



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 24 May 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Another term comes to an end and what a busy term it has been!

The weeks have been buzzing with lots of exciting learning opportunities, we've had Year 6 SATs week and Year 5 have had a 6-week programme of Tiger Troop Programme. This has been a huge success. It involves 2 military personnel taking sessions and activities based around one of the linked core values: Courage, Discipline, Integrity, Selfless Commitment and Respect. Consideration is given to each individual core value, how it relates to them as individuals and what it brings them in a school setting. They take part in foot drill exercises to bring focus at the start of each session and then an activity such as challenge/obstacle course, patrol, blindfold minefield command task, team games, Tug of War ending this week with a soft sumo and giant boxing kit.



Thank you to everyone who attended our **Parent Teacher Consultations** this week. You will receive a final summary end of year report in July.

This next term we have lots of events coming up including opening the **swimming pool** for **lessons for KS2**. (Separate email with information about this.)



Sports Day is fast-approaching. This will run with **EYFS/KS1 activities** in the **morning** and **KS2 activities** in the **afternoon** with a **family picnic** at lunchtime. More information about this special day will come out early next term but we welcome other family members such as grandparents to this event as well. (Please see below regarding some changed PE days!)

Jack Keeler MBE, our **Chair of Governors** is walking the **Rotary North Downs Walk** on **9th June**. He is raising money for **Cancer Research** and for the PTFA's new **school library project**. The GoFundMe link will come out soon. All donations gratefully received.



We are introducing a new section to our Headlines where **Governors** share a summary of their **Governor visits** or **meetings**. Below is the first of these written by Mr Tom Kelly, one of our parent Governors, regarding our recent FGB visit day and FGB meeting.

Take a look at the **OPAL Sway page** (link below) as we are offering **Dojo points** for items brought on **Wednesday 5th June** from our resources wish list. Have a rummage around over Half Term to see if you are able to help us!
<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/1NLzuHUuIF4XAL8S?ref=Link>

Have a fantastic Summer Half Term break!
Miss Symonds

Dates for your Diary:

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

Tuesday 4th June: Start of Term 6

Tuesday 4th June: Year 6 Trip to Bewl Water

Wednesday 5th June: OPAL Donation Day

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

Friday 7th June: Year 5 Trip to the Science Museum

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

Monday 17th June: Sports Day

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

Tuesday 25th June: Year 3 Trip to Kent Life

Thursday 11th July: Year 1 Trip to Kent Life

Friday 12th July: Year R Trip to Rare Breeds

Mon 15th - Wed 17th July: Y6 Kench Hill Residential

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



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.

Our first week back will be dedicated to celebrating World Environment Day. This year's campaign focuses on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience under the inspiring slogan: "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration."



Music of the Week



Each week, we're inviting members of our school staff to share their favourite songs and music with the children during assembly time. Mrs Tucker's choice...
DJ Ice featuring Clair – Never Enough

PE Days

To accommodate the KS2 Swimming Timetable for next term, we have had to alter some PE days. Changed days are in **red**!

Term 6 PE Days:

YR – Wednesdays

Y1 – Tuesdays & Thursdays

Y2 – Mondays & Thursdays

Y3 – **Tuesdays** & Wednesdays (Swimming on **Tuesdays**)

Y4 – Mondays & **Wednesdays** (Swimming on **Wednesdays**)

Y5 – Tuesdays & Fridays (Swimming on **Fridays**)

Y6 – Mondays & **Thursdays** (Swimming on **Mondays** & **Thursdays**)

Please note: Swimming information is being emailed to KS2 families separately.



Summer Uniform

Just a reminder regarding summer school uniform:

- Purple and white checked dress / playsuit or
- Short-sleeved white or purple polo shirt or short sleeved shirt with either Black or dark grey tailored shorts or skirt
- White or black socks with low heeled closed-toe sandals (black or white) or black shoes (no trainers)

PE Uniform:

Children are to wear their PE Uniform to school on their allocated PE days. As this is in place of wearing their usual school uniform, we expect children to be smartly dressed in the correct PE uniform items.

- School colour T-shirt with black or navy shorts / skirt
- Purple jumper, cardigan or fleece (Year 6 only can wear their Leavers hoodies)
- Trainers with white or black socks



Mr Curteis

I have had some people enquiring after Mr Curteis, the gentleman who operates our Road Crossing Patrol. I am unable to provide any details about his absence but if people wish to send any best wishes or cards then please let someone on the gates know and we can pass these on.

Governor News

Governor News

Hi everyone, this is Tom Kelly, one of the parent governors. This is the first of more regular updates from governors – keeping you in the loop with any key developments and decisions!

This week we had a Full Governing Board meeting. At this point in the year we agree the school's accounts, to be reported back to government. Just like most of our household budgets, funding is tight! But it is well managed by the school, so we're happy to say – we make the most of what we've got.

Two good news stories: this week we welcomed two new governors, Dawn Smith and Sarah Rollinson. Both bring a wealth of experience and commitment to the role and mean that we have a full complement of governors. There will be short profiles of us all on the new website (coming soon)!

And we've been working with staff and school leadership on the school's vision for the future. Times have changed, since we were single-form-entry – through the pandemic – and as Headcorn has grown. And our ambition for the school has grown too. Delighted to say we have agreed a new statement of our vision. In the next term we'll be in touch with parents directly to get your feedback, comments and ideas.

Managing Screen time this Half Term Holiday...

Attention Headcorn families!

With the half-term holiday upon us, it's the perfect time to strike a balance between screen fun and other activities. Screens are a big part of our lives, but too much can turn us into zombies! Here are some playful tips to keep the balance just right.

1. Plan Screen-Free Adventures

Why not transform your home into a treasure island or a magical forest? Encourage the kids to create maps, go on scavenger hunts, or build forts. These activities spark creativity and get them moving.

2. Family Screen Time

When it's time for screens, make it a family affair! Watch a fun movie, play a video game together, or have a virtual dance-off. It's a great way to bond and keep an eye on what they're up to.

3. Screen Time Challenges

Set up a fun challenge: for every hour spent off screens, earn points towards a special treat or activity. Maybe a trip to the park or a family bake-off?

4. Mix in Educational Content

Balance entertainment with learning. There are amazing educational apps and shows that can make screen time productive. Sneak in some learning while they're having fun!

5. Set Clear Boundaries

Create a daily schedule that includes specific screen times. This way, kids know when to expect screen time and can look forward to it without the constant nagging.

For more detailed advice and age-specific tips, check out Internet Matters. It's a fantastic resource for navigating screen time with ease.

Happy half-term, everyone! Let's enjoy it to the fullest—on and off the screen!

Development Language Disorder (DLD)



Keep an eye out for The DLD Mouse! He'll be visiting us at Headcorn very soon, raising awareness for Developmental Language Disorder.

The DLD Mouse has been on many adventures. He visits lots of schools to get people talking about DLD, he's been to Mexico where he saw some ancient temples, he's even paddle boarded the length of the River Thames!



PTFA News

Thanks to all that bought treats and preloved uniform after school.

Fun in the sun 🌞 (👥)

A reminder our next event 'PTFA Summer Social' on Saturday 29th June 11-3 held in the school field. Very relaxed event, tickets £1 which will be redeemable at bar/BBQ. Please bring your chairs/picnic mats/outdoor games. We will be inviting new reception parents so please spread the word if you know any of them?

Reminder for our next PTFA meeting on 12th June upstairs in Tap 17 at 8pm. Have a brilliant Half Term ❤️

Next Week's Curriculum Overview



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

Maths: Developing an understanding of the magnitude of numbers and considering where numbers to 10 are in relation to each other.

Literacy: Writing a postcard.

Topic: Exploring postcards from around the world. Please send in any postcards that you may have. Please could you also send in or email a photo of your child if they have visited somewhere on holiday. We will share these and explore their location on the world map.

RWI Links:

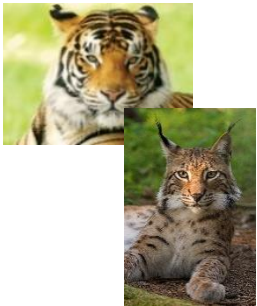
Miss Cresswell's group: [The sound f](#), [Fred Game](#)

Miss Gelder's group: [The sound igh](#) [Spelling using igh](#)

Mrs Day's group: [Read and hold a sentence](#)

Miss Young's group: [Read and hold a sentence](#)

Mrs Griffiths' group: [Read and hold a sentence](#)



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

English: Our new text next term will be The Secret Garden by Linda Sarah.

Maths: We will be beginning the next term with place value and numbers within 100.

PSHE: We will be starting our Changing Me topic in our jigsaw lessons. Our first lesson will be on lifecycles.

RWI Links: 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 'ew'](#), [the sound 'ire'](#), [the sound 'ear'](#)

Mr Allen's Group: [the sound 'tious/cious'](#), [the sound 'tion'](#),

Miss Arthur's Group: [the sound 'tious/cious'](#), [the sound 'tion'](#),

Miss Buxton's Group: [the sound 'o-e'](#), [the sound 'u-e'](#)



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

Maths: We will begin our new unit on position and direction.

English: We will be learning about different types of rodents and writing a fact file about them! This links to our new class text which you will find out more about after half term!

RWI Links: Please watch the video clips for your child's RWI (phonics) group:

Miss Buxton's Group: [the sound 'o-e'](#), [the sound 'u-e'](#)

Miss Ferguson's group: [oo \(zoo\) sound](#) and [oo \(look\) sound](#)

Mrs Baldock's group: [ai sound](#) and [oa sound](#)

Miss Harman and Miss Stanton's groups: [are sound](#) and [ew sound](#)

Other: We will be learning about British designer Cath Kidston in Design Technology.

We will also be continuing with our Magnificent Monarchs topic in history.



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

English: We will begin to explore our new book, 'The Leopard in the Golden Cage'

Mrs Maher's Group: a-e as in cake

Maths: We will begin a new Unit of Shape/Geometry.

History: In our first week back, we will look at Hadrian's wall and discuss why the wall was built and its significance.

PSHE: First, we will discuss that in animals and humans lots of changes happen from birth to fully grown, and that in mammals it is the female who has the baby.

All Year 3 learners are welcome to change their reading book when they are ready to do so. Please continue to use your 'Read Around the World' sheets to log any reading that you do with your children- we love to hear what books are interesting them at the moment!

RWI Links: Mrs Baker's Group: Our focus is Common Words: the, said, he, I, of, it, was + you



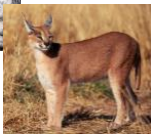
Year 4 Jungle Cat & Cougar Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

Maths: Next term we will finishing our unit on Time and then kickstarting our next unit on Shape by understanding angles as turns and identifying different angles.

English: Our new texts next term are: 'Leon and the place between' and 'Escape Room.'
Other: In D.T next term we will be starting a 'Tomb builders' project where we will learn about the simple machines that helped ancient builders used to lift and move heavy loads. In R.E. we will be answering the next question: 'Why do some people think life is a journey?'

For the first 2 weeks in Term 6, we will start to showcase our amazing recall of times tables in the MTC's. Please reassure the children that there is no need to panic and the progress that they have made this year, has not only wow-ed us but made us very proud indeed!

RWI Links: Mrs Baker's Group: Our focus is Common Words: the, said, he, I, of, it, was + you



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

Maths: We will be looking at negative numbers, converting units and volume.

English: We will be carrying on reading 'Who Let the Gods Out?' and basing our writing around this starting with newspaper reports.

Science: We will be doing human reproduction and aging, which will tie in with our RSE (relationships and sex education) topic in PSHE.



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

Next term, we will be continuing our 'Britain at War' topic, this time focussing on World War II. In DT, we continue a wartime theme as we embark on our 'Make Do and Mend' topic. In Science, we being our work on 'Light Theory'.

If your child has come home with a script today, we would love if they could practise their lines for our Y6 production over half term!