



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

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

**Mrs Julia Sherlock and Miss Joy Waelend**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy week here at Heene. Firstly we have had one of our regular inspection visits from the Local Authority, who came to meet with us on Wednesday to talk about the continued progress we are making in the school; to talk about the things which are going well; the challenges we are facing and what we still need to do in order to improve further. Much of the morning was spent in Year R and Year 1 classes, listening to the children in their Phonics lessons and seeing how our brand new Phonics programme (Read, Write, Inc.) is being taught by the teachers and hearing about the difference it is making to the children's ability to read and write. It was a great morning mainly led by Mrs Sellwood and Mrs Chandler. The Local Authority and governors were all impressed with what they saw and observed that the 'green shoots' of improvement were continuing to grow.

On Wednesday afternoon we also had a very important staff meeting focused on making improvements to our 'Guided Reading'. This is the work we do to really teach our children to becoming outstanding readers. Mr Lockett and Miss Atkinson lead the learning for the teachers and we are sure the children will enjoy this new way of learning which we are presenting to them.

In both the morning meeting and the afternoon staff meeting, we all spoke about wanting to plan some parent workshops to show you in more detail how we teach both the early reading through phonics and the development of those skills through the new Guided Reading. We absolutely will arrange these workshops as soon as we can have parents safely in school to do so – something we are looking forward to very much.

We have also been focused this week on the recruitment of a new Headteacher for Heene. It has been a very thorough process and we will let you know the outcome of this as soon as we are able to.

Finally I am delighted to say that yesterday afternoon the Year 6 Boys football team WON THE SMALL SCHOOLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT – well done to the team – what a fabulous effort. From the photo below I think you can see how proud they are!



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**Staff Absences:** As with most other schools in Worthing as well as nationwide, we continue to be challenged daily by staff testing positive with Covid, having to isolate due to this and / or being quite unwell as a result. Not only has this affected teachers, but also support staff and the wider Heene community. As I say, this is an issue which is continuing to affect many schools and we have to do the best that we can in exceptionally difficult circumstances. Unfortunately supply teachers are in great demand, however, we are to date managing to keep classes running.

From today you will be aware that the requirements to wear a mask in enclosed public spaces have been relaxed by central Government. However, we are requesting that all staff to continue to wear masks in communal areas of the school. How effective this is at preventing transmission is the subject of much debate but with our current level of staff absence, we have to continue to be as careful as possible.

Similarly, we are asking parents to continue to wear masks when you come to school and to regularly test yourselves and your children. By doing as we ask, you will be helping us to make sure we keep our staff healthy so all classes can remain open. I fully appreciate that we can only ask this of you but trust that you are able to fully understand the reasons for this important request.

**A small request please:**

Please could we make parents aware that some of the children are arriving at school wearing very muddy shoes. We appreciate that many children either play in the park or walk across the park on their way to school, but lately this has then resulted in children coming into school with shoes caked in mud which is being trodden into the classroom carpet. We really would appreciate your help with this if possible, moving forward.

## **And so to Learning for next week:**

### **Next week's learning from our Reception Team**

In Gruffalo and Elmer classes the children will continue the topic 'Once Upon a Story', which is our current topic this term. In English, they will be starting to look at our new text 'You Choose Fairytale'. The children will explore all the different characters and settings describing them. They will pick a character, setting and item and write a caption to go with it. We will be having fun coming up with our own stories using the selection the children come up with.

We have finished teaching all of the set one sounds in phonics and before we move onto set two we will be focusing on applying these knowledge sounds to read short captions and write short captions. Keep a look out for their Phonics Home Learning book which will come home on Thursday (Elmer) and Friday (Gruffalo) for them to practise these letters. Please make sure this book comes back to school every **Wednesday** so we can stick the next set of letters in.

In Math's we will be learning about numbers 9 and 10. As well as recognising the numeral and counting out this amount from a larger group, they will be diving deeper into the numbers to understand how it is represented and how it is made up of smaller numbers. They children will also be ordering numerals 1-10.

In PE this half term we have been exploring how our bodies can move and how we can express ourselves through dance. The children have been learning a dance to the song 'When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears'. They have come up with their own dance moves and put them into a routine for each part of the song. Next week the children will compose the end of the song and look forward to performing it to an audience in the weeks to come. We will record the final dance for you all to watch at home via Tapestry.

### **Next week in Year 1**

**In phonics**, we have now grouped the children depending on their phonic knowledge. Please look out for either a daily or weekly sheet in their book bag which tells you the sounds they have been learning. Please help them to read and write these sounds, words and sentences.

**In Maths** we will be focussing on numbers to 50. We will talk about how many tens and ones are in a number, we will say what is one more and one less than a number and we will order numbers to 50 and beyond.

**In RE** we will thinking about the question, 'What has God given us people?'

**In RSHE** we will be thinking about the question, 'When does spending time on the computer/online become unhealthy?'

**In Science** we will be learning about our 5 different senses.

**In Art** we will be planning an abstract drawing using squares, rectangles and lines.

**In Geography** the children will be looking at our local area and thinking of words and phrases to describe it

### **A busy week ahead in Year 2**

**English:** Following an exciting start to our poetry topic based on The Ice Bear we will be continuing to plan, draft and publish our senses poems. Parents and Carers are the audience for our poetry so look forward to your child bringing home and sharing their published poem!

**Maths:** We will be learning about fractions this week. We will begin by learning to recognize equal parts, recognising and finding half.

**Science:** We will be beginning our topic on plants, we will start with a review of our learning from year 1. We will then begin an exciting investigation to find out how the amount of light and water a plant receives affects its growth.

**Geography:** We will be continuing to learn about the seven continents. We will learn to name them, find them in an atlas and some of the key features of each continent.

### **Next week's learning from Year 3**

**Maths:** We will be starting to learn about money, so have a look over the weekend if you have time, at the coins and notes we use and how much things cost.

In English we are continuing to write our river poems which we are looking forward to showing you, later in the term

In Art we are looking at impressionist landscapes and finding out about these and why they are so important to us.

In Science is to further our study of plants and understanding why they are so important to our world.

In Geography we are continuing to learn about the water cycle.

### **There is lots going on in Year 4 next week.**

We would like to congratulate the Year 4 children with the continued commitment to learning. We are very excited to announce that the author Vashti Hardy will be visiting the Year 2, 3 and 4 children in school on the morning of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Children will have the opportunity to pre-order Vashti's books via the website, or alternatively children can purchase with cash on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February (please bring the correct money). Vashti will personally name dedicate and sign your child's copy while she's at school!

(The order deadline for online purchases is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February by 3.00pm).

Now onto the learning for next week...

In English, we will be planning and writing haiku poems inspired by the rainforest.

In Maths, we will be measurement: area.

In Science, we will be observing evaporation over time.

In Geography, we are comparing biomes.

In RE, we are learning about Islamic celebrations.

In PE, we are continuing to learning about flight in gymnastics and fitness in outdoor games.

We look forward to another exciting week in Year 4!

## Next week in Year 5

**English** The children have chosen and planned their non-chronological report writing. This week they will be researching information, planning their presentation and publishing their work!

**Maths** This week we will be developing our knowledge and calculating skills in division in order to solve one and two-step problems.

**Science** In Science we will be learning how the Earth, the sun and the moon carry out their orbits. We will discuss how this relates to the other planets in the solar system too. Unfortunately our hoped-for school visit to Mars may not be allowed...

**RE:** Having learnt about and discussed the events at Cave Hira, we will be considering how the words and messages in the Qu'ran were collected and revealed to others.

**History** Our History topic continues on the theme of the railways and how, during the Industrial Revolution, steam trains were designed and built. We will be finding out about a competition the makers entered to have THEIR train built first!

**PE:** We will be playing some hockey matches to use our skills in a semi-competitive situation. We will also be continuing our amazing dance routines (watch out Strictly!)

## And finally from Year 6

Over the next week we will be the following:

**English:** writing setting descriptions based on 'The Rainplayer' story we have been reading and the work we have done surrounding it. Focus: features of descriptive writing – alliteration, similes, metaphors, personification etc.

**Maths:** continuing to explore shape and angle – identifying types of angle and being able to find missing angles on a straight line/around a point.

**RE:** looking at the 5 pillars of Islam – their importance to Muslims and the meanings of these.

**History:** we will be exploring the question - what were Maya cities like and how did they compare to other civilisations of the same time period?

**Science:** We will be conducting the investigations the children have planned in order to see the effects of exercise on their heart rates.

Have a lovely weekend

Joy Waelend  
Co-Headteacher