

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'



Heytesbury C E Primary School
Newsletter
28 February 2020



Dear Parents,

Welcome back after half- term.

The staff had two very productive training days at the end of term 3. We had some training about the teaching of reading comprehension skills and this led to a review of how we teach guided reading. Children in each cohort from Y3 – Y6 will all read the same book in guided reading. Sometimes they will be asked to read some of this book with an adult at home – if this is the case, they do not need to read their individual reading book that evening/evenings. Please do not let your child read further than the teacher has asked, for we cannot teach prediction skills if the child has already read it.

We would like to run 'How to help your child with reading' workshops. Please would you complete and return the slip at the bottom of the newsletter so we can ascertain if there is an interest in this (or email Mrs Godfrey directly).

On our second training day, we learned all about our new approach to PSHE lessons (personal, social and health education) – this scheme is known as 'Jig-Saw' and is focused on a 'mindfulness approach'. With mental health concerns often being in the news, we felt that a mindfulness approach was important, so that we teach our children about ways in which they can look after themselves.

As you know, we have been emailing you updates in regards to the coronavirus outbreak. From next week, there will be hand gels in each classroom and main school areas – please let your class teacher know if your child is unable to use these due to allergies etc.

On Tuesday, 24th March, we will be holding a 'Skipping Day' led by the 'Skipping for Life Team'. This is a fun way for the children to exercise, socialize and communicate. There will be more details later, but keep your fingers crossed that 'Skippy John' himself makes an appearance (he was a contestant on 'Total Wipeout').

On Thursday 5th March, Mrs Fulop would like Otters Class to dress up as a fairytale character – this links in to Otters' current topic – 'Once upon a time...' and with World Book Day. Foxes and Badgers will not be dressing up this year for World Book day; Foxes will be dressing up for their Egyptian museum towards the end of term; Badgers had a vote whether to dress up or not – 17 against dressing up; 9 for dressing up so we agreed not to dress up this year.

Term 3 ended with a very positive letter from Wiltshire Council, congratulating us on the children's outcomes in July 2019. The letter is below – do have a read.

We hope you have a restful weekend.

Mrs Godfrey & Team

“Working together so all may flourish”

13 February 2020

Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Heytesbury CoE Primary School

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Education and Skills
School Effectiveness
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our ref: HH/LL/KM

Dear Ms C Godfrey and Ms A Perry

Congratulations on your school's performance

At present, the responsibilities for educational excellence as set out in section 13A of the Education Act 1996, remain with the local authority. That duty states that a local authority must exercise its education functions with a view to promoting high standards. As well as taking swift and effective action when underperformance occurs in a maintained school, local authorities should encourage good and outstanding maintained schools to take responsibility for their own improvement and to support other schools, and enable other schools to access such support.

I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the recently validated outcomes achieved by your pupils in 2019, which are amongst the best primary schools in Wiltshire.

We would particularly like to recognise your achievements in the areas listed below:

- At the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, your school has achieved significantly higher than the national average.
- In Key Stage 2, your school has achieved significantly higher standards than nationally.

We appreciate that these very good outcomes are due to the sustained commitment, hard work and success of your staff, governors and pupils and recognise that they could not have been achieved without your effective leadership and determination to remain focused on school improvement.

A crucial role for the LA is to ensure that key partnerships are effective in supporting continued success and improvements for schools through our core vision:

‘a strong, self-improving, self-sustaining school-led system to improve the educational outcomes for every child in Wiltshire’

We would therefore ask you to consider how you could work closely with other schools to effect improvement to ensure the very best education for every pupil in Wiltshire and give each child the opportunity to fulfill their potential. Please contact Lesley Lowe, Regional School Improvement and Excellence Lead - East, if you would like to discuss this further.

I would like to offer my thanks to you and all at your school for your pursuit of the highest standards of educational achievement.

Yours sincerely



Helean Hughes
Director of Education and Skills

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This week in worship...

This week, we launched our new approach to PSHE – ‘Jig-saw’ – ‘a mindfulness approach’. Ask your child about ‘Calm Me’ time and the class chime as well as about ‘The Jiggles’

*“What day is it?” asked Pooh.
“It’s today,” squeaked Piglet.
“My favourite day,” said Pooh.
AA Milne*



SCHOOL DIARY

Friday 6th March – Foxes class trip to Tutankhamun museum
Tuesday 10th March: KS2 Emergency Awareness Training; Wiltshire Air Ambulance
Friday, 13th March: Foxes’ cake sale
Thursday, 26th March: Book Fair begins
Tuesday, 31st March: Final day of Book Fair
Friday 31st March: ‘Stations of the Cross’ with ‘Open the Book’
Thursday, 2nd April: last day of term 4
Friday 3rd April: Teacher Training Day – school closed

THIS WEEK’S ACHIEVEMENTS

RUBY
ALEXIA
BLUEBELL
KATIE B

EMERALD
OSCAR E

Maths Passports

AFRICA : KENYA – Sam M
AFRICA : MADAGASCAR - Ben



**BELLA
PIPPA
ARTHUR
MILLIE**

Topic webs for term 4 are now on the website – Parents - Classes

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

A big thank you to Mrs Rickards and her team of helpers for organising this year's pancake breakfast. £75.00 was raised for HEFA.



LEARNING CORNER

Badgers:

We have begun to analyse persuasive letters as we will need to write a 'pitch letter' as part of the 'Young Engineers Competition'. We also revised the difference between phrases, main clauses and subordinated clauses with Y5/6 also revisiting relative clauses. Mrs Godfrey's maths group have been learning about interpreting line graphs – this is new but everyone is managing it well.

Thank you for your support in helping your child to think of engineering designs – there are many wonderful ideas, from supermarket trolleys that hold several children (as well as the shopping), to coats that heat up and cool down depending on the weather, to clothes lines with automatic umbrellas if it starts to rain. We looking forward to sharing all the designs with you as they develop.

Foxes:

During our history lessons this week, we have been learning about the pharaohs of Egypt. We have learnt how to research using books, pictures, fact files and the internet. After researching Tutankhamun, we recorded all our findings on a fact file. Our key question, 'Was Tutankhamun a good pharaoh?' became a very interesting debate in the classroom – ask the children for their opinions.

In maths this week, we have been learning how to collect data in the form of a tally chart. The children have then learned how to present their data in pictograms and learnt how to interpret them.

Foxes class topic homework challenge was due this week. Thank you for everyone hard work at home - the projects look fantastic. The children's work will be on display in our class museum on the last day of term. Times to be confirmed.

Otters:

We began our topic "Once Upon a Time" by reading 'The Magic Porridge Pot' and retelling the story through role play. Some of the children drew story maps and others sequenced pictures of the story in preparation for writing our own versions. In DT, we tasted a range of apples and chose our favourite. The year 1 children also attempted to peel and chop their apples. On Monday, we went outside to observe the weather and recorded our observations in our weather book