



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 5 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 3. That was a bit of a shock to the system – back to school the day after New Year's Day so a big **WELL DONE** to everyone for getting up and out for day one – no small feat!



We look forward to seeing you at the first **Book Look** of the new year - **Tuesday 9th January!**
See the Dates for your Diary section below for more key dates to note down.

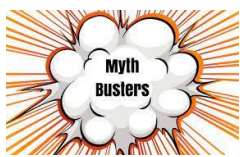


This is the time of year **we celebrate all that our fantastic PTFA have achieved over the last year** and also when we **vote in a new PTFA Committee**. All positions are resigned in January but committee members are able to stand again at the AGM if they wish. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big **Thank you** to **Jen Davey** and **Vikki Nesbitt** who have been in post as Joint PTFA Chairs for 4 years now, to **Susan Gravells** and then **Toni Morgan** who have been indispensable in the role of secretary and Jo Maher for her meticulousness as our treasurer. This committee have been fantastic in leading, inspiring and encouraging our School Community to raise funding for SO many projects, resources and events that we as a school body possibly take for granted. On behalf of us all I would like to take this opportunity to say a big **THANK YOU** for all the time, effort and sacrifice you have both put in to investing in our school and its provision. Also for the creativity, imagination and 'blue sky' thinking that you have brought to your roles in wanting to offer our children and the wider school community something special and 'above and beyond' expectation! You will be sorely missed in this position and leave big shoes to fill.

However, not wanting to put anyone off, we are holding the **PTFA AGM (with drink and nibbles!)** on **Wednesday 24th January at 8pm in the school hall**. The current PTFA Committee, Mr Keeler (Chair of Governors) and I would like to invite anyone who is interested to come along and hear about all that the PTFA have achieved over the past year, what's already planned for next year, share any ideas and also vote in the new committee! It would be SO good to see each year group represented.

If you are interested in being a part of this friendly and fun-loving group of parents, staff and friends, there are a variety of roles, some more involved than others, which require a variety of skills sets. Could you offer us your expertise in any way?

We have a range of roles available including the main committee roles of Chair / Co-chairs, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary and would welcome a social media Guru and Website Designer / Administrator. We are also open to other roles that people feel would be beneficial. Alternatively, you can be a general committee member who wants to be involved but not hold a specific position.



PTFA MythBusters:

Myth 1: The PTFA is a clique – We are a welcoming, friendly, fun-loving bunch of people who just want to see our children provided for above and beyond the limitations of the school budget!

Myth 2: Only Parents and Teachers are in the PTFA – Did you know that PTFA stands for Parents, Teachers & Friends Association? A strong, vibrant PTFA needs the support of mums, dads, stepparents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, guardians, carers, teachers, TAs and other school staff, community members and business leaders – anyone who cares about children belongs in PTFA. It is important that we all have a voice in the decision-making process.

Myth 3: I have to be on the committee to be part of the PTFA – You can be part of the PTFA and not hold a committee position. Anyone who offers even 30mins at an event, offers an idea, attends a meeting, supports a fund raiser, is considered a part of our PTFA.

Myth 4: I will have to volunteer for every event if I attend a meeting – You are completely safe to attend a meeting and walk away with your diary intact! This does not mean you're signed up for life. If you are interested in coming along to see what it's all about but can only give a small amount of time, or can't attend events but can support in another way, or maybe only be involved in one event per year, then this is all appreciated. We are not about guilting people into what they are unable to offer – anything that you can give is welcome!

Myth 5: The PTFA has all the help they need. My participation will not make a difference – This is probably the biggest myth of all. We want and need your help, support and participation, however big or small. You decide your time commitment. New faces and new ideas are always welcome – it's an important way to keep our PTFA fresh and exciting for all. All levels of participation are welcome and needed.

Myth 6: I have ideas but the PTFA only does traditional or the same types of events – Since I have been part of the PTFA I have seen such creativity in types of events, styles of fund-raising and things that are for children, for families, for the adults, online, in person, for fun, more serious, child-led and so much more. As mentioned before, new faces, new ideas keep our offer fresh, engaging and exciting for all involved!

Myth 7: My child's education and provision by school will be the same whether I join the PTFA or not – Not only does joining a team build friendships and put you in direct communication with other parents, staff and members of the community you live in, it models to your child that not only are you interested and invested in their educational experience but that being part of something bigger than yourselves can be fun, extend friendship circles and be a positive and rewarding opportunity.

If you have any other myths, please let us know so that we can dispel them! 😊

If you are interested, send an email to info@headcornschoolptfa.org.uk to see what's involved, what you may be able to offer or even to make general enquiries.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Symonds

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 9th January: Book Look: 3.20 – 4pm

Monday 19th February: INSET Day 3 (No children in school)

Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th February: Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs): 3.45 – 6pm

Tuesday 20th February: Start of Term 4

Wednesday 28th February: Book Look: 3.20 – 4pm

Thursday 28th March: End of Term 4

Monday 15th April: INSET Day 4 (No children in school)

Tuesday 16th April: Start of Term 5

Thursay 25th April: Parents' RSE Talk @ 2.30pm

Thursday 25th April: Book Look: 3.20 – 4pm

Mon 13th – Thu 16th May: Year 6 KS2 SATs Week

Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd May: Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs): 3.45 – 6pm

Friday 24th May: End of Term 5

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

Tuesday 4th June: Start of Term 5

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

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

Monday 17th June: Sports Day

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

Friday 21st June: Year 6 Leavers' Performance @ 6pm

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



Spare Shin Pads?

Year 4 and Year 6 are being taught hockey in their PE this term and we would appreciate any donations of spare shin pads if any families have any that they are no longer using.

Many thanks! Thank you to the Burger family for providing some additional new mouthguards.

This generosity and thoughtfulness is SO appreciated!

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. Next week, our assemblies will be around exploring the British Value of democracy. We'll delve into its significance, connecting it with real-life examples like our upcoming school council elections. Join us as we discuss why democracy matters and how it plays a vital role in shaping our school community. We will also thank our current School Council who have worked so hard the past year and represented the school with pride



PTFA News

- HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Here's to a year full of fun & fundraising!
- Thank you to everyone who used My Child's Art for their Christmas cards/gifts-we made a fabulous £453 for the school. Big thanks must go to Susan Gravells for organising this project!
- Don't forget the PTFA AGM, Wednesday 24 Jan, 8pm in the School Hall. Come along, have your say – the committee is stepping down & the roles need re-electing (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer etc). Would you like to be involved? Not sure what is expected? Find us for a chat, or email on info@headcornschoolpta.org.uk & we'll be more than happy to discuss it with you!



Next Week's Curriculum Overview



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

Maths: This week, the children will consolidate their understanding of the composition of 5. Composing and decomposing numbers involves the children investigating part-part-whole relations, e.g. seeing that 5 can be made of 3 and 2.

Literacy: We will be using our sounds to write about bats.

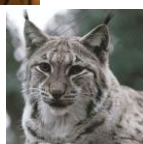
Topic: Learning facts about bats.

RWI Links for all groups to consolidate:

[Reading the sound sh](#)

[Reading the sound th](#)

[Reading the sound ch](#)



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

English: This term we are doing a whole school observational writing project based on a picture. We will be looking closely at the picture of space and we will be collecting ambitious vocabulary. We will also be starting to create a shared setting description using adjectives and adverbs.

Maths: We will be starting this term with place value to 20. We will be looking at the numbers 14 to 20 and finding one more and one less than a given number to 20.

Science: This term we will be observing seasonal changes. We will be looking at deciduous and evergreen trees and how they change through the seasons.

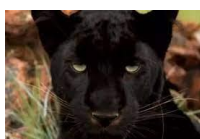
Read Write Inc: Please use the following links to recap sounds that your child has learnt in their phonics group this week.

Mrs Tucker and Miss England's Group: [the sound 'ay'](#), [the sound 'ee'](#), [the sound 'igh'](#)

Mrs Robins Group: [the sound 'ea'](#), [the sound 'oi'](#), [the sound 'a-e'](#)

Mr Allen's Group: [the sound 'ea'](#), [the sound 'oi'](#), [the sound 'a-e'](#)

Miss Buxton's Group: [the sound 'g'](#), [the sound 'th'](#)



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

Maths: Comparing money and making amounts in different ways. Please remember to complete tasks that have been set on Sumdog!

English: Responding to an illustration and generating vocabulary and expanded noun phrases to describe.

Other: We will be introducing children to some our new topics such as 'Coastline' in geography, 'Uses of Materials' in science and 'Flower Head' in art.

Read Write Inc: please practise the sounds from your child's RWI (phonics) group:

Mrs Foweraker and Mrs Baldock's group: [oy sound](#) and [air sound](#)

Miss Hynes's group: [sh sound](#)



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

Maths: The children will be focusing on division and investigating the relationship between multiplication and division.

English: The children will be introduced to our new reading text: The Firework Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman. They will make predictions and develop their comprehension skills in order to describe character and setting.

Spelling: Our Spelling Tests will now be on a Wednesday each week.

Reading: Please continue to record when you share a book with your child using the My High 5 sheet within the Home Learning Book. Thank you for this support.

Topic: Through our topic 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles' the children will be taught their Geography, Science and Art. The children will learn about physical geography, how rocks are formed in Science and design an ammonite logo during Art and Design. We really hope that the children will enjoy this fascinating topic.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their generations Christmas gifts. They are very much appreciated and we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!



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

Maths: Informal written methods for multiplication

English: Writing a script for an advertisement.

Other Subjects: In Art last week we really enjoyed making a view finder. We would love to see the children using these out of the classroom, so if out on a walk, or from a window the children may wish to use them to draw their own piece of work.

In our new Geography unit we will be looking at and demonstrating how mountains are formed.

We also wanted to say a huge thank you for the generous gifts and wish you all a Happy New Year!

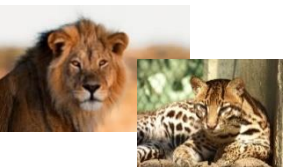


Year 5 Caracal & Snow Leopard Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus

English: We will be carrying on with our imaginative writing based on 'The Secret Garden'.

Maths: We will be moving onto division.

Science: We will be looking at animal life cycles, tying in with our topic 'Sow, Grow and Farm'.



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

Maths: We will be continuing to explore ratio, using this to understand scale drawings.

English: We will continue our creative writing focus based on a Salvador Dali art piece.

Other Subjects: In Topic and Science we will be delving deeper into the frozen kingdoms of the world, learning how to classify polar animals and exploring polar climates.