



*'Learning together, loving others, guided by God'*

**Heene Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

**Mrs Julia Sherlock and Miss Joy Waelend**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this, the final newsletter of this term and indeed 2021. As I have said on a number of occasions recently, this has been the most challenging of terms and those of you who have read each of the newsletters to date, will know the reasons for this. However, in the midst of the challenges have been some real developments and successes too and as we go into the holiday period I want to celebrate these with you.

- 1) **Your children are simply wonderful** and bring smiles to our faces and true purpose to all we do each day. Although many have found this term a challenge, they have worked hard, made progress, taken on the challenges they have faced and powered on through. For those who have continued to struggle, their friends have come alongside and supported them, encouraged them and stood by them; Heene has been a great place to be this term. It was wonderful to be able to see the children in Years R, 1 and 2 perform their Nativity plays and their Christmas celebrations – they were just fabulous. It was also a joy today to celebrate the start of Christmas with the children in church and I am so sorry we were unable to have parents to join us for that occasion.
- 2) **The staff have been amazing** – on a daily basis, some of the team have not known where they will be asked to teach or who they will be asked to support but they have done so with a professionalism to be proud of and the team work this term has been huge.
- 3) **As parents your honesty**, willingness to help us move forward as a school, your messages of thanks and encouragement, your listening ear and your support for all we are trying to achieve together has been fabulous, and for that we really do thank you.
- 4) **The school community** is beginning to really come together once again and we have been excited by visits to the church, by visitors being able to come in and work with us, Friends of Heene Primary School events, trips to the pantomime and further afield; the community of Heene is very special indeed and certainly something to celebrate.

For 2022, we are already planning the acceleration of our new reading scheme, a revamp of homework expectations, a continuation of our Parents' Consultation events, improved behaviour expectations and some additional exciting changes that we will share with you in the new year. Thank you so much for your wonderful support as we have made our way through the past few weeks, we are genuinely grateful for all you, as parents, bring to our school.

**Covid-19:** Just to say that we have been contacted by a number of parents to ask if the school is to be locked down in January, as always we take all of our guidance from the Department for Education and West Sussex County Council. **There is currently no suggestion from them that schools will be closed in January.**

However, as a school we are already putting together our plans for the re-introduction of 'bubbles' should this become necessary and we will of course keep you fully up to date on a regular basis as we receive the guidance from both local and central government. **We look forward to seeing the children back with us on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8.40am.**



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### **Staffing update:**

This week we were sad to say a very fond farewell to Mrs Cannon and wish her every success in her new, exciting role, she has promised to remain in touch!

We said 'goodbye' also to Mr McGregor who has moved on to a different school for the Spring Term but we do sincerely thank him for the contribution he made to our school this term and for stepping into Mr Parsons shoes for a few weeks too.

We are delighted to say that both Mr Parsons and Miss Atkinson will be back with us after Christmas and they will both be taking an early opportunity to meet up with parents as they were unable to hold their Parents Consultation appointments last term.

We are equally delighted to welcome Ms Carnegie to replace Mrs Cannon in Stanton Class. We have got to know Ms Carnegie well over the past few weeks and we look forward to the contribution to the children's learning that she will bring in this coming spring term.

### **And finally a short message from each of our teams:**

#### **A message from our team in Early Years:**

Where do we start... what an incredible first term at school it has been for Elmer and Gruffalo classes. Not only for the children but for us too.

We have packed a lot into this past term during our 'Marvellous Me' topic, a definite highlight has been being able to go on local trips, to the Church and Library.

We were impressed with how quickly the children settled in September. This allowed us to focus on the teaching and learning at a faster pace than we have been able to do previously.

The whole Early Years team and supply teachers that have been working with us have commented on how kind and thoughtful this year group is, they spot when others need help, comfort and support and bring out the best in each other.

The encouragement and support from you all at home has made a huge difference this past term. What we have achieved would not have been possible without your ongoing support, from reading regularly and recording it in your child's reading journal, to uploading all the learning and homework tasks onto tapestry. Your open communication with us and your generous help on our trips is really appreciated.

Can we say a huge thank you to Clive Latter (Carys's Dad) and Luke Healey (Sienna's Dad) for their generous donation of Lego. The children have been putting their creative skills into action and created lots of amazing models, all while developing their fine motor skills.

The progress the children have made this term has amazed us and we are excited to see where the next term will take us. For the Spring term our topic will be 'Once upon a story'. We will start with looking at traditional tales and then move onto more modern story's that will spark excitement with the children.

From all the early years' team we cannot thank you enough. We wish you all a magical, restful and safe holiday break.

#### **Here is a message from our Year 1 Team:**

The Year 1 team would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for the support and understanding you have given us this term. It certainly has been a busy term in year 1.

A highlight for us has been the nativity. We are so pleased you were able to come into school and see it in person. We are excited about the Spring term and all of the learning we have planned.

We will be launching a new phonics scheme called Read, Write, Inc (more details to follow in the New Year) with brand new books to come home in book bags which will be closely linked to what the children are learning in class.

We wish all of your families a peaceful and relaxing holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

**A final message from our Year 2 Team:**

We would like to thank you for all of your support this term. We are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm that the children have shown towards their learning. The children particularly enjoyed learning about penguins and we are supporting the WWF by adopting a penguin for the year. We are sure you will agree that all of the hard work they (and you) have put in, meant our Nativity 'It's a Party!' was a huge success. We are very excited about our topic for the spring term - Ice and Flames. We hope you all have a lovely break over the festive season. Merry Christmas from the year 2 team.

**Here is a short message from Year 3:**

It has been a fantastic term in Year 3. The children have tried very hard with their learning and have taken onboard the Heene Way in all that they do. Thank you for all your support this term, from engaging with reading, homework, trips and all of our learning. We have had a great term learning about the Stone Age. We are so sorry to see Mrs Cannon leave us but next term we will be welcoming Miss Carnegie to Stanton class. Our Spring topic is rivers, we will be undertaking field work and learning all about the water cycle, as well as plants. Merry Christmas from Year 3.

**Here is a message from our Year 4 Team:**

Thank you so much to all the parents in Year 4 who have been so supportive this term. Your children have been amazing and have engaged so well with our Roman topic. We are SO glad we have been able to go on trips again this term and thank you very much for all your support in making these exciting days out happen! We are grateful for all you do in terms of writing in reading journals and encouraging your children to engage with homework tasks. We have been especially pleased with the engagement on TT Rockstars and this is benefitting the children greatly! Next term, we will be learning all about Rainforests and our key text will be The Explorer by the wonderful Katherine Rundell.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas this year and can't wait to get going again in January!

**Let's just hear from Year 5:**

As we come to the end of another half term, I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to work with your children in Year 5 over the last 6 weeks. The children have worked hard and despite their regular teachers not being with us they have continued to work hard and try their best.

I know that the children will be pleased to welcome back Mr Parsons and Miss Atkinson and will look forward to establishing these relationships once again whilst continuing to explore more of the curriculum. Some of the key aspects of learning for Year 5 in the Spring of 2022 will be exploring coastlines in Geography and applying their historical skills to study an aspect of local history.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back for a new term in January 2022.

**A final message from our Year 6 Team:**

A short note to say thank you for your hard work and support during the first term in Year 6. We have enjoyed some wonderful learning experiences with our new topics, books and the children have all produced work that they should be proud of.

It has been a real delight to see how the children have responded to the 'Heene Way' of learning and have taken a greater responsibility for their learning. We are looking forward to them all continuing to mature and becoming wonderful citizens in our school community.

In the New Year we are looking forward to our topic learning encompassing: The Ancient Maya (History), Natural disasters (Geography), the circulatory system and living organisms (Science).

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a 'Very, Merry Christmas' and give you our best wishes for the festive break and the year ahead.

Take care and stay safe,



The staff at Heene are so grateful to the 'Friends of Heene' for the lovely gifts they sent our way yesterday; thank you so much and we are already looking forward to a fun filled fundraising effort in the new year!

#### **Activities and help for the holidays:**

And finally... do please have a look at the link below for some ideas of what might be available to you during the holiday period.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>

Have a really wonderful break and should you need any answers to any questions between now and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January then please do contact us and we will do what we can to help.  
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With very best wishes

Joy Waelend  
Co-Headteacher