



Heathfield Infants Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to the new term!



It has been lovely to see all the children back this term. We really hope that the children enjoyed taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge and sharing some books with you over the holidays. We are focusing throughout the school on reading this year, particularly on developing children's love of books. We really do appreciate the time you spend listening to your children read. In addition to this (or occasionally instead!) we would urge you to read to your children, either one of your own favourite children's books or one of their favourite books. Reading to children can be as valuable as children reading for themselves, especially in the early stages, as this is the opportunity for developing an early love of books, as well as giving them the chance to hear texts they wouldn't be able to read themselves and developing vocabulary and comprehension skills.

This week in our assemblies we have been talking about trying something new and have read **The Colour Monster Goes to School** and **Giraffes Can't Dance**. Please feel free to borrow these books, or any others, from our library.



Attendance



As we look towards the fresh start of another academic year, we would like to remind all families about the importance of all pupils maintaining a high level of attendance. Just a few lost days can have a long-term effect on pupils learning. There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement for every student. Attendance and punctuality directly affect progress in school and are crucial life skills children are expected to have even at an early age. Please support your child and our school with this important message. This week's Best Attendance was achieved by Hippo and Iguana with 100%. Very well done!



What We Have Been Doing

In **Nursery** the children have all started to settle really well. We have been introducing our new friends names, exploring the environment and becoming familiar with the routine.



We have been so impressed with the way that the **Reception** children have come into school this week. They have settled really well and are enjoying exploring all the different areas of Reception. They have been getting used to the new routines and have been making new friends.

All of the classes in **Year 1** made a great start and have taken new challenges in their stride. We have been really impressed with how settled the children have been. This week we have enjoyed reading 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. The children have created their own monsters using play dough and other art materials. They went on to use adjectives to describe what their monsters looked like. In maths we have been counting backwards from 10 and 20. We have also been finding one more and one less than a number.



The children have really loved the challenging fine motor skill activities we have set them and have been using peg boards to make patterns, geo boards and elastic bands to make shapes, using tweezers to pick up pom poms, using buttons to trace over patterned lines!



The children in **Year 2** have been very busy this week learning about endangered animals in our text 'Saving Species'. We learnt lots of interesting facts about tigers and presented these in a fact file. The children then learnt about the hammerhead shark and created posters to share why the shark has become endangered.



In maths, the children have been studying place value and have been learning about what each digit is worth. As well as this, the children have begun their R.E topic where they are learning about Harvest and in science the children have begun to investigate different types of material. They have had a fantastic start to Year 2 and the Year 2 team are looking forward to the year ahead.



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Heathfield Schools' Partnership Choir – Year 2

A letter was handed out to children in Year 2 this week. If you haven't yet completed the permission slip for the choir, please do so as soon as possible. Letters are available in the Infant School Office.

Harvest Festival – Tuesday 24th September 2019 – Year 1 and Year 2



Year 1 and Year 2 children will be attending our annual Harvest Festival assembly at St Augustine's Church. All parents/carers are welcome to join us at the church for a 1.30pm start. If you would like to make a food donation, please send in non-perishable items, such as tins or packets of dried food, with your child on the day, as the children will make a display in the church. All our donations will be given to The Upper Room, a local charity that helps different people in the area with social needs and homelessness. If you do not wish your child to participate in the Harvest Festival because of your religious beliefs please put your request in writing to Mr Clayton by Friday, 20th September.

School Uniform

As part of the new school year, can you please spend a few minutes labelling your child's school uniform, especially polo tops, jumpers and coats. This would be most helpful for us to reunite any lost clothing to the right child. School uniform consists of a grey skirt or trousers, white or purple polo top and a purple school jumper or cardigan with the Heathfield logo. Black shoes only, no trainers or bright coloured shoes are acceptable. Information on the correct school uniform can be obtained from the Infant School Office.



Allergies and Intolerances

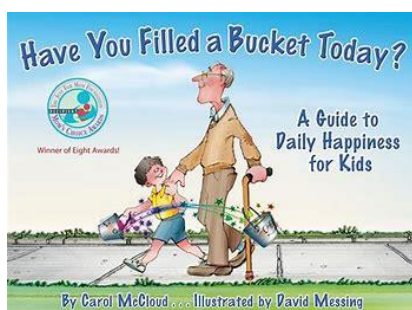
We have a number of children in school with allergies and food intolerances. We would like to ask parents to exercise caution when sending in cakes or treats for birthdays, food for parties and when preparing lunchboxes. **We are a nut-free school which means that no nuts (including peanut butter and Nutella) are allowed in school.** Children with allergies are known to the teacher and teaching assistants working in the class. We would also encourage you to teach your child about any allergies they have so that they can develop their awareness of what they can and cannot eat. Please keep us updated on any changes to your child's dietary needs.

Parking

Please be considerate to our neighbours' and other parents getting to school when parking in the local roads. Driveways should not be blocked and no one should be pulling up immediately outside the entrance to the Nursery, Infant or Junior school gates. Stopping or parking outside the school fence on the yellow markings is also illegal. Parking Enforcement Officers have been working around the site and will issue a £50 parking fine if you are not parked correctly. We want to ensure the safety of our children at all times and this will really help us. Please be reminded that you are not allowed to park over our neighbours' drop-kerbs and driveways, even for just a few minutes. Please find a safe parking space using the white boxed areas provided. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary

Harvest Festival Years 1 & 2 only	Tuesday, 24 th September 2019 – 1.30pm at St Augustine's Church
Half Term	Monday, 28 th October – Friday 1 st November
Children Return to School	Monday 4 th November
Parents Evening	Monday, 21 st October
Parents Evening	Tuesday 22 nd October
End of Term	Friday, 20 th December



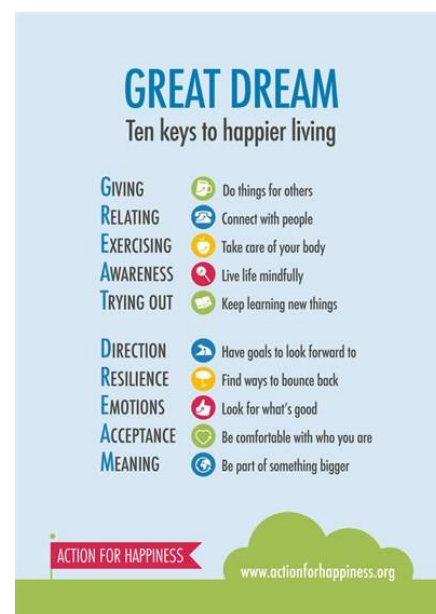
This week we launched the **GREAT DREAM: 10 steps to happiness** programme in our assemblies.

We focused on **"G for GIVING"** and talked about how giving something away (a smile, a hug, a compliment, a present) can make two people feel happy at the same time – the person giving and the person receiving. Over the year we will be looking at ten different

ways of increasing happiness and well-being, in our assemblies and in class.

GREAT DREAM - 10 keys to happier living

This is a programme designed to promote the emotional wellbeing and resilience of children. Each letter of the GREAT DREAM is one of the ten keys to happier living. Research shows that there are particular actions that have a significant impact on our sense of happiness and wellbeing.



What will happen in school?

Over the course of the year, each of the 10 keys will be introduced in an assembly and will be followed up by activities in class. All children will be encouraged to practise some of the strategies they have explored and to share these with you at home.

How can I support my child?

- Use the ten keys to recognise what you already do that promotes your child's happiness.
- Support your child with building in more of these ideas and actions into their approach to life.
- Share the ten keys of the GREAT DREAM model with family and friends and use them to improve wellbeing in your family.

How can I find out more?

Talk to your child's class teacher or go to www.actionforhappiness.org

