



Heyford Park School Primary Newsletter



HEYFORD PARK
SCHOOL

11th June 2021

Dear Families

We hope you all had a relaxing break at half term and enjoyed the gorgeous sunny weather we were blessed with. The children have come back to school ready and prepared for the last term and it has been great to see them engaged in their learning. We would like to welcome two new families to Primary who have joined us this week, the Kiazad and Cook families - welcome to Heyford Park - all of the children have settled in brilliantly and are already an asset to the school.

The final term of the year is always a combination of excitement and reticence with moving on to new classes. We appreciate that parents and children are wanting to know what September will look like and unfortunately there are only a few questions we can answer at this stage. At the moment we are working on classes for next year and still have some staffing to organise, so therefore we cannot yet tell you who is teaching which class. As the school is rapidly growing we have had to make some decisions regarding how classes are organised with some split classes. This is so that we can continue to welcome new children into the school as the area grows and develops. We will be organising classes over the next couple of weeks and will let you know who will be teaching your child just before the transition day.

The organisation next year will be:

Early Years	Nursery Class	Reception Class	Reception Class
Key Stage One	Year 1 Class	Year 1 and 2 Class	Year 2 Class
Lower Key Stage Two	Year 3 Class	Year 3 and 4 Class	Year 4 and 5 Class
Upper Key Stage Two	Year 5 Class	Year 6 Class	Year 6 Class

This is subject to change depending on numbers of admissions we receive.

MIXED AGE CLASSES

As you can see some classes are in mixed-aged classes, so your child may be in a class with this organisation. A mixed-age class is defined to be a class in which there are children who consist of more than one year group. Mixed-age classes are formed in most schools partly because of the way in which the pupil roll is configured in any given year (i.e. the numbers of pupils in each year group). It is not uncommon for this situation to change from year to year as the sizes of year groups can vary quite dramatically. Unless a school is of a certain size there is insufficient funding to provide single age classes, even if there were the physical space to do so. There will be careful and considered work carried out to organise the children into mixed-age classes over the coming weeks.

Questions you may have as parents:

Will my child be held back if she/he is placed in a mixed age class?

No. The ways in which education is organised in primary schools mean that teaching and learning is tailored to the needs and current achievement of individual pupils. The staff at Heyford Park School are experienced at planning and delivering work to match the needs of mixed-age learning. At times pupils will work at the same tasks but at different levels of ability and at other times the pupils will do completely different work specific to their needs within that area of learning. They provide challenge for the more able children and support for those needing more help whichever year group they are currently

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in. At all times the teacher is finding out about each individual child's abilities and is planning and evaluating accordingly in terms of the differentiated outcomes of the tasks the teacher is asking the children to perform.

Are there any negative effects to the arrangements and do the children suffer academically?

There is no evidence that mixed year groups have any negative effects on children's attainment, and there is much evidence of social benefits – increases in cooperation, improved relationships, reduction in anxieties about learning and improved self-esteem for less-able older children in the class.

National data suggests there is no negative impact on children due to mixed year groupings. A mixed age classroom means that children have greater flexibility to learn with children of their own abilities. Studies have shown that children can develop academically and socially through interacting with older and younger children.

Do the children end up repeating a year?

No. They will of course return to particular aspects of the curriculum repeatedly such as fractions or shape but these are visited multiple times during the year anyway and there are always opportunities for extending learning in challenges. The teachers have planned all areas of the curriculum so that the children have different experiences as they move through the school.

STAFFING UPDATE

Miss Wickson has left to start her maternity leave and we wish her all the best in the next few months with a new baby. Later in June we will be welcoming her replacement Miss Bradley-Stow. As you know Mrs Childs will be leaving us in July and we are welcoming her replacement Ms Adam in September. Ms Adam will be coming to visit the school later in June to start to get to know the children and have a handover with Mrs Childs. Miss Southam will also be leaving at the end of the year, as she is going back to university to do a Masters in Psychology; we are currently advertising for her replacement.

SPORTS DAY

We cannot yet give a definitive answer as to whether parents can attend Sports Day on Friday 25th June. As the current guidance stands we will not be allowed parents to watch, however if the roadmap continues to be on schedule this will be able to change. We will inform you after the government announcement of our decision. We are sorry that we cannot give any more information than this but please see the times below if you want to be prepared.

WELCOME DONATION

We would like to say a massive thank you to Oxford Edens who have donated money towards reading material for the library. This is a very welcome donation and will help with stocking the library with good quality books.

HEYFORD PARK SCHOOL NURSERY OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 19TH JUNE 9.00-3.00PM

Our Nursery is running an open day on Saturday 19th June for all of their new starters and anyone interested in starting in the next year. This will be a chance to see the setting and meet staff. If you would like to book a place during the day, please contact the nursery via email on nursery@heyfordparkfreeschool.org.

WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

On Tuesday afternoon Pandas visited the community garden in Heyford. Our visit was linked to our field to fork topic. We met Sharon from the gardening team and she spoke to us about how the garden is used in the community. She told us how some of the produce grown at the garden is given to the Heyford Pantry to help local families within the village. We also found out about the teracycle scheme that is running in Heyford and we have decided that, as a school, we might be able to do something to help with teracycle recycling - so watch this space! After our talk, we had the opportunity to plant some radish seeds. We will go back in two weeks to check on their progress and to also assist Sharon with some more planting. We really enjoyed our visit so we're looking forward to it already!



CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to the following children who have received a certificate this week.

Year Group	Writing	Maths	Reading
Minibeasts	Louie - for amazing independent writing. Louie was able to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces without any support.	Kaitlyn - for super shape work this week. Kaitlyn was able to name various 2D and 3d shapes and is beginning to talk about the properties of shapes too.	Rosie - for making great progress in phonics. Rosie has moved to a new group and has learnt nearly all of her digraph
Tigers	Edi – for writing a lovely character description for the illustration competition this week.	Jacob – for spotting and editing his mistakes using a purple polishing pen, explaining what he had done wrong.	Fyfe – for fantastic enthusiasm and effort during our guided reading sessions.
Kangaroos	Norman - for remembering his finger spaces and using adjectives to describe settings and characters.	James B - for recognising 2 x tables as repeated addition and being able to make groups of 2 using counters and cubes.	Lilly- Mae - for being enthusiastic when reading, answering in detail during guided reading sessions.
Koalas	Willow – for coming up with creative and imaginative ideas in her writing. She always tries hard to produce a high standard of writing.	Ivana – for working really hard in finding fractions of amounts this week in maths.	Jack – for improvements in his reading. He is able to discuss what he has read with confidence and clarity.
Lions	Ollie H – for a superb setting description full of descriptive vocabulary and similes.	Lily – for a determination to challenge herself in Maths	Kimberly – for a great attitude to reading and a determination to read aloud with expression.
Otters	Rayhan - for writing a fantastic character description of the Iron Man.	Blossom – for using strategies independently to help her with fractions.	Ava – for a great attitude in our guided reading lessons.
Pandas	Teo – for creating a fantastic persuasive letter in our English lesson this week. He used some really adventurous vocabulary and challenged himself to include many persuasive features.	Molly - for working hard to develop her reasoning answers in Maths this week whilst also offering to support others.	Poppy – for using evidence from the text to support her answers during guided Reading sessions.
Brown Bears	Phoebe - for making a real effort with writing this week, focussed on working in a pair to research information for a setting description, writing down facts in great detail.	Ollie - for persisting with maths even through finding measurement extremely tricky! This sort of attitude is exactly the type I expect to see across year 5! Keep setting that good example Ollie.	Maya – for focusing well, acting as a role model as per always during reading and choosing a challenging book 'skin taker' for her Independent read.
Polar Bears	Abby – for trying really hard to up level her sentences this week and spending quality time improving them.	Sean – for smashing his work on measurements this week and challenging himself with I can 3 tasks.	Ella – for always volunteering to read in lessons and helping others with tricky words.
Bumble Bees	Jake – for his outstanding enthusiasm when stacking his sentences to build a deliberate effect on the reader.	Neema – for her resilience and determination to master interpreting pie charts.	Zach - for his super recall and inference with 'The Hobbit' this week.
Eagles	Sam - for real enthusiasm and creative ideas in our setting description.	Luke M - for always being consistently good at maths.	Harry - for exemplary answers in this week's guided reading, which was in-depth and informative.

Also the following children have received a Head Teacher's award this week:

Minibeasts	Summer- for blowing her teacher's socks off with her enthusiasm, motivation and positive attitude towards her learning.
Tigers	Rex – for coming back with such a positive attitude towards all his learning after half-term. Consistently modelling the Heyford Way and working hard to do so.
Kangaroos	Josh - for being active, engaged in his learning and listening carefully to feedback with ways to improve.
Koalas	Sienna – Sienna has just started in Koalas on Monday. She is a great asset to the class as she has had fantastic behaviour, she has been working hard in lessons and she has made lots of new friends. Well done on your first week in Koalas!
Lions	Alfie – for showing bravery and a can-do attitude!
Otters	Emily – for showing our school values and putting maximum effort into everything that she does.
Pandas	Ellie – for showing fantastic focus and effort in all lessons this week. She has really gone above and beyond to show our school values.
Brown Bears	Josh –for a much improved week this week. Focused during lessons and trying harder.
Polar Bears	Daisy – for always being a star student and trying her best.
Bumblebees	Jake – for taking control of his own learning and demonstrating this clearly in all subjects. Rafal – for his manners and interpersonal skills – nominated by Steph Woodman. Elsie – for being an amazing lunchtime assistant this week. Annabel - for being an amazing lunchtime assistant this week. Madison - for being an amazing lunchtime assistant this week. Rafal - for being an amazing lunchtime assistant this week. Zach - for being an amazing lunchtime assistant this week.
Eagles	Nia - recently, Nia has changed gear: She has always been focused and ready to learn, but now she is rocket-fuelled; determined to push herself in every subject. And it's working because she's reaching the stars!

HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

It was a delight once again to enjoy quality time with the nominated children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for Hot Chocolate Friday. The children were chosen because they are always going above and beyond and demonstrating our school values. Well done to Vinnie, Mitchell, Paige W and Indie in Minibeasts; Tyler, Nela and Noah O in Tigers; Ida, Ike and Josh in Kangaroos; and George, Dylan and Juniper in Koalas. My favourite part of the week!



Best wishes and keep safe
Sarah Nickelson and the Primary Team.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Saturday 19 th June	9.00am – 3.00pm	Nursery open day	Specialism Campus
Friday 25 th June	All day – see timings	Sports Day 9.30 – 10.45am Nursery and Reception 11.00 – 12.30pm Key Stage One 1.00 – 3.00pm Key Stage Two (please note change of time for end of the day for KS2)	Specialism Campus
Tuesday 29 th June		School Photos – classes	
Thursday 1 st July	6.00pm	New Reception Welcome Meeting	Officers Mess – Ballroom
Friday 9 th July	9.30am – 2.00pm	Transition day – all children visiting new classes	
		Reports to go out to parents	
Monday 12 th – 16 th July		Year 5 and 6 Bike-ability	
Wednesday 14 th July	2.00pm 6.00pm	Year 6 Summer Play	Officers Mess
Tuesday 20 th July	AM	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony	Officers Mess
Wednesday 21 st July	12.15pm	END OF YEAR	