



Friday 22nd March 2024

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A Note from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a strange mixture of end of term tiredness for staff and children and some wonderful events.



Our amazing girls football team went to play in the **Southern National League Finals** and got beaten in the semi-final. See the match report on page 2, from our football pundit, Mr Hurst. The girls played valiantly and were not downhearted when they got back as they recognised their achievement to get that far! I'm very proud of them. Thanks to everyone who coaches, encourages and drives the minibus.

Another wonderful group of children sang to represent the school at two evening concerts as a part of the **Petersfield Music Festival**. This year I had the privilege of a real seat in the audience instead of sitting on the stage...and wow...the full effect of the combined choirs from local schools and the various bands and ensembles was phenomenal. Huge thanks to Miss Clare Morpew and Miss Isabel Burrows for all their hard work at choir practices and to staff who accompanied, Mrs Wendy Ash and Mrs Katie Elliot-Smith. Unfortunately, we weren't allowed to take any photos due to safeguarding and copyright but those of you who attended will have a lasting image of the truly special event. How lucky are we to have such an organised committee in our town! Today, we were entertained by the children who have **Rock Steady** performance lessons in school. As we had class photos happening in the hall, they performed in Elm class...and nearly took the roof off!! Phenomenal! Thank you to all who attended.

We are now able to confirm that in September, in conjunction with TPS, we will be embarking on a project to help educate our children further on the subject of **racism and prejudicial language**. Research shows a huge rise in such language nationally from the age of 8, predominantly in white, British boys over the last few years, including an increase in such language becoming part of "banter". Like all schools, we have become concerned, this year particularly, in the rise of language on the playground which is racist or homophobic. This is heavily influenced by online language. We have been tackling this, situation by situation, but with clear consequences. The training, which will be led by Everyday Racism, will help us to understand how to better adapt our curriculum and overcome some of the strong influences on our pupils. We are delighted to be working with TPS and have invited representatives from other local schools, including PIS, to join us. We already have a working party of parents, staff and governors, led by Mrs Sonja Balmer (HSLW) who have been discussing cases (anonymously) and our practice.

Currently the process is:

1. Investigation into the source of the language, ensuring the child fully understands why the language is unacceptable. A discussion with both sets of parents/carers and an apology for the victim. This is often followed up by support for either child from our pastoral team.
2. Any repeat incident has led to internal suspension, i.e. separation from peers at break and lunch in order to receive an opportunity to be part of some support discussions. Parents/ carers are involved and an apology as above.
3. Further incidents (or second significant incidents) can result in suspension for a day as these have been done knowing the offence caused by pejorative language.

By taking this supportive but clear approach, our number of incidents has reduced as the year has gone on but we are mindful of how strong the influences on TikTok, Youtube and other social media platforms are for young minds. In most cases, children of primary age say they are influenced by language they hear from older siblings, online while gaming or via social media apps. We have watched some of these clips and have been, quite frankly, shocked by what our children can access. Education is the key to empowering our children to make the right language choices...and a good firewall/regular checks of mobile devices at home.

Legally, schools have to report the number of incidents of such behaviour to their Governing Body and to the LA once a year. Incidents are logged as part of a school's safeguarding records. The good news is that our strategy is working - huge thanks to parents & carers who have been exceptionally supportive and equally shocked. Everything is more effective when home and school work together.

On a much happier note, we are very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Linda Clist on Monday who will lead our Easter, whole school assembly. Next week there are all sorts of lovely Easter activities planned. This week, we are also very delighted to have invited **Mr Darren Gooding, Estates Manager at Churchers College**, to join our Governing Body. Darren is an experienced Governor and will take up our Health & safety Governor role. We are delighted to have yet another link with our local schools. **Don't forget we finish at 12.30pm on Thursday as Friday is Good Friday!**

And finally...whatever you are up to this weekend, enjoy. We're off to Battersea to see friends and a visit to the revamped, Power Station.

Take care Sue Sayers

P.S. A children's book to recommend this week...might be an alternative to an Easter egg for those older readers who don't like chocolate?





Hampshire Cup Football

Wednesday afternoon saw nine of our Year 6 boys heading off to Welstead Primary School in Southampton looking to secure a place in the semi-finals. Well, they didn't disappoint, with Olly N in goal, Riley A and Wills in defence, Billy in a roaming midfield role and Harry, Charlie and Joel up front they looked unbeatable. Sadly, no-one had told Wellstead who managed two early goals meaning that Herne were looking at a long afternoon. But, with some skilful work upfront and a couple of super subs in Ben F and George, the boys had made it 2-4 by half time. After that Herne really turned on the style and ran home 3 – 7 winners. We await to see who our opponents are in the next round. A huge thanks to Mr Bristow for driving the minibus and sharing his tactical knowledge with us!

Southern National League Finals – Tuesday 19th March

This was always going to be a big day with a place at Wembley on offer (Herne had already won two tournaments to get to this stage) – there was an air of nervous excitement as our girls' team headed to Slough FC. On the plus side, Havant & Waterlooville had provided us with football jerseys – but with our keeper being injured the day before, poor Jess was going to have a baptism of fire between the posts. The girls played strongly in the tournament stage - the highlight being Lottie scoring a cracking goal against Boreham Wood – with Herne finishing second in the group and going through to the knock out stage. Our opponents, Southend, showed great ball skills and despite Poppy getting an early goal, Southend went on to win 2-1. So sadly no Wembley this year, but coming 4th in the whole South of England is still a massive achievement for the girls.

LOST PROPERTY

All lost property will be in the Herne Hideout until the end of Wednesday next week. Any unnamed clothes not claimed by Thursday will be given to the free shop and other items will be disposed of.



Free School Meals – Final Day of Term

Reminder that we will be finishing at 12.30pm on Thursday 28th March. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and you would like to order them a packed lunch, please contact the School Office by 9am on Monday 25th March 2024. The options will be tuna or cheese.

Recycle your old spectacles

Herne, in partnership with Petersfield Lion's club, is now a collection point for old spectacles, that will go overseas and be reused. If you have any old pairs lying around at home, our collection point is located in the front office.



Charity Fundraiser

I'm Oscar in year 6 Quince class. Me and my cousin Maya are doing a fundraiser for a charity called St Mungo's. They help get homeless people off the street. We are running a 10k challenge along the South Downs way. It would be greatly appreciated any small donations to help us raise our target of £1000.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/oscarandmaya?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Foscarandmaya&utm_source=whatsapp&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp

HAFS Easter Activities

Don't forget on Tuesday (26th March) that HAFS are putting on an Easter Bake Sale. Please bring donations to the Hideout in the morning, home baked or brought cakes/biscuits are both welcome, but no nuts please. Then on Tuesday and Wednesday, HAFS are also sponsoring the Easter Relay Race. The HAFS team are still looking for parent volunteers for this event, so please go on their Facebook page or Whatsapp group for more information.



Teacher Training

Want to make a difference? Teach! Are you looking for a new challenge, a change of career or just getting started after university? If your answer is YES! Call us now on 01252 717408 or go to the Herne Junior School website for more details

(click link below). Herne Junior School is a partner school with the outstanding South Farnham SCITT programme.

<https://www.hernejunior.com/page/?title=SCITT+%28teacher+training%29&pid=186>

March		April	
Fri 22 nd	Class and Leavers Photos	1 st - 12 th	Easter Holidays
Mon 25 th	Showcase 3.30pm – come into your child's class and see their work.	Tues 16	7pm HAFS Meeting
Tues 26 th	HAFS Easter Bake Sale (3.30pm)	24-26 th	Avon Tyrell (Year 5 residential)
26 – 27	HAFS Easter Relay Race	May	
Thur 28 th	Easter Holiday begins - 12.30pm Finish	Mon 6th	BANK HOLIDAY – May Day
Fri 29 th	BANK HOLIDAY – Good Friday	Mon 13 th	SATS Week
REMINDER: 12.30pm FINISH on Thursday 28th March.		Wed 22 nd	Rainbow Theatre (Year 5 and 6)
		Thurs 23 rd	Rainbow Theatre (Year 3)
		Mon 27th – Fri 31	HALF TERM