



Friday 26th January 2024

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A Note from our Headteacher

Dear Parents & Carers,

The main event this week was the Local Authority annual monitoring visit. The LA advisor looks at last year's targets and our progress in terms of school improvement. In short, they evaluate how well we meet pupil needs.

We asked our advisor to focus on our renewed efforts to ensure that our SEND children have the right provision. This year we have taken part in the Hants Big District Inclusion programme and have used learning from research to develop our staff strengths in understanding complex needs. We have also been looking at restorative strategies to help all children get over issues and increasing our pastoral/wellbeing support for all children.

The report clearly shows that we have been exceptionally successful in our efforts whilst still maintaining high expectations and excellent quality of teaching for learning for all children. It was noted how staff have had great opportunities to become leaders at all levels and are applying their new skills for the good of all children. SLT and governors at the feedback were very proud of Team Herne! The report will be on our website shortly after all staff and governors have discussed it.

Otherwise, it's that grim time of year when schools are trying to get the budget for the next 3 years to look rosier!!! Many post Covid grants targeted at 'catch up' have dried up and, with only partial funding by the government of staff pay awards this year, all schools are going to be struggling to balance the books. A huge part of this is low birth rate numbers for September. Headteachers locally have been sharing 2024/5 Year R or Yr3 numbers and for the first time in a long time, all schools have vacancies for September. Low numbers mean less funding and while it may seem great to have smaller classes, without funding for 30 children per class, schools can't fully cover staff salaries. Schools who cannot resolve this are therefore being faced with cuts in provision.



This is unusual for us but we have just a few spaces for September in Year 3. Do spread the word - if you know anyone in Year 2 who would like a Year 3 place at Herne, do get them to contact us directly. A rare opportunity!

Onto more brighter news, the year 3 and 4 eco councillors and year 5 and 6 Forest school helped us to plant five new fruit trees this week. This was part of the tree council's from Forest Green Rovers, the greenest football club in the world. It's all part of the Green Football Weekend a national mobilisation of football clubs to think about sustainability.

Then on Monday, we took an Athletics team to compete in the Havant Sportshall Athletics Champs event. Our team competed magnificently, displaying superb sporting and harmony spirit.

Herne came 5th out of 10 schools, but the highlight of the event was Herne's magnificent victory in the relay.



And finally, whatever you are up to this weekend, enjoy! I think we are off for a long walk at a NT property and a spot of birdwatching for the RSPB annual bird count on Saturday...if you haven't downloaded your spotters guide yet, follow the link!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/submission>

Take care,
Sue Sayers

Non-School Uniform Day – Thursday 8th February

School Council have organised a non-school uniform day on Thursday 8th February to raise money so every class in school can adopt an endangered animal. **School council would also like everyone to bring in a cuddly animal on this day** – to show the school’s love and support for animals across the world. Classes have been voting which endangered animal they would like to adopt and school council need to raise £45 per class to make their dream a reality. The grand total they need is £675 (Marwell Zoo have kindly agreed to “Adopt 15 get 1 free”) which works out at £1.40 per pupil. School council would like pupils to bring in a donation of what they can afford, but if possible, if it could be around the £1.40 mark, this would be amazing 😊.

Home Link Corner - Book & Website Recommendation

‘Hey Warrior’ by Karen Young is a book for children about anxiety. It helps with understanding why anxiety feels the way it does and where the physical symptoms come from and is a powerful step in turning anxiety around. For ages 5-12 (and up).

About the Author - Karen Young.

Karen began her career as a psychologist in private practice. She has worked extensively with children teens and families, and in educational and organisation settings. Karen created Hey Sigmund ([Hey Sigmund | Anxiety in Teens | Helping a Child with Anxiety](#)), an internationally popular online resource, as a way to provide contemporary, research-driven information on the art of being human. The website has a particular emphasis on strengthening the mental wellness of children and adolescents.



Download Healthier Together for advice with common childhood illnesses

With temperatures dropping this month Clare Joy – an NHS school nurse working locally – explains in this short video some top tips on keeping winter bugs at bay and using the Healthier Together app for advice.

You can watch on the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS YouTube channel](#).

It can sometimes be hard for parents to know the best way to help children recover from winter bugs. Healthier Together has been developed by local clinicians and gives simple advice on how to help them get better at home. The app will also help you to spot the signs if it is something more serious and guide you to the right help. Visit what-0-18.nhs.uk, download from the App Store or get it on Google Play. The UK Health Security Agency have also published helpful advice on [spotting the signs of when to keep children home](#). You can visit the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS winter wellness web page](#) for more advice on keeping warm and well this winter.

Have your say on crucial proposals for future services in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council has launched an important public consultation, inviting people to provide their views on the future of some local services in Hampshire, as a part of steps by the local authority to help meet a £132 million budget shortfall by April 2025. Your views are really important - so please take the time to [respond to the consultation online](#), and encourage others to do the same.



January		March	
Mon 29 th	Year 5 Bikeability – Maple	Fri 1 st	Year 4 Rainbow Theatre
		Tues 5 th	Parents' Evening
		Thur 14 th	Parents' Evening
		Thurs 28 th	Easter Holiday begins - 12.30pm Finish today
		Fri 29 th	BANK HOLIDAY – Good Friday
February		April	
Mon 5 th	Open School 3.30 - 5.00pm 7pm HAFS Meeting (in the school hall)	1 st - 12 th	Easter Holidays
Thu 8 th	Non-School Uniform Day and bring an animal teddy.	24-26 th	Avon Tyrell (Year 5 residential)
Fri 9 th	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR TRAINING		
12 th – 16 th	HALF TERM		
Fri 23 rd	Mid-Year Postcards coming home		