



Friday 9th October 2026



Welcome to Headcorn Headlines

We will be using Sway moving forward to bring *Headcorn Headlines* to you. Following feedback from our recent Parent Survey, we have streamlined the newsletter to better meet the needs of our community. Some sections will remain each week, while others will showcase exciting news, achievements, and events as they arise.

It has been a brilliant first six weeks for all of us here at Headcorn. Being on the gate each morning and having the opportunity to meet so many members of our community has been a real highlight. Slowly but surely, I am learning as many of our children's names as possible, something that has been an important part of my first weeks at the school and will continue to be a priority.

Our school values are becoming increasingly important as children reflect on what they mean and consider how they influence their daily lives. Across the school, I have seen children demonstrating resilience as they work hard to improve their handwriting, showing

kindness and inclusivity through their play, and displaying aspiration in their attitude towards learning and achievement throughout the school day.

During our Friday Celebration Assemblies, we recognise one child from each class who has demonstrated our school values particularly well. Teachers share wonderful examples of how these children have modelled a specific value, providing inspiration for others.

Alongside this, we continue to promote aspiration through our *Perfect Presentation Award*, which celebrates children who consistently take pride in their learning. Moving forward, we will share the names of these children in *Headcorn Headlines* so that the wider community can celebrate their achievements too.

Reminders

- Children should not bring fidget toys or other toys into school unless this has been agreed in advance with Mrs Daniel (SENCo). Unauthorised items can often become a distraction and cause difficulties within the classroom.
- Children should not wear necklaces or bracelets to school. Please ensure these items are removed before children arrive each morning.
- Water bottles should contain water only. If there is a medical reason why your child requires an alternative drink, please contact the school so that appropriate arrangements can be discussed.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing the many successes and celebrations from across the school throughout the year.

Mr Johnson

Headteacher

Attendance

No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	151 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80%

If a child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day per fortnight (90% attendance)	19 days per year	≈ 4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
1 day per week (80% attendance)	38 days per year	≈ 8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years
2 days per week (60% attendance)	76 days per year	≈ 16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week (40% attendance)	days per year	≈ 24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

Attendance continues to be a significant priority for the school. As shared earlier in the year, our attendance figures last year were below the national average and improving attendance is something we need to work on together as a school community.

As we move into the winter months, we appreciate that illnesses and bugs can sometimes lead to unavoidable absences. However, where children are well enough to attend, we encourage families to send them into school and help them return as soon as they are able. Every day in school makes a difference.

I recently shared attendance information with Governors and there is a very clear link between strong attendance and higher academic achievement. Quite simply, children who are in school more often have greater opportunities to learn, participate and succeed. Thank you for your continued support in helping us give every child the very best chance to thrive.



Early Years/Reception

Maths- We will be learning about numbers 8 and 9.

Literacy- We will be learning to read and write the letter sounds i and n and will be practising our blending to read simple words.

Topic- Signs of Autumn.

Read, Write, Inc. Links

[Reading letter sounds i and n, and learning to blend.](#)

Expectations

When your child is blending confidently to read simple words, they will bring home a reading book to read to an adult at home. These books will be changed on a Monday and a Thursday, please indicate whether they have read the book in the yellow Reading Record provided. It is **crucial** that children practise their blending and reread their book lots of times to develop their new reading skills.

Year One

Maths: We will be continuing to look at numbers to 10, ensuring that we are able to find them on a number line and starting our new topic looking at parts and wholes. Remember to keep using Sumdog to improve your child's fluency!

English: With the spooky season approaching we are going to be reading 'The Good, The Bad and the Spooky' in drawing club. We will need to be thinking about the characters, settings and what might happen next. Our focus continues to be consistently using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

Science: We are continuing to think about our bodies and the focus is now on senses. We will need to use all of our senses to work out what different things are.

Phonics:

Mrs Maher - [ee igh](#)

Mrs Priestley [air ir](#)

Miss Schofield [oi, a-e](#)

Miss Hayes [o-e u-e](#)

Miss Beal [n p](#)

Mrs Goodwin [are ur](#)

Year Two

English: We will be writing simple non-chronological reports about Kenya.

Maths: We have recently started our learning on addition and subtraction. We have been recapping number bonds to 10. Click [here](#) for a rhyme to help you learn number bonds to 10.

History: We are beginning to learn about some significant figures such as Rosa Parks, Neil Armstrong and Emmeline Pankhurst.

RWI links

Miss Sander's group: [wh sound](#)

Miss Bassett's group: [ew sound](#)

Miss Fisk's group: [ea sound](#)

Mrs Harman-Bray's group: [e sound](#) and [wh sound](#)

PE days: Mondays and Wednesdays

Book change day: Friday

Please remember to check Sumdog for home learning. Login details can be found inside the front cover of your child's reading record.

Year Three

MATHS: We will be subtracting across 1, then 10 and 100.

ENGLISH: We will be writing a short narrative describing Roz and Brightbill's new home.

OTHER: In History we will be learning about The Beaker folk.

Book change day: Friday

Spelling test day: Thursday – spellings for the term are in the yellow reading record books.

Number Bonds & Times table tests: We will begin testing on a Thursday from Term 2

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PE days: Wednesday outdoor (hockey) and Friday indoor (gymnastics)

Year Four

Maths - We are focusing on subtracting with more than one exchange, children will be using the column method

English - We will be writing our very own DASH stories linking this to our current text, 'Arthur and the Golden Rope'

Science - Following on from our exciting digestion experiment this week, we will be naming and matching digestive body parts

Year 4 reminders: Reading books are changed on Thursdays, but if this needs to be earlier then please ask your child to let an adult know.

We are also practicing and testing our children on their times tables each Tuesday morning.

PE days are Tuesday and Friday - children must be in correct kits otherwise they may not be able to take part.

Spelling tests are also now completed on a Friday, if your child needs another copy of their spellings please let us know.

Year Five

P.E. Days: Tuesday only during Term 1

Reading Records: Please bring these in every Friday.

English

Next week, we will be putting the finishing touches to our wonderful descriptions of Mushu, the little red dragon from Mulan. The children will be working on drafting, editing and finally publishing their writing.

Maths

We are beginning our new topic of Multiplication and Division. We will start by exploring factors and multiples of numbers, building the children's understanding and confidence.

P.E. – Challenger Troop

Next week will be our final week of Challenger Troop, and it has been an amazing experience for both the children and adults. These sessions have brought together fitness, teamwork, resilience and self-confidence, and we have been incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm and progress.

We will be celebrating their achievements on Tuesday, and parents and carers are very welcome to join us:

5A – Mrs Hughes and Mr Allen: 11:30am

5B – Ms Woodgate: 2:30pm

We hope you can join us!

Year Six

Maths- we will continue to practise our division skills, using factor pairs to divide larger numbers, before applying our knowledge to solve word problems involving the 4 operations.

English- after exploring the genre this week and creating some playful writing (wanted posters and persuasive flyers), we will now apply our skills to write a balanced argument about whether our main character, Nat, should return to his owners or continue on his quest to find Henry.

Science- following our heart dissection this week, we will finish our information leaflets about the heart and complete our final section: how to keep your heart healthy.

History- we explore the triangular slave trade, learning about what happened at each stage and considering how enslaved Africans were treated throughout this process.

Home learning- paper homework, Sumdog, TT Rockstars, 5 x reads recorded in reading record. Set on Fridays and due in the following Friday.

PE days: Monday and Friday

PTFA



The support our school receives from the PTFA is nothing short of extraordinary. Every year, they give up countless hours of their own time to raise funds, organise events and find new ways to enrich the experiences of our children. The impact of their work can be seen throughout the school and in the opportunities we are able to offer every pupil.

At their open meeting on Thursday evening, the PTFA shared just how much they have contributed over the last 12 months. Their investments have included:

- **Over £8,000 on new laptops**, helping to enhance technology across the school.
- **More than £5,000 on educational workshops**, providing memorable enrichment experiences for our children.
- **Ongoing financial support for our swimming pool**, helping us to continue offering this valuable provision.

Their generosity doesn't stop there. Looking ahead, the PTFA is helping us create inspiring and aspirational spaces for our pupils. They have already committed **£5,000 to further**

develop our Forest School provision, ensuring our children can benefit from exceptional outdoor learning opportunities. In addition, they have provided **£1,000 to transform our sensory room**, creating an even better space to support children's wellbeing and additional needs.

Quite simply, many of the things that make Headcorn Primary School special would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our PTFA. They are a remarkable group of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes for the benefit of every child in our school.

However, they cannot do it alone.

If you have ever attended a PTFA event, enjoyed seeing your child take part in an enriched experience, or appreciated the improvements to our school environment, please consider offering your support. Whether you can spare an hour helping at an event, join the committee, share ideas, or simply lend a hand when needed, every contribution makes a difference.

The reality is that the more volunteers we have, the more opportunities we can create for our children. More volunteers means more events, more fundraising, more exciting projects and even greater experiences for every pupil at Headcorn Primary School.

Please don't assume someone else will step forward. If every family could offer just a little support across the year, the impact would be incredible. Our PTFA does an amazing job for our children. Let's do all we can to support them in return.

A huge thank you to every member of our PTFA for their unwavering commitment, enthusiasm and generosity. We are incredibly fortunate to have you.

Some PTFA dates for the future:

- Friday 23rd October - Halloween Non-Uniform
- Saturday 31st October - Halloween Trail
- WB 9th November – Christmas Raffle Launch
- Friday 12th February – Valentine's Disco
- Monday 3rd May – May Fair

Dates

Please see table below of key dates for Term 2:

TERM 2	
Mon 2nd Nov	INSET Day 2: No children in school
Tue 3rd Nov	Start of Term 2: Children in school
Tue 3 rd Nov	Parent Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 6.30pm
Wed 4 th Nov	Parent Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 6.30pm
Thu 5 th Nov	EYFS New Parent Tour 10.00 – 11.00am
Sun 8 th Nov	PTFA Fireworks from 4pm
Mon 9 th Nov	Parents' Book Look 3.20 – 4pm
Tue 10 th Nov	EYFS New Parent Tour 10.00 – 11.00am
Thu 12 th Nov	EYFS New Parent Tour 10.00 – 11.00am
Fri 13 th Nov	Children in Need Day – Non-Uniform
Tue 17 th Nov	EYFS New Parent Tour 10.00 – 11.00am
Thu 19 th Nov	EYFS New Parent Tour 10.00 – 11.00am
Fri 20 th Nov	Individual Pupil Photos
Tues, 8 th Dec	Flu Immunisations
Fri 11 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Mon 14 th Dec	Year R Nativity Performance – 9.15am
Tue 15 th Dec	Year 1 Nativity Performance – 9.15am
Wed 16 th Dec	Year 2 Nativity Performance – 9.15am
Thu 17 th Dec	KS2 Church Services: Y3 Y4 @ 10am / Y5 Y6 @ 11am
Fri 18 th Dec	Christmas Party Day / Non-uniform
Fri 18th Dec	End of Term 2