



'Learning together, loving others, guided by God'

Heene Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Mrs Julia Sherlock and Miss Joy Waelend

Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your continued support as we work hard to overcome the real challenges of running a school in Covid times. It has been a very difficult week. Having started the term with a full complement of staff and low case numbers in our children, this week has seen a significant gain in staff absence due to positive tests and much higher numbers of pupils off with positive tests. We have had to have wider discussions this week regarding 'bubbling' once more but at the moment we are taking every precaution to keep classes open and running well. We are grateful for the staff team who have taken on additional responsibilities to support Mrs Sherlock and myself, and are temporarily having to give up time out of class for planning, leading to longer working for them out of school.

We have a great team and are so pleased to have them alongside us in very challenging circumstances. We do however need to be clear with parents that the situation may still require us to close a class or classes, if the staffing situation continues to deteriorate but as always we will keep you up to date with this as the situation develops.

Having met yesterday with members of the Local Authority, we know that this situation is mirrored right across West Sussex schools as well as nationally, where all schools appear to be facing the same set of challenging circumstances.

Next week, is a busy one here at Heene. We are conducting 2 days of interviews on Thursday and Friday to see if Governors can successfully appoint a permanent Headteacher at Heene. You will already be aware that Mrs Sherlock and I are at Heene only until the end of the academic year so the search for a new Headteacher to permanently lead the school into the future, is a really important one and we look forward to sharing the outcome of that search with you as soon as we are able.

Important reminders please:

Firstly, it is essential that you let us know who is collecting your child from school, if it is likely to be somebody who is not on the regular 'collection list'. We cannot allow children to leave school with a different adult who we have not been informed about. This is a tight safeguarding regulation which we need to maintain so we ask that you tell us if there is any change to the person who is picking up your child or children. Thank you for your co-operation with this.



Norfolk Street, WORTHING, West Sussex BN11 4BB

Email: office@heeneprimary.co.uk

Telephone: 01903 201386

Fax: 01903 215033

Unfortunately this week has again seen parental complaints about the traffic and the challenging behaviour of some drivers who are dropping children off at school. There is no easy solution to this and despite the suggestion of some parents that we close the road and make everyone walk to school, clearly this is not something I have the power to do. The only way we are going to be able to get all of the children safely to school, up a one way street with another school at the end of the road and a large park opposite, is to all work together to do so. Please may I again ask you to play your part in this and whenever we are able to do so Mrs Sherlock and I will be out on the street to support this too. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation with this important request.

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 continuing to read The Gingerbread Man and learning how to write about the events at different parts in the story. Last week some of the children took their writing to the Head Teachers and were able to put it on the display for the rest of the school to see. They also received some Head Teachers stickers.

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 ordering and sequencing important times in their day to describe when events happen. We will also be looking at length and height and making direct comparisons between different objects. We have set up an area for the children to measure their height in both classes.

In RSHE we will be talking about the special things the children like to do with their families, so please upload any activities or interesting things you do together over the weekend onto Tapestry.

Next week in Year 1

In English we will continue to use the book 'The Dot' as a focus for our writing. We will read some poems and start to gather ideas for writing our own poems.

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 focusing on related facts and comparing number sentences.

In RE we will continue learning about the Creation story and focusing on the question, 'What has God given people?'

In RSHE we will discuss about how we have changed since we were babies. We will share the book, 'Once there were Giants' by Martin Waddell.

In Science we will be learning about all of the amazing things that our bodies can do.

In Art we will be planning and designing our own abstract piece of art in the style of Piet Mondrian.

In Geography the children will be learning about where people live in England and they will be thinking about what it would be like to live in a large city, town or a small village.

A busy week ahead in Year 2

English: In guided reading we will be reading and answering questions related to the end of the book we have been focusing on in English – The Ice Bear. So far the we have not read further than the half way point so we are really excited to find out what happens next. In English we will be writing senses poems linked to the characters in the story.

Maths: We are moving from multiplication to sharing equally, grouping and the division symbol. Numberblocks is a real support in their understanding of how numbers work.

Art We will be experimenting with complementary and contrasting colour as part of our work based on the artist Georgia O’Keeffe.

Geography: This week we learnt how to use compass directions to find locations on a map. We practiced using compasses on the playground. Next week we will look at the continents, beginning by answering the question ‘Where do polar bears live’ (which links to our English focus text).

Next week’s learning from Year 3

In our Maths, we are going to be moving our learning onto dividing with remainders.

We are going to be writing our own river poem in our English lessons and in our science we are going to be looking at real plants in much more detail, building on our learning from last week.

We are excited to sat that in Geography, we are all going to be making our own water cycle to understand better how this works.

With our Art, next week we are going to be working on large canvases like those painted by the English Artist John Constable

For our RE, we are looking forward to learning more about Islamic prayer.

There is lots going on in Year 4 next week.

In **English**, we will be reading and learning all about Haiku poems and how these are written.

In **Maths**, we are going to be practising the formal written methods of short multiplication and short division.

In **RE**, we will be learning about the story of Muhammad and the camel and what this teaches Muslims about what type of person Muhammad was.

In **RSHE**, we are going to be learning about how we can prevent ourselves from being hacked online and what to do if this happens.

In **PE**, we will be continuing to develop our skills in outdoor fitness and indoor gymnastics.

In **Art**, we will be looking at the difference between impressionism and post-impressionism pieces of artwork.

Next week in Year 5

English: Monday sees the start of a week of researching a specific area of 'space' in order to write an informed piece of non-fiction. Children will be considering how to use the internet efficiently, take pertinent notes and how the presentation and layout of their work effects the reader.

Maths: this week will involve using our knowledge of multiplication to calculate problems involving division.

Science In Science we will be learning about the phases of the moon, when they occur and what causes us to only see part of the moon sometimes. We have been discussing the amazing (Wolf) moon that was clearly visible earlier this week.

REAs part of our understanding of Islam, we will be learning about Cave Hira which is near Mecca in Saudi Arabia. We will ask why Muslims from all over the world visit this cave to pray and what makes it so special.

History Our History topic continues on the theme of the railways in Worthing. We will be exploring the effect that the railways had, specifically on the growth in population and the development of homes and businesses.

PE: Next week, we will be continuing to hone our hockey skills as well as developing and choreographing exciting dances set to the theme of The Pink Panther series!

And finally from Year 6

English: we will begin reading a short story called 'Rain Player' set in the Maya civilization - from this the children will gather ideas and vocabulary to write their own setting descriptions.

Maths: we will conclude our learning on algebra and begin to explore shape.

RE: we will be exploring the Ka'bah and its importance to Muslims and their belief in their God.

Geography: we will be looking at the question – how do earthquakes occur? Locating major areas where they occur and why this is.

Science: We will be looking at the question – why is exercise so important for my body?

Have a lovely weekend

Joy Waelend
Co-Headteacher