



*Quality, excellence and passion*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Heron Park. Having the opportunity to spend time with the children in class is obviously the best part of my week. I was recently mesmerised by the children's knowledge of key historical figures that they have been studying. Amelia Earhart was one such character. Year 2 pupils merrily explained Amelia's accomplishments in her lifetime, including her solo-flight across the Atlantic Ocean. The children, whilst writing about her adventures, recognised that her journey must have been quite lonely and that she must have been quite brave. Amelia valued kindness and is known to have said:

"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees."

Acts of kindness are certainly visible at Heron Park. Late last week, Mrs. Skelley and I were able to visit one class to award a special bear to the winner of Harrison's Catering competition. Whilst awarding the prize to Stephan was a treat, so too was the response of pupils in the class. The applause resounded around the classroom as an act of kindness and comradery was fantastic.

## Values

Across the last two weeks, we have explored Curiosity and British Values in our assemblies and across the curriculum. Focusing on Individual Liberty, the children have focused on some of the following statements:



The children had detailed and interesting debates around each of the statements and recognised their role in making safe and sensible choices. They understood that there are times when rules have to be followed so that the environment is fair for all. Congratulations to all our value winners this afternoon for working hard to demonstrate our school values in every part of the school day.

## Safeguarding



Should you ever have any concerns about a child and require advice, you are able to contact ChildLine or our school Senior Leadership Team/ some members of our Safeguarding Team: Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Crees, Mrs. Williams or Mrs. Morgan. Keeping our children safe online is extremely important. Do have a look at the two recommended websites towards the end of this newsletter which are full of advice to support parents in helping protect children.

## Attendance

As I have mentioned before, attendance in school is utterly essential in order to ensure that children succeed. At Heron Park we have high expectations related to attendance.

It is equally important that children are in school on time.

I do thank you for your commitment in ensuring that the children are in school each day and on time. Maintaining good attendance is very much about a partnership between home and school. Should you need any support in this area, please do contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs. S King.

## Parent Consultations

As a reminder, the Parent Consultation events are taking place on Tuesday 31st January and Thursday 2nd February. You can now book appointments using Arbor. Should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Parental Engagement Events

During the last week of term, we invite you to come to join your child in their classroom to find out about what they have been learning across January and February. These events will run between 2.30pm and 3.00pm and we will ask you to sign in on entry to the classroom. We do look forward to seeing you later this term.

Date	Year Groups
Monday 6th February (2.30pm-3.00pm)	Year 1
Wednesday 8th February (2.30pm-3.00pm)	Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 9th February (2.30pm-3.00pm)	Year 5 and Year 6 and Reception

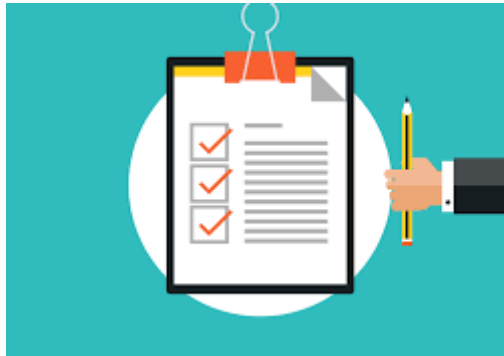
## Parent and Friends Association (PFA)



Are you interested in being part of our Parents and Friends Association (PFA)?

If you are, please complete the online questionnaire which you can access through this link. We are planning a PFA coffee morning event on Thursday 23rd February at 9am in the school hall. Should you wish to attend this information event, please indicate this on the form. We look forward to seeing you.

<https://forms.office.com/r/V8WFQJyvbs>



## Parental Survey

I have had the opportunity to review the parental surveys which were completed before Christmas. I really do appreciate the time you took to fill these in and your feedback. An additional letter outlining what we have done in response to what you told us will be sent out next week..

## Football Success

We are so proud of all our Year 2 football team for representing Heron Park at the Eastbourne Area Primary Football Festival. The children played three matches and won two of them. Congratulations to Violet, Leo, Asafa, Romario, Paige, Jenson and Lilah who all demonstrated teamwork, friendship and resilience. Amazing!



I hope that you enjoy reading through the rest of the newsletter to share just some of the activities that have been completed over the last two weeks. I wish you all a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you next week in school.

Kind regards,

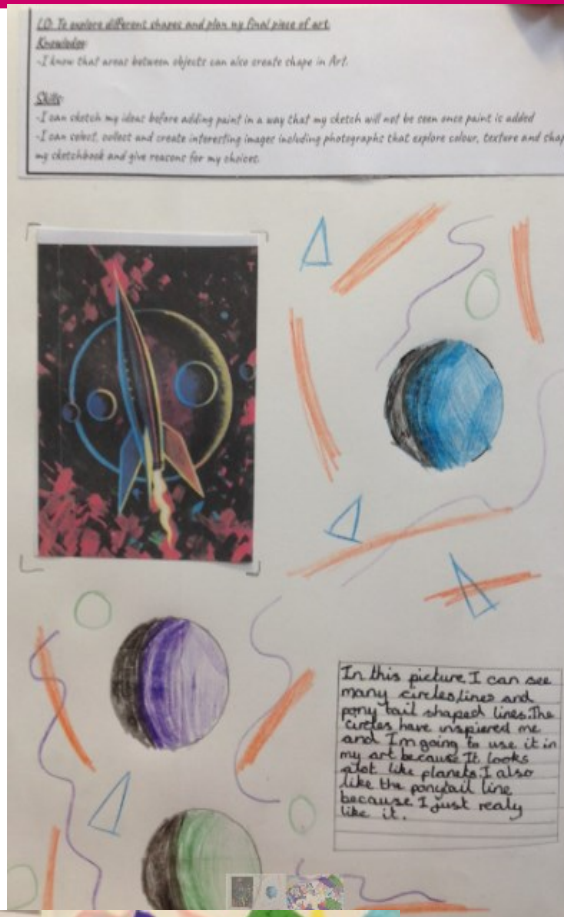
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Crees'.

Mrs H Crees  
Headteacher



## Year 6

Year 6 pupils have been studying the artwork completed by Peter Thorpe. They have explored the artist in detail and displayed key information about him. Following on from their initial investigations, the children then scrutinised Thorpe's work, exploring shapes he used. We cannot wait to see what the children's final compositions, inspired by the work of this artist, will look like.

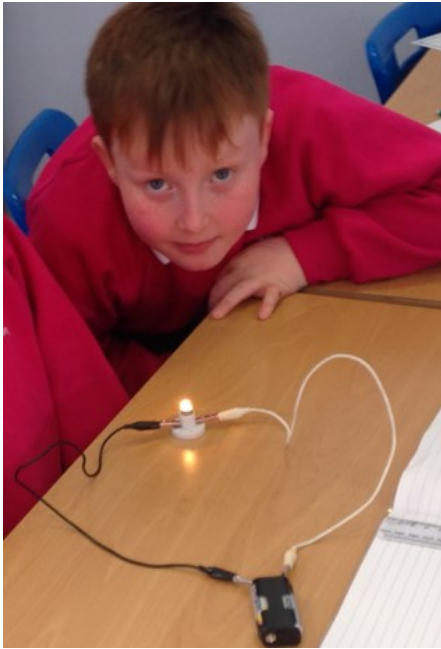


## Year 5

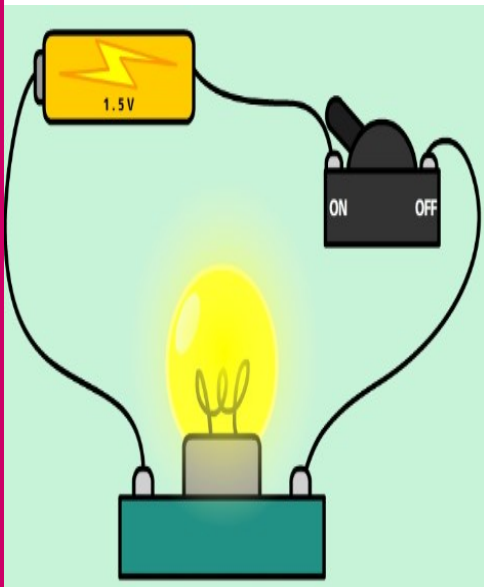
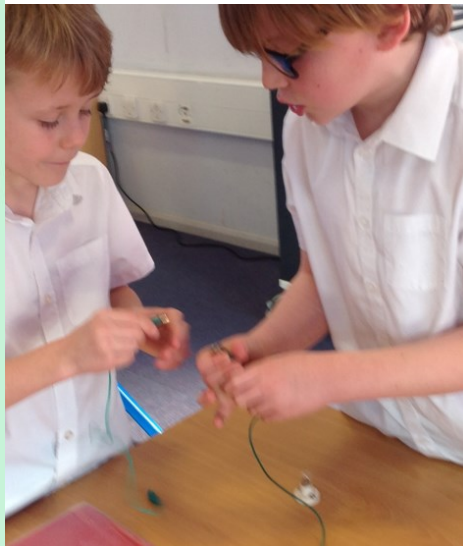
Year 5 pupils had a treat in the hall this week. They worked collaboratively putting together a composition using a range of musical instruments. Of course, this type of orchestral work certainly needs a good level of teamwork and collaboration. The level of focus demonstrated by all pupils was certainly very strong. I would like to congratulate them on the outcome. Well done Year 6!



## Year 4

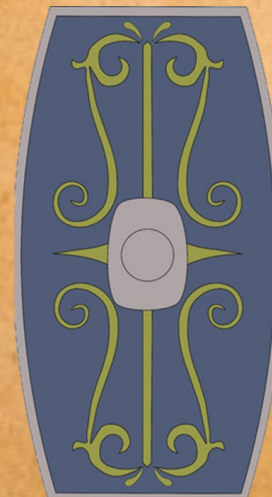


In Year 4, pupils have been developing their scientific investigation and observation skills. Over the last two weeks they have created circuits in their lessons. Knowing and understanding the flow of electrons around a circuit has certainly been of interest. The children had to consider how best to light bulbs and think carefully about which electrical components were most effective within their circuits. We believe we may have witnessed future electricians within the classroom.



## Year 3

Year 3 have developed the most amazing Roman Shields this week. Using their understanding of the patterns they viewed on artefacts from the time, they formed the most amazing designs. The shields are a treat to look at and helped the children understand how these items were used as part of the ancient invasion. Well done to all the pupils!



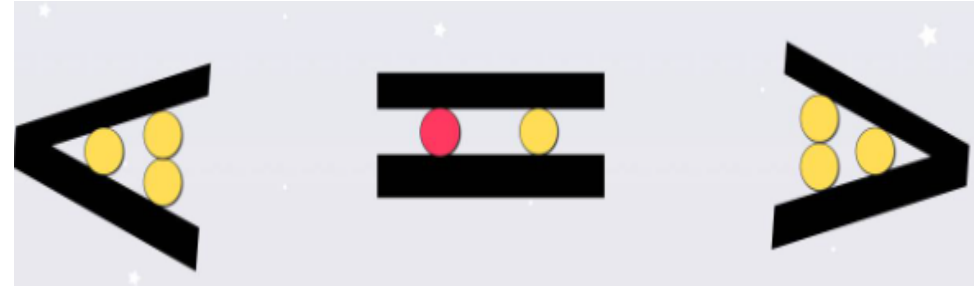
## Year 2

In their science topic entitled 'Animals including Humans' the children were lucky enough to have some of the school animals come and visit the classroom. Pupils decided on categories for the animals using their knowledge about amphibians, reptiles, fish, mammals or birds and herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.



The children also had a sensory experience where the children listened to beach sounds. They visualised a deserted island, felt natural items (feather, rocks, plants etc.) smelt fruit and tasted fruit (pineapple, mango, coconut and kiwi) that Amelia Earhart might have eaten on her travels. The children imagined what life would be like on a beautiful deserted island and completed a wonderful piece of creative writing, as a result.

## Year 1



In Year 1, pupils have built on their understanding of number gained in Reception by considering the language of greater than, less than and equal to. Using a range of resources, pupils developed their own symbols and shared their maths with the class. We are very impressed with them.



## Reception

Numbers are certainly important and our Reception children have been developing a rich understanding of numbers within 10. Using some beautifully designed tabards, the children compared numbers using language like "I'm greater than you" and "I'm less than you." Congratulations to all the children!

In Nursery this week, the children have been developing their creative play. They have been thinking about the topic 'Ourselves' and explored their own personal features as well as thinking about their homes and the people they live with. The team were impressed with the children's playdough self-portraits and their exploration of items like the dolls house to explore homes. It was also fantastic to see the children working together to read engaging stories linked to the theme.

In addition to the above, the children also looked at patterns and sequences and worked hard to complete a pattern using beads and threads. This is never an easy exercise, but the children persevered and created some wonderful designs!



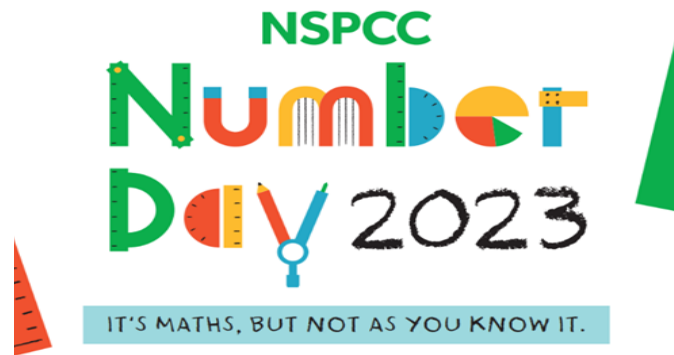
# PE DAYS TERM 3

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Year 1</b> <b>Ladybirds &amp;</b> <b>Bumblebees</b>	<b>Year 3</b> <b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>Year 6</b> <b>Oak &amp; Willow</b>	<b>Year 4</b> <b>Badgers &amp; Foxes</b>	<b>Year 2</b> <b>Ducks &amp; Swans</b>
<b>Year 3</b> <b>Rabbits</b>	<b>Year 5</b> <b>Sycamore</b>			<b>Reception</b>

**Swimming:**  
**Year 5**  
**Horse Chestnut**

**For term 3, children will have 1 PE slot**

**Children should come dressed in their PE kits on their allocated PE day.**



On **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**, we will be joining the nation to fundraise for the **NSPCC** as part of **Number Day 2023!**

As part of this day, we'll be taking part in lots of maths and NSPCC awareness activities in class. To recognise this event more-so than an average day at school, we'd really like to encourage our pupils - across the school - to **dress up** in exchange for a voluntary contribution which can be paid using **Parent Pay**.

In **nursery, EYFS and KS1**, we would love for children to come to school dressed up as their **favourite number!** Have a look at some dressing up ideas below for inspiration:



In **KS2**, we will be dressing up as **rockstars**, ready for an epic times table rock stars battle to commence! Here are some dress up ideas for KS2 pupils too!



Please note that we would love for costumes to be home-made from items you may already have in your cupboards and that costumes do not need to be new or shop bought! We cannot wait to see everyone's costumes on the day!

# Diary Dates:

## Term 3

Tuesday 31st January - Parent Consultations 3-5pm

Thursday 2nd February - Parent Consultations 3-7pm

Wednesday 3rd February—School Closed due to strike action

Friday 3rd February - NSPCC Number Day. Dress up as your favourite number.

Monday 6th February - Y1 - Parental engagement at 2.30-3.00

Wednesday 8th February - Y2, Y3 & Y4 Parental engagement at 2.30-3.00

Thursday 9th February - Y5, Y6 and Reception Parental engagement at 2.30-3.00

Friday 10th February - Last Day of Term

Monday 13th -17th February - FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY

## Term 4

Monday 20th February - First Day of Term

Thursday 23rd February - PFA coffee morning at 9am in the main hall.

Friday 3rd March - INSET DAY

Monday 6th March- INSET DAY

Friday 31st March - Last Day of Term

Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April - EASTER HOLIDAY

## Term 5

Thursday 25th May - Last Day of Term

Friday 26th May - INSET DAY

## Term 6

Monday 5th June - First Day of Term

Wednesday 14th - 16th June - Year 5 Residential trip.

Friday 30th June - INSET DAY

Monday 3rd July - INSET DAY

Friday 21st July - Last Day of Term

Calendar dates are subject to change, we will endeavour to give parents/carers as much notice as possible. Please note that where we have added INSET DAYS, we have given parents long weekends, to allow you to have a break away without taking time off during term time