Dear Parents and Carers, 18th March 2022

Welcome to Red Nose Day! Thank you so much for your wonderful support for this incredibly important charity event. The children looked fabulous today and ‘red’ was very much the order of the day! As soon as we are able, we will let you know how much money we have raised as a school and thank you once again for your support today.

For this week’s “Pupil of the Week”, we have looked for children who go ‘above and beyond’ that which might be expected of them. We really enjoyed hearing about the achievements of the children in our in Collective Celebration this morning and for this week we thought we would let you know the reason why our children have received the “Red Nose Day Pupil of the Week” award.

We have some amazing children at Heene who every day support each other, help each other, try to make a difference and we celebrate their achievements regularly. Each week I ask the teachers to highlight one or two children who have been exceptional in the ‘theme’ we focus on. It might be a wonderful act of kindness, or superb bravery in an aspect of their learning or a delightful piece of work. This week we have asked the teachers to look for a child who has looked beyond their own needs or interests and have looked to the interests of others, supporting the principles of ‘Red Nose Day’. So below, we have shown you not only who they are but why they have been chosen. Well done to all our Headteacher Award winners this week.

**Pupil of the Week – Our RED NOSE Day Award**

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| **Class Name** | Who is the pupil? |
| **Elmer** | Elmer class would not be the same without Faith. She shows enormous empathy for others and always thinks of others before herself. Faith can read between the lines, spotting when she needs to step in to help or comfort her peers. What an outstanding 4 year old! |
| **Gruffalo** | Freya always offers to help other children in Early Years. This week, she has been exceptionally kind and caring. She helped Evelyn get her whiteboard for phonics and showed a new member of our class where to line up at lunch time. Well done Freya – from Miss Warner and Mrs. Wescott. |
| **Funnybones** | Thomas is always the first to help anyone who is upset or has had an accident. He can often be seen with his arm around them offering them comfort. He always goes out of his way to help others which is so lovely to see. |
| **Paddington** | Maria is always on the look out for people she can help. She helps people with their learning, she helps keeping the class tidy and she helps people feel included. Just a lovely person to have in our class. |
| **Gravett** | Lyla always shows genuine concern for those around her. She always has a kind word for Mrs Cobb and me, wishing us a good evening or lunch. Lyla also stays with children when they are waiting for help. She never expects praise but she deserves it frequently! Thank you Lyla for being you, from Mrs Cobb and Miss Russell. |
| **Jeffers** | Aranya is such a kindhearted person. She always looks out for others and often puts others needs before her own. She is an excellent role model to her peers. Well done Aranya, from Mrs Rhoades |
| **Pichon** | Teddy is always ready to help anyone, she is kind and fun to all, puts others first and is a fantastic role model. Well done! |
| **Stanton** | Mark – for being a kind and gentle role model who always makes sure everyone is ok and looks to the interests of others before his own. |
| **Hardy** | Kasia is our winner this week. Despite Mr Lockett’s absence this week, Mrs Denyer has noticed how kind she continues to be to her friends, especially her partner in class, Doug, who is new to the school. She has really made an effort to make Doug feel welcome and part of the Hardy class community. Well done Kasia! |
| **Rundell** | Every day, Bea does whatever she can to help ANYONE in the class whether that be adults or children. She also does this without wanting to be recognised or praised. She is an excellent role model to the peers in her class and such a pleasure to teach ☺ Well done Bea! |
| **Morpurgo** | Layla will receive the award this week for always going ‘above and beyond’ not only with her own work but helping others with their work and explains things to others if they are not quite sure. During playtimes she helps others by welcoming them to join in if they have nobody to play with. Layla is an outstanding role model in the Morpurgo team! |
| **Blackman** | This week’s worthy winner is Piel. I truly believe that everyone in Blackman Class would describe Piel as a kind, caring and thoughtful friend. He helps others with their work when needed and quietly gets on without any fuss at all. A model friend! |
| **Horowitz** | Pola is a very kind person who consistently puts others’ needs before her own. She is patient, polite and embodies the Heene Way. Pola may not always be the loudest or the most confident in the room but she always does what is right! |
| **Almond** | Nicholas B – for always considering others – pupils and staff. Nicholas always uses his initiative to act in the best interests of others – offering help and support without question. A real role model for his peers ☺ |

**So now to the news of the week and some reminders and requests to you all:**

**Staffing update:** We are completely delighted to properly welcome back Miss Beer to our school community, following her period of time away from Heene. It is a delight to have her back with us and the children have been thrilled to see her once more.

It was with a heavy heart that we said farewell to Mrs Lloyd this week. Mrs Lloyd has worked at Heene as a Teaching Assistant for nearly 18 years and we already miss her very much. We thank her for the difference she made to all at Heene and warmly wish her all the very best in whatever she chooses to do next.

We welcomed a new member of our team this week in the form of Mrs Watkins who is our new Teaching Assistant in Pichon Class. We also have two new Teaching Assistants starting with us very soon and we will share that news with you as soon as they are in post.

We are also delighted to let you know that Miss Carnegie will remain with us after the Easter break and continue to teach Stanton class until we break for the summer in July. We are so grateful to Miss Carnegie for agreeing to remain with us at Heene and for the difference she makes to us all.

Unfortunately Covid-19 has continued to disrupt learning at Heene. This week Mr Lockett, Miss Carnegie and Mrs Rhodes have been unwell and we are so grateful to our team of supply staff and our senior team for being able to adapt what they were planning to do in order to cover the learning in classes as needed.

I need to make parents aware that had it not been for teachers going ‘above and beyond’ including working on days off, we would have been in a situation where closing classes was the only option. I think we need to make you aware that staffing remains a huge challenge and we have only had one week this term so far where we have been fully staffed as a school. This is mirrored across schools in West Sussex and it remains the first thing we look at each morning in school – do we have enough teachers to support the learning of our children. We will, of course keep you up to speed with these challenges as the term continues.

**Attendance and Punctuality:** We know that Covid has not only affected our staff significantly, but also many of our children too. This week we reviewed the most recent attendance figures at Heene and I am sorry to report that there has been a real decline in the numbers of children coming to school every day. Our attendance should be at 96% and currently 93%, well below what it should be and we need to make parents aware of this in order to see improvements. We completely accept that Covid has, of course, played a part but could I please remind parents that outside of this, children should be in school unless they have vomited or have a high temperature. We will always send the children home if they become genuinely unwell at school. Please may I ask that you make a renewed effort to ensure your child attends school and doesn’t miss out on key learning at a time where their education has already been disrupted. Thank you so much for your anticipated support with this important action.

Please may I also remind you all that the children have to be in school and ready to learn by 8.50am. Gates to school open at 8.40am, giving the children 10 minutes to come in, settle and begin their learning in readiness for teaching to begin at 8.50am. Please may I ask that you ensure your children arrive on time as a number of children have begun to arrive late for school. Thank you.

**Uniform including PE Kit:** I also want to bring to your attention that we have also seen a decline in the uniform standards which we have come to expect at Heene, particularly in regard to PE Kit. Please may I respectfully remind parents that the uniform expectations for PE are very clear on the website and we do expect the children to follow these, but clearly we need your support and leadership to achieve this. Please could you ensure that the children stop wearing different coloured leggings, track suits, hoodies and that you ensure they are wearing the correct uniform on PE days. We look forward to seeing an improvement in this going forward and we thank you for your co-operation with this. If you have any concerns about this then please do contact me on [head@heeneprimary.co.uk](mailto:head@heeneprimary.co.uk).

**House colour PE T-shirt**

**Elm – Blue**    **Willow – Yellow**  
      **Oak – Green**   **Sycamore – Red**

**Maroon shorts**

**Maroon joggers and Jumper**

Thank you so much for your co-operation with all of these things as we try to have the highest of standards of expectation at our school.

**Free School Meal (FSM – eligible children) – Pre-Easter Break Arrangements  
(£50 supermarket voucher)**

The Household Support Fund was launched by the Government in the autumn of last year to run until the end of March 2022, and was designed to assist in supporting vulnerable households, including those with children, to meet costs associated with:  
• food, energy & water bills;  
• essentials linked to energy and water (e.g. white goods);  
• wider essentials such as phone/broadband/travel costs;  
• housing related costs (in exceptional circumstances).  
In recognition of increasing financial pressures experienced due to rising food and energy costs, West Sussex County Council is pleased to announce that Free School Meal (FSM) registered families will be entitled to a supplementary supermarket voucher to mitigate the impact on their household. Each child registered for FSM will be awarded a £50.00 voucher ahead of the Easter break period.

For children who are not FSM eligible but whose families are struggling financially or in need of practical assistance with any of the elements of the Household Support Fund, support can be provided via the Community Hub.

**Community Hub Information – Support for all families**  
Those children and families not eligible for FSM will be able to access support for food, fuel, clothing, essentials and much more, via the WSCC Community Hub.

The Community Hub can be contacted on **0330 222 7980** and is open 08:00 – 20:00 Monday to Friday and 09:00 – 17:00 weekends and bank holidays.

Further information can be found via West Sussex County Council website.

Wishing you all a lovely sunny weekend

Miss Joy Waelend and Mrs Julia Sherlock

Co-Headteachers