



'Learning together, loving others, guided by God'

Heene Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Mrs Julia Sherlock and Miss Joy Waelend

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your continued support for all we are trying to achieve here at Heene. With just three weeks to go until the end of the Autumn Term, it is certainly beginning to feel a little bit like Christmas, with the delightful sounds of children singing Christmas songs and carols, beginning to fill the corridors; more of that a little later!

Many things to celebrate:

Covid-19 Update:

Whilst we are working hard to continue to make real improvements here at Heene, we also have to keep the continued impact of Covid-19 at the forefront of our minds and on a daily basis we continue to receive updates from the Local Authority as to how we should be managing the situation. On Thursday afternoon this week, all West Sussex schools will have received a letter from our Director of Education, Paul Wagstaff: a copy of which he has asked us to pass on to you. This will be sent out to you today. It makes clear that we must once more avoid large gathering where the virus has a greater opportunity to spread. This has therefore had an impact on some difficult decisions which we are going to have to make as we enter the final weeks of term.

We are once again going to have to limit the numbers of children who meet together in the hall for Collective Worship, we will have to reduce the numbers of parents and friends who will be able to attend our Christmas Performances (more of that to follow) and we are, with real regret, going to have to enjoy our Christmas Fair in a different way to that planned. I am sorry to have to say that the Christmas Fair, planned for next Friday after school cannot now happen, because there will simply be too many people gathering in school, therefore going against the guidance we have been given. Instead of the Fair taking place all in one go on Friday, we will therefore spread out the events and activities across the remaining days of the term, with the Raffle, Tombola, Hampers, Santa and all other activities happening at different times during the coming weeks. The Friends of Heene will write to you separately about this and explain how this will work, so please do keep your eyes closely to the communications that will come out.

We will also be moving back to Key Stage Collective Worship instead of having the whole school together and we will keep you up to date with the details of how this is working as we make our way towards the end of term.

Similarly, for the Nativity events planned for the last week of term, we will need to restrict the numbers of parents and friends who will be able to come to see the plays. I know this will be very disappointing, but our job is to keep the children and families as safe as possible at a continually challenging time. We are going to see how many people we can safely welcome into the hall to watch the shows and we will give you details of this next week. Thank you for your anticipated support with the actions we need to take.



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Recruiting a new Headteacher for Heene:

You will all be aware that Mrs Sherlock and I will be leaving Heene in July 2022 and so the search for a permanent Headteacher for Heene Primary School is once again about to begin. The Governing Body of our school have worked hard to develop the best information to attract the best candidates to our school and the note from our Co-Chairs which follows will explain a little more:

A note from the Co-Chairs of Governors

We were delighted to meet many of you at the recent Parents' evening and look forward to a growing relationship between parents and governors. We have been delighted that Mrs Sherlock and Miss Waelend agreed to be Co-Heads at Heene for the whole academic year 2021-2022. As a Governing Body we share with you a concern to secure the long-term leadership of the school going forward. To that end, we are about to embark on an appointment process for a substantive permanent Headteacher for 1st September 2022. An advertisement will be going 'live' this coming week and interviews will take place towards the end of January. We look forward to being able to appoint an experienced leader who will build on the very significant progress being made and lead the school forward into a new era of excellence for Heene. If you have any questions or comments about this please do contact us c/o of the school.

Freda Wimble and Chris Skilton

Recruiting new staff:

We are currently looking to recruit more new staff to Heene in the form of teachers (to replace Mrs Cannon and Mr Lelliott) and teaching assistants to replace colleagues who have moved on to other opportunities. Please do have a look at the TA adverts if you feel this might be of interest to you and look for the advert on the West Sussex job pages and on our own website. We already have quite a bit of interest for the teaching posts which is very encouraging.

Complaints about dogs again this week and a new dog warden for the park:

Unfortunately we have again had some complaints about the number of dogs, not on leads and upsetting children who are not at all keen on dogs. The new dog warden has also been in touch to say that she too has received similar complaints and will be increasingly present on the park to monitor the situation. Please could I ask that parents ensure that their dogs are kept under proper control at drop off and pick up times and that they are not allowed to interfere with children / parents who may well feel very nervous of dogs when arriving at, or leaving from school. Many thanks for your anticipated support and help with this.

What would parents like to know?

Following on from the positive questionnaire response this term, we are looking to offer some training / information events for parents and carers to help support your understanding of how your children learn and how you might be able to support them further at home. These might include how we teach certain aspects of mathematics or how we teach reading or the new phonics scheme we have purchased.

We are also planning to hold events where we provide you with information that will help you keep right up to date with topical subjects related to education for example, how to keep your children safe online and what the latest trends are in online safety.

Whilst we are beginning to plan these, we are keen to hear from you about what you would like to learn more about. Please let us know if there is something you would like to look at together and email me at head@heeneprimary.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

CHANGE OF INSET DAY FOR SPRING 2022:

Just to let you know that our Inset Day, planned for Monday 25th April 2022, has been moved to Friday 29th April 2022 instead. This will be just before the long May bank holiday. I am sorry that we have had to make this change, but we have had to do so because the trainers for our new Phonics Programme, were unable to accommodate 25th April and could only offer 29th. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

A Football report from Ms Moyle:



I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying the Y4 football team to their first Football Festival at Thomas A Becket Junior on Tuesday 23rd November. The team played incredibly well – showing perseverance, determination and team spirit during their first opportunity to play as a team. They won one match and drew another – coming 5th out of 7 schools overall. Every member of the team listened and acted on the advice that they were given and they were an absolute delight to have representing our school. Thank you to all of you who took part and to the parents, grandparents and siblings who supported the team on a very chilly evening! I look forward to your next event! Keep up the hard work – Miss Moyle ☺

And so to our learning for the week ahead

Reception Classes

In Gruffalo and Elmer classes the children will continue the topic 'Marvelous Me'. In English, they will be continuing to focus on ourselves and all the things that make us. Following on from our 'Super Duper You' story, we will be further exploring the topic with the 'Odd Dog Out' story by Rob Biddulph. The children will be learning to write some facts about themselves that they can share with the rest of the class.

In this week's phonics sessions, children will be learning sounds for g, o, c, k and the word 'and'. They will be learning to build, read and spell this word and simple vc/cvc words that contain the letters taught so far. Keep a look out for their Phonics Home Learning book which will come home on Thursdays for them to practise these new letters. Please make sure this book comes back to school every Monday so we can stick the next set of letters in.

In Maths we will be making simple patterns. The children will be copying, continuing and creating their own simple repeating patterns. We encourage the children to say the pattern aloud as this helps them to identify the part which repeats and supports them to continue the pattern.

This week in 'Understanding the World', the children will be going on a tour around the school with their class and teacher. We will use a map to guide us through the building and back to our classrooms. They will then be able to have a go at drawing their own map of the walk through the school.

Year 1

In English we will be carrying out our termly reading assessments. This will be done in small groups or on a 1-2-1 basis as needed. Alongside this the children will have explorer time when they choose their learning from carefully selected activities.

In phonics we continue to revise sounds we have learnt before but with a focus on handwriting. We will also practise using the sounds to write words and sentences.

In Maths we will be carrying out our termly assessments. This will be done in small groups or on a 1-2-1 basis as needed. Alongside this the children will have explorer time when they choose their learning from carefully selected activities.

In RE we will be learning about why Mary's baby is so important and the story of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

In RSHE we will be continuing to learn about keeping safe. We will revisit the PANT's resources from the NSPCC website and will label parts of the body including the 'penis' and 'vagina'.

In Science we will be learning about the clothes we need in winter.

In Design and Technology we continue making our Christmas card with a moving part.

In Geography we will be working in pairs to make a 3-D map of Worthing.

We will also be spending time rehearsing our nativity. Please help your child learn their lines, if they have any. They will be in their book bag.

Year 2

It's challenge week this week. We will be doing lots of challenges in English and Maths!

English: We will be completing Reading and GPS challenges. We hope to publish our diary entries based on the book *The Real Boat*.

Maths: We are continuing to use money in our maths, we will be finding the difference and working out change from an amount. We will also be completing arithmetic and reasoning challenges.

Design and Technology: We will be learning to thread a needle and to sew using either an over stitch or running stitch.

Drama: We will be continuing to rehearse our Nativity.

RE: We are very excited to be visiting the Christmas prayer space, which St. Matthews are kindly running for us. We will have time to reflect on the story of incarnation.

Year 3

English: We are writing a non-chronological report about the Stone Age.

A non-chronological report is a non-fiction piece of writing that gives the reader lots of information about a particular subject. It is not written in time order.

Maths: We will be focussing on 3's. We will group in threes, count in threes, multiply by 3 and divide by 3. We have some fun games to help us with this too.

Science: What is a spring? We will be learning about how and why we use springs, how they work and attempting to make our own!

RE: We will be linking our learning of the trinity to the Bible. How are God and Jesus explained in different stories?

Geography: Following our walk to the beach this week, we will be discussing the land use on the south coast. We will be discussing the human and physical features of the seafront and introducing the word urban.

History: We will be learning about Stonehenge - where is it, what is it, why was it built?

Year 4

Over the next two weeks in English, we will be working towards writing a chronological report all about Queen Boudicca. Children will be using what they have learnt in recent History lessons, to support their writing. We will spend some time continuing our research on the topic, creating timelines and planning our reports.

In maths, children will be continuing their unit multiplication and division. We will be working towards multiplying 3 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers using the formal written method.

As we come to the end of our History unit on the Romans, we will be starting a new Geography unit all about 'How the UK works for us'. In our first lesson, we will be identifying the countries and capitals of the UK.

In RE, we will continue to learn what does each part of the Trinity represent to Christians?

In Art, we will be working on our mosaics.

In PE, we will be continuing to learning how to line dance and ball skills in football.

In computing, I understand how to keep safe while writing a blog.

Year 5

English - Next week we will be rehearsing and presenting our speeches about our chosen person of courage. We will need to practice our presentation skills ensuring that we project our voices and speak with confidence to our audience. We will then evaluate how successful we think we have been.

Maths - Next week in maths we will be taking our PUMA mathematics test. We will also be continuing our work on multiplication and division - using and applying our knowledge about multiplying and dividing by 10 to solve problems.

RE - We have Clive from St Matthews coming in to talk to us about the Trinity and how Christians believe that Jesus was sent to earth as a baby as God in human form.

Art - We will begin our work on tapestries and in particular looking at the Bayeux tapestry. We will be re-creating these tapestries using our drawing and painting skills.

Science - We will be continuing our work on gravity and friction and looking at setting up some investigations to test our predictions.

Year 6

Over the next week we will be looking at the following:

English: we will be beginning to write our own stories based on 'barriers' and standing up for rights/beliefs following our research into activists; inspired by our work on Malala's story.

Maths: We will be focusing on decimal numbers, the value of each digit and how these numbers can be multiplied or divided using our tables and place value knowledge.

RE: as we had Children in Need activities last week, the children will be considering the term Messiah and what saviours the Jews wanted. We will also have the opportunity to engage in the Christmas prayer space this week.

History: We will continue answering our questions that we have posed using research information and presenting our findings to our peers.

Geography: We will be comparing a region in Canada with West Sussex – considering: climate, population, religions, landscapes and anything else that children find to be useful when we consider what we can compare when looking at different areas.

Science: We will be looking at the biographies of Mary Anning.

Many thanks for your continued support. Have a fantastic weekend.

Joy Waelend

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