

# Herne Flyer 15 – Autumn Term 2022



Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022



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## Goodbye & Thank You

Message from the Headteacher



It has been my privilege to be a part of our community here at Herne. As I travelled to the school from Fareham at the end of 2005, to support a school that had gone into Special Measures starting in January 2006, I remember thinking 'this is a long way to come. Thank goodness I won't be helping out here for long!' The rest is history. I must thank all of the staff and so many governors who have passionately believed that we've always had a great school. We just needed to believe it and make sure things were put in place so that everyone in the school knew what they were doing to get the best out of the children.



A task like this never hinges on one person alone. I have been so grateful to those staff that stayed the course in my time here and to all the new staff I have recruited along the way. I could never have brought the life back into our school without their help. In particular, I'd like to thank Erika Marshall (our Assistant Head), whose expertise in all things special needs and championing our less advantaged children, has been a key in helping our most vulnerable pupils. You are extraordinary Erika. The wonderful team of teachers and support staff, in all their various roles, has been a superb support to children and leaders alike.

Many staff, parents and carers wouldn't understand just how fantastic our governing body have been and I cannot say a big enough thank you to our two marvellous Chairs of Governors during my 17 years at Herne; Maureen Page and Mary Fair. Thank you both for your support, challenge and friendship.

Thank you too to all of the children and parents/carers who have relayed such kind words, lovely cards and gifts over the last few weeks. It has brought a smile to my face and reassured my belief that there is so much good in the world. In response to my personal challenge to run the London Marathon on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023, you have taken my JustGiving total beyond the £2,000 mark; a whole four months before my run (I better get training then!!)

I wish my successor, Mrs Sue Sayers, all the very best of luck and my very good wishes to take Herne into new territory in 2023. She has an incredible portfolio of experience in a number of headships and has led teams to perform at the very highest level. I am leaving Herne in great hands. 😊



My last words are to pay tribute to a 'force of nature' and extraordinary person – our very own Peter Castle. It has been a professional marriage, not dissimilar to Ant and Dec! Our "well-planned" assemblies, bit-parts to hook children into their learning (with a good proportion of dressing up!) and a love of all things to do with our Harmony Heroes – brilliant concept brought to life by this hugely talented man – has made working at Herne an absolute joy for me. Thank you Peter for your friendship and imagination. It has been my pleasure to lead with you by my side. You've made me look good and I know you'll encapsulate our values as we handover to the new headteacher.

*Merry Christmas to you all and have a fabulous New Year when you get there. Tony Markham – Headteacher Signing Off...*

## Goodbye & Thank You (PART 2)

Message from the Deputy Headteacher

When currently one third of teachers in England do not see out 5 years in the profession after qualifying, it does take someone special to work for 37 continuous years as a teacher, Deputy Headteacher and then a Headteacher, with the latter being for 26 years. Tomorrow will mark a very sad farewell to our wonderful Mr Markham, however it is also a celebration of his years of loyal service to education.



When Mr Markham joined Herne in 2006, the school was struggling and needed an individual to come and work with the staff, children and parents to get Herne back to being a school of which the community of Petersfield could be proud. 17 years later, though he is always first to admit that school improvement never ends, I truly believe that the happy and successful school that he is leaving behind is the perfect proof that all his hard work was truly worth it.

When education policy has chopped, changed and dragged leaders into a plethora of different directions, Mr Markham has never forgotten the importance of enjoyment, happiness and fun as essential tools for learning. In addition to this, he's always had in the forefront of his mind, that if you want happy children in a school, you need the adults to be happy too, and the fact the school has had very little turnover of teachers over the last ten years, is credit to the supportive ethos and atmosphere that he has created.

He is also far wiser than he would like to admit, he has a passion for understanding how children (and adults) learn and he will often predict (or pre-empt) important national decisions (I remember at the start of the pandemic, Mr Markham had us all washing our hands thoroughly before this was ever mentioned by central government). In recent years, he has used this wise head not just for the benefit of Herne, but also fighting for more funds for schools through the 'Worthless' campaign. Before this, he was a key contributor to the Lord Bew Enquiry on Assessment, that took the fight to Parliament about the unfair system of the SATs writing tests (which was a big part of the reason the SATs writing tests were abolished).

Herne will very much miss his kindness, positivity, enthusiasm and wisdom. On a personal note, I will miss my friend who I have thoroughly enjoyed working with over the last eleven and half years.

Peter Castle – Deputy Headteacher

## Singing Round the Christmas Tree – **TONIGHT!**

Please come along to our school tonight from 6pm for an hour of fun, singing, joining in with our choir, listening to our talented orchestra children and some festive treats, courtesy of HAFS. This will be a lovely time to gather as a school community to welcome in the Christmas holidays. See you there! 😊



## Early Closing Tomorrow!

Please remember that Herne will be **closing at 12.30 tomorrow** as we break up for the Christmas holidays. One of the reasons we are able to do this is because we have a longer school day than most schools in the UK! This enables us to have early closing on the last day of term in the autumn, spring and summer.

## Christmas Jumper Total – Thank You! 😊

Thank you so much for all of the donations that came into the school for HAFS and the Christmas Jumper Day last week. We know times are very hard for many of our families at this time, so your generosity last week was absolutely stunning. If there are any further donations, ALL of this will go to HAFS, which in turn will come back to the children at Herne. **The total from Friday was £244.90**, which Mr Markham will split equally with Save the Children and the charities he is running for in the London Marathon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. Save the Children will receive £122.45 from the donations on that day, leaving the same amount to go onto his JustGiving page for Barnardo's, Magic Breakfast and Dementia UK: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/anthony-markham1>

## SATs – More Than a Score Campaign

As you will be aware no doubt, Mr Markham has often been involved in fighting some wider battles with successive governments about some of the things that we force primary school children to do. So many of us remember examinations, not least because after you've passed (or failed) you almost instantly let go of the information you've studied hard to remember. In fact, it is very interesting to note that Ofsted, who are keen to check what children have remembered from their previous learning, require crib sheets to remind THEM of what they need to be checking when talking to the children...madness!



With a view to the Year 6 SATs next summer, one of the organisations who fight hard to enlighten governments on the value of testing Year 6 children, set up a day when MPs took part in a challenge. On December 6th this year, the Big SATs Sit-In gave MPs and parents the chance to experience the kind of pressure experienced by 10- and 11-year-olds.

This is how they got on - click the image to watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j04G1ijTVsc>

Click the links in **BLUE** to find out more...

If you agree that SATs are the wrong way to fairly assess children and measure schools, [write to your MP](#) today. When headteachers speak out, policymakers listen. Alison and Jill at [More Than A Score](#)



## Author of the Week – Ben Miller

Successful actor and writer Ben Miller has now written a whole collection of books for children, which are popular titles in the school library. His newest book is 'The Secrets of the Christmas Elf' (suitable for ages 7+)...



*It's business as usual in the run up to Christmas at Santa's Workshop - and toy elves Holly and Tog are busy making gifts for children all around the world. But Father Christmas isn't feeling well, and Holly is worried that things won't be finished on time. Inventing a robot to help out with festive duties seems like a fantastic idea, until Father Christmas is KIDNAPPED and a race against time to save him and the big day begins.*

## Supporting Reading at Home



If you're ever unsure on how to support your child with reading at home, take a look at our school website. We have now added a number of helpful videos ranging from correct pronunciation of sounds, to top tips on how to have a successful reading experience with your child.

Take a look at the 'Parents' tab and then the first two subject titles are '**Reading Support**' where you can find all of the recommended reading lists and book series lists. The next **NEW** subject title is '**Read, Write Inc.**' where there are videos on the following:

- \* Understanding Phonics
- \* How to Say Sounds
- \* Reading the Stretching Sounds
- \* Sound Blending
- \* Spelling using FRED Talk and Fingers
- \* Why Read to Your Child
- \* 10 Things to Think About When You Read to Your Child



## Cleaner Needed!



The school now has another vacancy for a cleaner. If you think you would be up for this role after school between 3.30 and 7.30, with some flexibility with the hours you could work and the days of the week, please email [admin@hernejuniors.com](mailto:admin@hernejuniors.com). **Even if you would like to do just 3 or 4 hours a week for some extra money – please get in contact (we are in desperate need for after-school Wednesdays as a real priority).** The rate of pay is over £10 per hour (a pay rise has just been implemented, so an exact rate can be provided once we have this information).

## Art Club in the Spring Term

Following on from last week's flyer we can confirm that the new theme for The Creation Station art club is 'Once upon a Picture'. It is based on authors and illustrators of children's books and covers a wide range of styles and techniques including: Manga, doodling (Lisa Strickley), Wacky Characters (Dr Suess) and Dangerous Dragon Eggs (J K Rowling). Just 8 spaces remain available!



You can book the full term here <https://portal.thecreationstation.franscape.io/class-overview/3645> or if you would like to pay weekly just register your details and email [jowildgust@thecreationstation.co.uk](mailto:jowildgust@thecreationstation.co.uk)

## Has Your Child Ever Thought About Playing Squash?



Herne children are welcome to come along for a trial of Squash Stars at the Taro Leisure Centre Mondays or Herne Farm Leisure Centre on Wednesdays both at 4.30 to 5.30. Squash Stars builds fundamental skills and confidence, encouraging kids to reach for the stars on and off court. This junior beginner's programme focuses on guiding children to collect stardust in skills such as hand-eye coordination, racquet work, movement, balance and match play. The more stardust they have, the brighter they'll shine!

Each Squash Stars session is led by our trained leader, Jonathan Graham 07812251581 (who was a Herne parent) or email [juniors@petersfieldsquashclub.org.uk](mailto:juniors@petersfieldsquashclub.org.uk) and will give your child the chance to explore, play, and make friends in a fun and safe setting. We want to help them soar in every aspect of their life and that starts with a positive experience with sport.

## HAFS NEWS

Don't forget to see the separate attachment of all of the HAFS News for this week, which will come out to parents and carers electronically tomorrow. We have been so pleased with HAFS support throughout this calendar year and this term. They have helped with serving mince pies and drinks at the Year 3 performances this week and we have still got tonight's Singing Round the Christmas Tree to look forward to this evening from 6pm.

Thank you HAFS and have a well-deserved break over the Christmas holidays. 😊



December		January 2023	
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup>	6pm - Singing Round the Christmas Tree at Herne	Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET DAY – Both Herne & Petersfield Infants School closed to Pupils
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 END OF TERM	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM
		Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	OPEN SCHOOL

**DON'T FORGET - HERNE CLOSSES AT 12.30 TOMORROW – FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**



**HAVE A PEACEFUL AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF OUR FAMILIES & CHILDREN**



**FROM ALL OF THE TEAM HERE AT HERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL...SEE YOU NEXT TERM 😊**