

Headcorn Primary School

Head Teacher: Mr S Johnson



*Aspiration Inclusion Resilience
Learning for life...*

Good Afternoon Parents and Carers,

The term is racing by, and we are having a wonderful time growing as a community. The children continue to reflect on our school values and how these help shape them as they grow.

One of the challenges I have set the children is to develop their confidence when speaking and engaging in conversations with adults and their peers. This is a difficult skill to develop and requires a great deal of confidence. We understand that some children will find this more challenging than others, and we are mindful of this. However, we aspire for all children to leave Headcorn not only academically prepared for their next steps, but also socially confident, able to engage in conversations, express their views, and communicate effectively. These are skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Attendance Policy

As we continue our journey together this academic year, we will be reflecting on key policies that help shape our school. I previously shared that our attendance last academic year was below national averages, and improving attendance is a key priority for us.

One of our most important policies is our Attendance Policy, which has been reviewed in line with the latest guidance and recommendations. You can view the policy here:

<https://www.headcorn.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1040&type=pdf>

There is a change in process within this policy which will result in us communicating more frequently with parents and carers if attendance begins to decline. We will begin implementing this process next week. Our approach will always be one of support first. We are not looking to penalise attendance concerns but instead to work in partnership with families to ensure the best possible attendance for every child. We appreciate that this represents a change in approach and ask the community to engage with it respectfully and with understanding. We recognise that some absences will be due to illness or other authorised circumstances, but it is important that families are kept informed when attendance falls below identified thresholds.

Parent Survey – Outcomes

Our parent survey closed last Friday and we received nearly 150 responses. These responses are helping us, as a new team, understand how the community feels and identify where we can continue to improve as a learning organisation.

Some key figures worth celebrating include:

- 84% of parents reported that their child is happy at school.
- 85% reported that their child feels safe at school.
- 88% said they would recommend Headcorn to another parent.

We have high aspirations for Headcorn and hope that future surveys will see these figures exceed 90%. We will continue to work on the areas highlighted by parents and will keep you updated on our progress.

Feedback regarding *Headlines* was particularly positive. Parents provided useful suggestions on how we can streamline the publication, focus on the most important information, and continue sharing year-group-specific learning updates. We are currently developing a revised format and will begin sharing this with you from next Friday.

Kings Road, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9QT

Phone: 01622-891289 **Website:** www.headcorn.kent.sch.uk **Email:** admin@headcorn.kent.sch.uk

One of the new sections will provide parents and carers with an opportunity to share their children's achievements outside of school. Please look out for further communication early next week explaining how you can contribute.

Parking and Road Safety

A significant number of responses in the survey highlighted concerns regarding parking and road safety. This is clearly an ongoing challenge and not a new issue for the community.

We will continue to liaise with both the Parish Council and Kent County Council regarding measures that could help improve the situation, and this matter was raised directly with them this week.

In the meantime, we would ask everyone to be considerate when parking near the school. Please ensure passing places and access points remain clear to help maintain a safe and effective flow of traffic.

Photographers in School

This week, two local photographers generously volunteered their time to capture photographs of the school throughout the day.

These photographs will be used in displays around the school, helping to showcase our children and celebrate the wonderful community we are building together. Over the coming weeks, these displays will begin appearing around the school, and we hope to have the project completed before the end of term. Please be reassured that all agreed photography permissions and consents were respected throughout the day.

Book Look – Tuesday 29th September

We are delighted to invite you to our **Book Look** event on **Tuesday 29th September from 3:30pm to 4:00pm**. The event will be a drop-in opportunity to celebrate the positive start to the academic year and to enjoy looking through your child's work and achievements so far.

To help the event run smoothly, please follow the guidance below:

- If you have one child in KS1, you may go directly to their classroom to see their learning.
- If you have one child in KS2, please collect them from the KS2 playground before heading to their classroom.
- If you have children across different key stages, please collect your KS2 child or children first and then visit their classroom to see their work. Younger children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 will be safely supervised by their class teachers while you do this.
- Once you have visited your KS2 child's classroom then we recommend moving to KS1.
- If you have two children in KS1, we recommend collecting your older child and seeing their work first before moving on to your younger child.

Please note:

- The wooden gate, that leads onto the KS2 playground, next to the Glennie Building (Year 6) will close at 3:30pm.
- The green gate next to the Keeler Building and the Early Years gates will remain open until 4:00pm.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the children's work with you.

We hope you all have a safe, happy and wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you all again next week for another brilliant week.

Mr Sean Johnson
Headteacher