ng](#)

[The sound nk](#)

[The sound ay](#)

[The sound igh](#)

[The sound ee](#)

[The sound ow](#) (Mrs Griffith's and Miss Young's groups only)



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

Maths: We will be writing addition and subtraction fact families, practising writing number sentences with the "=" at the end and the start of the sentence. Then we will move on to missing number problems.

English: We will be writing goodbye letters to Beegu as she prepares to go home to her planet.

DT: In our Taxi unit we will be exploring axles, wheels and chassis to make our own moving vehicles.

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 'ir'](#), [the sound 'ou'](#), [the sound 'oy'](#)

Mrs Robins' Group: [the sound 'oa'](#), [the sound 'ew'](#), [the sound 'ire'](#)

Mr Allen's Group: [the sound 'oa'](#), [the sound 'ew'](#), [the sound 'ire'](#)

Miss Buxton's Group: [the sound 'x'](#), [the sound 'k'](#), [the sound 'j'](#)



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

Maths: We will be learning the 5 and 10 times tables. Please complete set work on Sumdog.

English: Finishing our own versions of the story Halibut Jackson and writing a book review.

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

Miss Hynes' group: [ow sound](#) and [oo sound](#)

Mrs Foweraker and Mrs Baldock's groups: [i-e sound](#) and [o-e sound](#)

Other: We will be carrying out an investigation for our 'Uses of Materials' topic in science. We need your help! We are looking for a range of different materials such as bubble wrap, cardboard, tissue paper, packaging paper etc.



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

Maths: The children will begin a unit on Fractions.

English: The children will write an imaginative piece of writing about the back story of a character portrayed in the class text: *The Firework Maker's Daughter - Razvani the fire fiend!*

RWI Revision - this week we will be revising the sounds learnt this term:

Mrs Baker's Group: aw (yawn at dawn), are (share and care) ur (purse for a nurse) er (better letter) ow (brown cow) ai (snail in the rain) oa (goat in a boat) ew (chew the stew) and two red words: **father eight**

Miss Reigate's Group: Revise the following sounds: ay (may I play) ow (blow the snow) oo (zoo and spoon) ar (start the car) ai (chair and fair) ir (whirl and twirl) and oy (toy to enjoy) and two red words: **and two.**

Geography: The children will research Earthquakes.

Spellings and Times Tables: We will test the children on Wednesday so please ensure that your child has their Home Learning Book in school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and look forward to discussing your child's progress at Parental Consultation.



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

Maths: Completing our Perimeter unit by calculating the perimeter of polygons and then starting our Fractions unit by understanding the whole.

English: Writing a newspaper report on the events of The Yeti Noodle Bar

Other: In Geography we will be researching mountains around the world. In Science will be carrying out an investigation on ice melting.

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

Maths: We will be continuing to do decimals and percentages ordering and comparing numbers.

English: We are writing a letter from the perspective of Mary Lennox in the Secret Garden to her friend in India.

PSHE : We will be finishing off our unit on Dreams & Goals.



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

Maths: we will continue our work on decimals, applying our knowledge to multiplication and division.

English: we will finish our newspaper reports, based on the opening chapters of *The Wolf Wilder*. We will end the week with some poetry, focussing on personification.

Other: In Art, we will be creating our Inuit inspired prints. In Science, we will carry out our investigations into the role of fat (blubber) as an insulator for polar animals.