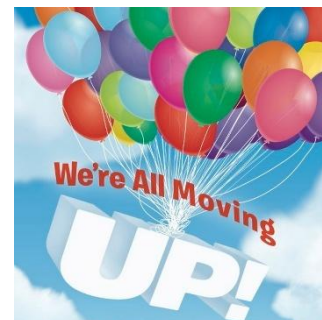




HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 3 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been **Transition Week** for our Year 6 children. They have been visiting their secondary schools in preparation for September. We have had our own internal Transition Day which was a really positive day with so many smiles and excitement about next year. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend Meet the NEW Teacher yesterday with their child. On your Transition letter you will have noticed some staff changes for the next academic year.



Miss Arthur, our newly appointed Interim Deputy Head Teacher from September, will be stepping out of the classroom for this next year. This Year 1 vacancy will be filled by **Mrs Priestley**. Mrs Priestley is a qualified and experienced teacher and has been working as an HLTA across the school over the last few years. She is very excited to go back into teaching as a class teacher. She will be working in the Year 1 team.

Mrs Hutchison will be leaving at the end of this year. She has worked for the school for 18 years and is going to be starting her well-deserved retirement. As well as leading on Modern Foreign Languages and being our French specialist, Mrs Hutchison has been heavily involved in music across the school for many years and runs our choir taking groups of children to Young Voices to perform at the O2! She will be greatly missed.

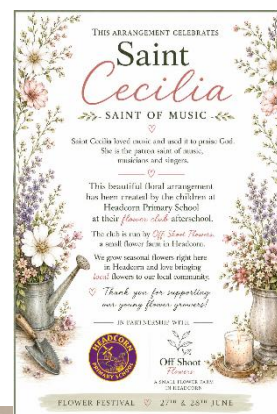
Miss Bissett has worked for the school for the last three years and is now moving onto to exciting adventures teaching abroad. We wish her all the very best for her new post in Qatar. This vacancy will be filled by a new teacher, **Mr Boyce**. Mr Boyce is joining our Year 4 Team. He is an experienced, qualified teacher from both Maidstone and Ashford schools.

Congratulations to **Miss Arnold** who will be on maternity leave for much of next year so has not been assigned a class. We look forward to the photos of Baby Arnold. Congratulations also to **Miss Harman** and **Miss Stanton** who both got married over this past year and so their surnames will be changing slightly. Miss Harman will be known as Mrs Harman-Bray and Miss Stanton will be known as Mrs Stanton-McTigue. We will share the finalised Staff List with TA allocations, before the end of this academic year.



Today **Years R – 5** have enjoyed a free taster session from **Matt Fides Martial Arts Kent** who will be running a club from next term. Much fun was had by all.

Last weekend was **St Peter & St Paul's Headcorn Parish Flower Festival**. We were invited to take part and represent one of the Saints. The children chose **Saint Cecilia, Saint of Music**. We were very fortunate to have **Christie Thrackray**, one of our Year 3 parents, who runs **Off Shoot Flowers**, a small flower farm in Headcorn. Christie ran a Flower Arranging Club with those interested children from KS2. They learnt about different types of flowers, how to make eye-catching arrangements and designed the flower arrangement that was displayed at the church. A big thank you to Christie, ably assisted by her son, Ollie, for putting this arrangement together for us.



Have a lovely weekend!
Miss Symonds



Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 9th July: YR and Y1 School Trips

15th – 17th July: Year 6 Residential

Monday 20th July: Non-uniform Disco Day!

(YR Disco 1.30pm, Y1&2 Disco 2.15pm,

Y3 Disco & 4 3.30-4.30pm, Y5&6 Disco 5-6pm)

Tuesday 21st July: Year 6 Leavers' Performance @ 9.00am for 9.15am prompt start

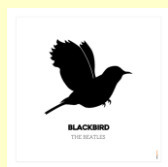
Tuesday 21st July: Year 6 Leavers' Assembly @ 2pm

Tuesday 21st July: End of Term 6 / End of Academic Year

Assemblies

Next week in assembly we will be focusing on the importance of reading. Reading is one of the most powerful skills we can learn. In fact, research shows that children who read for just 20 minutes a day are exposed to around 1.8 million words a year, compared to only about 8,000 words a year for those who rarely read. We will be exploring why reading for just a few minutes every day can make such a big difference, and how it can help us to build vocabulary, improve understanding, and enjoy stories from around the world. It can also be a great way to relax and unwind. We will also be introducing the Kent

Libraries Reading Challenge, which encourages children to keep reading over the holidays and earn rewards for the books they complete: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/summer-reading-challenge>
We look forward to celebrating reading together and sharing ideas about our favourite books!



Music of the week

Miss Gelder's choice

Blackbird – Beatles

E-Safety Update: Social Media Ban and Online Safety: What We Actually Know (So far)

By now most of you will have seen the headlines: the Government has announced a social media ban for under-16s, expected to come into force from Spring 2027. It's been met with a mixed reaction, plenty of parents are relieved, plenty more are asking exactly what it will mean in practice.

That second reaction is fair. Because behind the big announcement, there's still a lot we don't know. Legislation is expected to go before Parliament before Christmas 2026, with the rules coming into force in Spring 2027 if approved, so nothing changes for families overnight. And the ban itself is only part of the picture. The wider package includes restrictions on under-16s contacting strangers on gaming platforms, a ban on under-16s creating livestreams, and new rules banning romantic or sexual AI chatbots for anyone under 18.

A few things worth knowing now:

- Platforms likely to be in scope include TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, X and YouTube — but the final list hasn't been confirmed.
- Messaging apps like WhatsApp and Signal have been explicitly ruled out of the ban, though it's still unclear how something like Discord — which blends messaging, gaming and community features — will be treated.
- Simple date-of-birth entry won't be enough anymore — platforms will need proper age-verification checks, though the exact method is still being worked out.
- Enforcement and fines are aimed at the platforms, not at children or parents.

Here's the thought-provoking bit: a ban on the front door doesn't close every window. Children will still spend time on gaming platforms, messaging apps and livestreaming services that fall outside the ban entirely. So whatever happens in Spring 2027, the conversations we have with our children now — about what they're seeing, how it makes them feel, and who they can talk to if something's wrong — matter just as much as any new law.

Internet Matters have put together a genuinely useful, regularly updated explainer covering all of this in more depth, including what's still to be confirmed and age-specific advice for families. Well worth a read:

 [Social media ban and online safety rules explained – Internet Matters](#)

JAG Summer Holiday Camp

 Summer Holiday Early Bird Ending Soon – Big Days. Big Energy. All Summer Long

This summer, Holiday HQ brings high-energy adventures, creative challenges and unforgettable experiences to our school — but early bird places won't last.

 Book Early and Save

 Early Bird Discount – Save 10%

Book by Sunday 5th July using code **STORIES10** at checkout

 Secure your place now before slots fill up

Book now at the following venues:

 [Headcorn Primary School](#)

Delivered by Junior Adventures Group (JAG), no two days are the same, and children come home happily tired, full of stories and excited for what's next.

[Check out our Activity Schedule!](#)

Maidstone Library - Summer Reading Challenge

The Challenge runs from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 5 September and is free for children aged 4 to 11. It helps children keep up their reading over the summer and return to school with greater confidence.



This year's theme is Read to the Beat, celebrating music, rhythm and the enjoyment of reading.

We have created a [downloadable Summer Reading Challenge promotional pack](#) for schools with ready-to-use materials, including newsletter text, posters and social media content.

Next Week's Curriculum Overview



Year R Cheetah & Leopard Classes: Next Week's Curricular Focus

Maths: Measuring and comparing length.

Literacy: 'Pizza for Pirates' by Adam and Charlotte Guillain (swapped over with 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' due to Sainsbury's pizza making delivery to link with our Drawing Club book).

Topic: School Trip to Howlett's.

Read Write Inc Links:

[Set 1 Special Friends](#)

[Set 2 Special Friends](#)

[Set 3 Split Digraphs](#)

PE Day: Wednesdays



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

We are really excited for our trip next Thursday to Maidstone Museum linked to our History topic on the Victorians.

Handwriting: We will continue to focus on hill to 'sister' letter formation. Please click on the letters to open the video link [co](#). Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to watch the video and practise their letter formation at home.

Maths: We will continue our unit on time, thinking about telling the time to the hour and half hour on an analogue clock.

English: We will be writing a published version of a non-chronological report about bluebirds. We will write about their habitats, species, diet and reproduction.

DT: We will continue our unit, learning how to prepare fruit and vegetables using tools such as a knife, masher, grater, and peeler safely.

RWI Links:

Miss Schofield - [tious /cious, wh](#)

Mrs Brennan - [ph, kn](#)

Miss Harman - [Word Challenge Lesson 9](#)

Miss Arthur/Mr Allen - [ph, kn](#)

Mrs Maher - [ur, er, ow](#)

Mrs Goodwin/Miss Hayes – [ur, er, ow](#)

PE Days: Tuesdays & Fridays / Book Change: Tuesday and Fridays / Arithmetic All-Stars: Wednesdays



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

Maths: We will be continuing lessons on position and direction. Remember to complete activities on Sumdog if you can!

English: We will be editing and improving some of our writing from last week.

Other: We will be practising a simple running stitch in DT.

RWI Links:

Miss Schofield - [tious /cious, wh](#)

Mrs Brennan - [ph, kn](#)

Miss Harman - [Word Challenge Lesson 9](#)

Miss Arthur/Mr Allen - [ph, kn](#)

Mrs Maher - [ur, er, ow](#)

Mrs Goodwin/Miss Hayes – [ur, er, ow](#)

PE Days: Mondays & Thursdays / Book Change: Fridays / Arithmetic All-Stars: Fridays



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

Maths: We will be recognising and describing 2D and 3D shapes

English: We will be learning about Roman Gods and Goddesses.

Other: In DT we will be learning about structures by using cocktail sticks and mini gems. In RSE this week we will be starting to recognise stereotypical ideas that we might have about parenting and family roles.

Please remember that Tuesday 7th July is our Ancient Rome Day and the children are invited to dress up in Ancient Roman attire, if they wish. We cannot wait to see their costumes.

PE Days: Monday:Outdoor and Wednesday:Swimming / Book Change: Thursdays / Spellings, Times Tables & Arithmetic All-Stars: Mondays (Y3A) & Thursdays (Y3B) / Ongoing challenges on Sum Dog & TT Rockstars close on Sundays

 	<u>Year 4 Jungle Cat & Cougar Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u> English: We will be continuing with the DASH stories we started this week. Maths: We will be starting our statistics unit, looking at charts and graphs. PSHE: We will be looking at 'accepting change'. We will be identifying changes out of our control and learn how to accept these. We will also be learning how to express fears and concerns about changes and how to manage these feelings positively. PE Days: Monday & Thursday: Swimming / Book Change: Mondays and Fridays (Reading Records checked on Fridays) / Spellings, Times Tables & Arithmetic All-Stars: Fridays
 	<u>Year 5 Caracal & Snow Leopard Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u> Maths: We will be moving on to converting units, focusing on both metric and imperial measurements. English: Odysseus has returned home, but his adventures are not quite over. He is now tasked with planting an oar into the ground, but for him, nothing is ever that simple. We will be writing our own chapter to continue his journey. Will the gods continue to interfere with his fate, or will a new creature stand in his way? PSHE: I can identify what I am looking forward to about becoming a teenager, and understand that this also brings increasing responsibilities. PE Days: Tuesday & Friday:Swimming / Book Change: any day but Reading Records in on Tuesdays & Fridays / Spelling Tests & Arithmetic All-Stars: Fridays
 	<u>Year 6 Lion & Ocelot Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</u> History: Next week, we learn about some of the key decisions made by leaders of allied and axis powers that had significant impact on the outcome of the war Science: In our next lesson of Light Theory, we will be conducting an investigation into how light travels, using torches to prove hypotheses. DT: Please can we have some donations of old, unwanted clothes for our clothing deconstruction lesson! RE: After previously learning about the concept of reincarnation, we look at the religious idea of the afterlife and karma. On top of all this, we will be rehearsing for our production which is still in the works! PE Days: Monday & Friday:Swimming / Book Change: any day that is needed / Arithmetic All-Stars & Sumdog Tasks: Wednesdays / Homework due in on Fridays