



## HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday, 22 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

So much news to share! We really have had a busy last week of term with Go Wild Week, Animal Encounters, No Pens Day, our Inclusion Coffee Morning, Greek Day for Year 5, World War I Day for Year 6, PTCs and we also had our next FGB (Full Governing Body) meeting. See below for a summary overview from one of our Governors.



Thank you to everyone who attended the third and last **Parent Teacher Conference** for this academic year. Next term you will be given an end of year report as well as an opportunity to come and **meet your child's new class teacher** at the end of our transition day on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 3.20pm**.

On Tuesday **Year 5** had a wonderful **Ancient Greek Day with Portals to the Past** and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of exciting activities throughout the day. The children explored Ancient Greek life through games, puzzles and drama, and even trained to become an elite Greek army! It was a fantastic hands-on experience that brought their learning to life. A huge thank you to the PTFA for helping to fund such a memorable and enjoyable experience for the children.



Today **Year 6** have had a brilliant day taking part in a **World War I Day** with Portals to the Past. They handled artefacts, survived a gas attack, taken part in some army drills (even a stealth exercise through barbed wire) and become stretcher bearers!



**Go Wild Week** has been a fantastic celebration of nature and learning inspired by **Sir David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about David Attenborough and exploring the wonders of the natural world throughout the week. We would like to say a special thank you to Miss Arthur and Miss Fisk for organising this special week, and to Miss Ferguson for providing extra Forest School sessions and to Mr Drury for leading the tree planting activities. The children also loved the exciting visit from the **Animal Encounters** and we are so grateful for the wonderful minibeast mural pictures they created. It was wonderful to see so many children joining in with our dress-up day and embracing the spirit of the week. Enjoy a small selection of the photos taken.



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As part of Go Wild Week, we proudly took part in **No Pens Day**, and what a fantastic experience it was across the whole school! Children put their pens and pencils aside and instead immersed themselves in a wide range of engaging, hands-on activities that developed speaking, listening, collaboration and creativity. We choose to take part in No Pens Day to emphasise the importance of communication beyond writing—encouraging pupils to express themselves verbally, listen actively, and build confidence in sharing ideas in different ways. It was wonderful to see classrooms buzzing with energy, imagination and teamwork, all without a single pen in sight!



Year 6 spent the morning taking part in a variety of role-play and storytelling activities, helping to develop their confidence, creativity, empathy and spoken language skills. They particularly enjoyed playing the 'Fortunately/Unfortunately' storytelling game, which encouraged quick thinking and narrative building. Meanwhile, Year 5 used a range of inspiring images to spark their own storytelling; the children thoroughly enjoyed letting their imaginations run wild as they created and shared their imaginative tales with one another.





Year 3 had what Mrs Randall described as “the best day”! The children made colourful pom-poms, took part in a lively ‘shops’ activity using items they had created previously, and practised their knowledge of money by buying items and giving change. They also stepped back in time to learn about the Roman Army, creating their own shields before practising the famous tortoise formation.



The children themselves summed the day up perfectly: One child said, “It was fun! Fascinating to learn without pens!” Another shared, “I loved today, creating stuff!” and someone else reflected, “It was hard at the beginning not using pens but it was such fun and I learnt so much too!” Overall, No Pens Day was a huge success—full of creativity, collaboration and joy in learning.

### Governor Update by Laura James, Parent Governor

Governors met for a full board meeting this week. We had the opportunity to hear from Mrs Daniel, SENCo, who was able to tell us about wider reforms to the SEND system, the profile of SEND at Headcorn and the current strengths and challenges in this area. This includes changes in access to funding and outside agency support which school are working hard to navigate.



Governors agreed working party groups themed around risk management and action planning, how we can carry out our governance work more efficiently and the Trauma-Informed approach. We discussed our school priorities and successes in accordance with the school improvement plan.

Some governors have been carrying out monitoring activities with the school’s subject leaders. These have been very positive with governors sharing the obvious passion and enthusiasm held by teachers for their subject areas. Governors acknowledged the success of the recent May Fair and the exceptional work of the PTFA.

At the end of our meeting, we were delighted to be joined by Sean Johnson, our new Headteacher from September, who is planning handover activities and periodic time in school for term 6.



You have been sent an email today about a Parent Governor post becoming available and elections will be held next term. Have a read and if you want to nominate yourself or someone else (please ask their permission first) then the email contains all of the information needed!

Have a lovely Half Term break - enjoy the sunshine!

See you on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - remember Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June is an INSET day!

Miss Symonds



### Dates for your Diary:

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June: INSET Day 5 (No children in school)**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Start of Term 6**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June: Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check to be completed**

**8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June: Year 1 Phonics Screening & Year 2 Retakes to be completed**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June: Sports Day a.m. only (weather dependent)**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June: Sports Day Reserve a.m. only (weather dependent)**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June: Year 6 Leavers’ Production**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Whole School Transition Day**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Meet the NEW Teacher 3.15 – 4pm**

**15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July: Year 6 Residential**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July: Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly @ 2pm**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July: End of Term 6 / End of Academic Year**

## Assemblies

After half term, our first week back will begin with assemblies celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month and this year's theme, 'Onwards with Hope'. The assemblies will help children learn more about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, celebrating their history, culture and contributions to society, while also encouraging understanding, inclusion and hope for the future.



**Music of the week** Term 6's first week back has music called Minor Swing by Django Reinhardt. Reinhardt was a Belgian-born Romani jazz guitarist and composer who pioneered the "Gypsy Swing" style of jazz. Despite a serious hand injury, he developed a unique and influential guitar technique that inspired musicians around the world and helped make the guitar a leading jazz instrument.

## Sports Day Update from Mr Harris, PE Lead



This year we are pleased to have access to our field back! Sports Day will take place on Friday 12th June in the morning only. Join us for classic events like three-legged race, space hopper race, water race and other events to ensure everyone can join in the fun! You may even see some of the staff making a fool of themselves. 😊 Parents are welcome to join us for the morning but will be kindly asked to leave promptly at the end of the events to allow lunchtime for children to take place as normal in school. Lessons will take place as usual in the afternoon.

## Swimming & PE Days for Term 6

Next term sees the start of our **KS2 swimming lessons**. Thank you to the **PTFA and your support** of our fundraising events which keep our pool open and our staff trained for KS2 swimming lessons. Not many schools still have a pool on site which means that only one year group get to have swimming lessons in their KS2 journey. Thank you also to our **wonderful Premises Team** who work so hard to get the pool maintained and safe for use. We are all very appreciative of being able to offer this opportunity to so many children.



Swimming impacts some **PE days** so here are the days for next term with changed days highlighted:

YR – Wednesdays

Y1 – Tuesdays & Fridays

Y2 – Mondays & Thursdays

Y3 – Mondays & **Wednesdays** (Swimming Wednesdays)

Y4 – Mondays & **Thursdays** (Swimming Thursdays)

Y5 – Tuesdays & Fridays (Swimming Tuesdays)

Y6 – Mondays & **Fridays** (Swimming Fridays to being with)

## Is Your Child PREPARED for Their First Phone?

It's one of the most common questions parents face today, and one of the hardest to answer. When is the right time to give a child their first phone? The honest answer is that there isn't a single right answer. Every child, every family, and every set of circumstances is different. Darren Laur, a child online safety expert, has written a helpful article for parents that cuts through the noise. Rather than telling you what to decide, he offers a framework to help *you* decide, using the acronym **PREPARED**:

- **P — Purpose**
- **R — Responsibility**
- **E — Empathy and respect**
- **P — Perception of risk**
- **A — Adaptability and resilience**
- **R — Regulation**
- **E — Executive functioning**
- **D — Digital discernment**

Each letter prompts a conversation — with yourself, and perhaps with your child — about whether now is truly the right moment, and what support they might need if it is.

It's well worth a read. You can find the full article [here](#).

### **North Downs Fundraiser**

Our wonderful **Jack Keeler MBE**, a governor and huge supporter of our school for decades, is taking on the Rotary North Downs 9-mile walking challenge on 14th June. He is raising money for Headcorn Primary and Cancer Research UK. If you can spare anything to sponsor him, he would be incredibly grateful. Thank you so much 🙏 <https://gofund.me/3175566b>

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church on Saturday 30th May 2:30pm - 4:30pm, Headcorn Village Hall ( Long meadow Hall) Join us for messy fun, with crafts, stories and games. Stay and make pizza for dinner. Suitable for all children, although they must be accompanied by an adult. Due to popularity and our growing community, we ask that you sign up in advance via email to [secretary@handschurches.org](mailto:secretary@handschurches.org). Thank you!

## **Next Week's Curriculum Overview**



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

Maths: We will be recapping...

- assembling a whole object from different parts
- making a whole number from 2 parts
- splitting some numbers into 2 groups that each have an equal amount
- recognising that 2 equal groups can make a double, e.g. double 3 is 6 altogether
- understanding that double patterns are even; they have 'flat tops' *because* they are made of 2 equal groups
- understanding that odd numbers cannot be split into 2 equal groups; they're not doubles, they have an 'odd block'/'odd one out'

Literacy: In Drawing Club, we will be reading 'Penguin on Holiday' by Salina Yoon.

Topic: Holidays around the world. If you have any postcards from holidays, please send them in so that we can show the children all the different countries from around the world, thank you!

### **RWI Links**

[RWI Reading links to be practised at home over the holiday](#)

[RWI Review Lessons](#)

[RWI Writing Links](#)

[RWI Spelling Part 2 and Red Words](#)

Have a lovely restful half term break and we will see you all in Term 6 for our final term together!

**PE Day: Wednesdays**









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

It has been an incredible term in Year 1, and we are very proud of how much the children have learned. They have enjoyed learning about school life in the past and they have enjoyed exploring the natural environment around them, observing the plants and trees. We have had lots of fun. Please see separate email for the Term 6 Knowledge Organisers for you to share with your children to ready them for their last term.

This week we will focus on hill to top sponge letter formation. Please click on the letters to open the video link. [ab](#) your support in encouraging your child to watch the video and practise their letter formation at home.

Maths: In Term 6, we will be looking again at place value with larger numbers up to 100. We will also learn to read an analogue clock. We will focus on o'clock and half past times. We will then move to our money topic. Looking at notes and coins, adding amounts, and giving change.

English: In Term 6, we will be looking at a new text, The Robot and the Bluebird. We will write in role using emotive language as well as mastering what makes a good sentence.

	<p>History: In Term 6, we will continue to learn what life was like as a child in the Victorian era. This will lead to our school trip in July, visiting Maidstone Museum and partaking in a Victorian school workshop. We can't wait!</p> <p><b>RWI Links</b>  Miss Schofield - <a href="#">air ir ar oy</a>  Mrs Brennan - <a href="#">ph, wh, kn</a>  Miss Harman- <a href="#">Word Challenge Lesson 6</a>  Miss Arthur/Mr Allen- <a href="#">aw, are</a>  Mrs Maher <a href="#">aw, are</a>  Mrs Goodwin/Miss Hayes - <a href="#">ai, oa, ew</a></p> <p><b>PE Days: Tuesdays &amp; Fridays / Book Change: Tuesday and Fridays / Arithmetic All-Stars: Wednesdays</b></p>
 	<p><b>Year 2 Puma &amp; Panther Classes: Next Week's Curriculum</b></p> <p>Maths: We will be learning about time. Please practise reading an analogue clock and telling the time. Remember to complete work set on Sumdog!</p> <p>English: We will be making predictions about our new class text. Can you practise spelling the days of the week and months of the year? Next term we will practise writing the date in our books in preparation for year 3.</p> <p>Other: We will be continuing our science unit on animal survival. Next term we will be learning about Cath Kidston in DT and completing a sewing project!</p> <p><b>PE Days: Mondays &amp; Thursdays / Book Change: Fridays / Arithmetic All-Stars: Fridays</b></p>
 	<p><b>Year 3 Jaguar &amp; Pallas Cat Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</b></p> <p>Maths: After half term we will be concluding our topic on Money and beginning our new unit on Telling the Time. Please use the half term break to find opportunities to read an analogue clock.</p> <p>English: We will be starting our new text, The Story of Rome, and in guided reading sessions sharing a range of different poems from Jelly Boots Smelly Boots</p> <p>Other: In Science we will be studying, 'Light and Shadow.' In DT we will be looking at the structure and design of greenhouses in our Greenhouse topic.</p> <p><b>PE Days: Monday:Outdoor and Wednesday:Swimming / Book Change: Thursdays / Spellings, Times Tables &amp; Arithmetic All-Stars: Mondays (Y3A) &amp; Thursdays (Y3B) / Ongoing challenges on Sum Dog &amp; TT Rockstars close on Sundays</b></p>
 	<p><b>Year 4 Jungle Cat &amp; Cougar Classes: Next Week's Curriculum Focus</b></p> <p>Maths: Next term we will be starting with time so if you're a bit rusty, make sure you're looking at the clock over half term!</p> <p>English: We are going to be writing our own play scripts about how Howard Carter found the tomb of Tutankhamun.</p> <p>DT: Next term we will be doing a project called 'Tomb Builders' where we will be building prototypes of machines that would help the ancient Egyptians build tombs. We will need some junk modelling materials to do this so please gather things like cereal boxes, containers, twine and anything else you think would be helpful!</p> <p><b>PE Days: Monday &amp; Thursday:Swimming / Book Change: Mondays and Fridays (Reading Records checked on Fridays) / Spellings, Times Tables &amp; Arithmetic All-Stars: Fridays</b></p>



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

English: Still travelling with Odysseus, we will now be focusing on using our best descriptive language to explore the mysterious music of the Sirens, thinking carefully about how writers create atmosphere and imagery for the reader.

Maths: We will continue our learning on position and direction, developing our understanding of turns, movement and coordinates.

History: Following our fantastic Ancient Greek Day, we will be learning more about what democracy meant to some of the Ancient Greeks, and how it compares to the ideas of democracy we have today.

**PE Days: Tuesday & Friday:Swimming / Book Change: any day but Reading Records in on Tuesdays & Fridays / Spelling Tests & Arithmetic All-Stars: Fridays**



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

A huge well done to Year 6 for a fantastic term and for all of their hard work during SATs week. We are incredibly proud of the determination, resilience and maturity the children have shown throughout the year.

Next term, our learning will include:

English: Continuing to write in a range of genres linked to our war topic, including dramatic writing about experiencing an air raid during the Blitz, instructional texts about air raid safety and exploring the imagery and figurative language used in war poetry before creating our own poems.

History: Building on our learning about WWI by exploring WWII, comparing the two conflicts and investigating how weaponry, aircraft, communication and technology developed over time.

DT: Learning about the WWII *Make Do and Mend* campaign, where we will practise repairing and repurposing materials to create new items.

Science: Exploring Light Theory and how light travels, reflects and helps us to see the world around us.

We will also begin rehearsals for our end-of-year production! **Swimming lessons will be on Fridays.**

**PE Days: Monday & Friday:Swimming / Book Change: any day that is needed / Arithmetic All-Stars & Sumdog Tasks: Wednesdays / Homework due in on Fridays**