



Henleaze Infant School
Park Grove, Bristol BS9 4LG
Tel: (0117) 377 2442
Email: henleaze.i@bristol-schools.uk
www.henleaze-inf.bristol.sch.uk

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

The photos below represent the bright and positive start to term we have had despite the situation in the outside world. We continue to be grateful to the children for their inherent sense of fun which is an antidote to the world's problems. I am very proud of the staff team's commitment to putting the Henleaze Infant children first.



Parents braved the cold in outdoor Learning Shares to give children an opportunity to proudly show off their achievements so far this year.



Children spotted spider's webs glistening in the frost.



The Reception children had an exciting time exploring resources on the patios...the pretend snow was almost surplus to requirements!

Learning this term

The overarching topics for each year group remain the same, with different aspects of the curriculum being linked as well as seasonal and other relevant events being taught alongside them. This week has centred around Bonfire Night with some great history and artwork as well as safety information. Remembrance Day will be marked next week through class assemblies and activities. In the next two weeks we will be placing additional emphasis on well-being and friendship through the resources of this year's Children in Need campaign (13th November) leading into our annual Friendship Week starting on the 16th November where we talk about our anti-bullying policy with the children, focusing not only on our being 'Telling School' where everyone is encouraged to speak out, but importantly the skills of maintaining healthy relationships with peers.

The ELLI characters we are focusing on this term are Creative Unicorn who teaches us to value individual and creative approaches to learning and Planning Owl who reminds us of the value of thinking ahead and taking time to plan before starting a task. This Term's Jigsaw theme is Celebrating Difference. Both this vital learning and our core learning skills will be taught explicitly and woven throughout learning this term. Detailed plans can be found on the school website.

Learning Shares and Parents' Evening

We had really high attendance at our Learning Shares this week and know the children really appreciated being able to show off their progress. We are aware that teacher written feedback in books looks different this year. This is a combination of a move towards instant,

verbal feedback (rather than writing comments that children often can't read) developed over the past 18 months and teachers being asked to not touch books more than is absolutely necessary for Covid safety, so annotation is made on a whole class sheet or on stickers placed in books.

In planning for remote Parent's Evening, we have tried to consider any potential pitfalls and are hoping you have a positive experience. Feedback from Junior parents suggests the timer that appears was off-putting as they hadn't expected it, so we are giving you prior warning that the session will have a countdown and does automatically end. We have set 12 minutes slots to be mindful of teacher well-being and enable them to be fully prepared for each new meeting. Your teacher will open the meeting to give you 10 minutes, so this will be shortly after you allotted appointment time.

If all doesn't go to plan, we will re-arrange a phone meeting with you.

The vast majority of parents have successfully booked to see their child's class teacher next week. Please go to <https://henleazeinfants.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book a slot if you have not already done so. The user guide previously sent out will be attached to this newsletter to help you. Please make sure you use the correct school cloud address above. Thank you.

Themes from Pupil Progress meetings the week

There was a great deal of progress to be celebrated in each year group, of particular note that the key learning in number and phonics from last year had been retained and built on. There is a larger spread of ability than would usually be seen in each class, likely to be due to the different experiences children have had over lockdown. This year, more than any other we are relying on parental partnership in each child's education in order to ensure they reach their potential. Daily reading and number practice, including use of Numbergym and bringing in maths from the 'real-world' is an ongoing essential expectation. Learning in all areas is

shared in Class Blogs each week, so that you can reinforce school learning at home. Teachers will talk to each family about children's next steps and potential barriers to progress across the curriculum in the Parent's Evening meetings next week and we urge you to act on these to support your child. What is also evident, is that the time away from a whole-class learning environment has had a significant impact on learning behaviours. Teachers have noted children are finding it difficult being part of a large group again, and are finding children are lacking resilience. This is something that can be developed at home through everyday discussions and activities. In school, we use the 'Stick-at-it Tortoise' to encourage children to have a 'can do' attitude and provide them with scaffolds to help them to help themselves. Helping your child to trust in their own ability and to embrace challenge and work hard to achieve goals is one of the greatest life-long learning skills you can instil.

Celebration

Stars of the Week:

Class 4: **Maxwell**

Class 5: **Harry**

Class 6: **Zoe**

Class 7: **Martha**

Class 8: **Beth**

Class 9: **Talah**

Well done all of you for your fantastic achievements this week!

Class of the week:

Class 1- For showing super manners in the classroom and around the school

To see and hear more about what has been happening in school please visit the class blogs. <https://www.henleaze-inf.bristol.sch.uk/>

Messages

Nut Products

We have a number of children and adults in school who have serious nut allergies. Please can you ensure there are no nuts or nut products included in packed lunches. This includes most humous products, many cereal bars as well as some chocolate spreads. Afternoon snacks must be fruit only.

Parking

We have again received complaints for our neighbours and from parents about inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up. Please respect the safety markings as well as our neighbours' driveways.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Gemma Fricker

Dates for the diary

Tue 10 th Nov	Parents' Evening
Thu 12 th Nov	Parents' Evening Final order date for FHIS aprons
Fri 18 th December	End of Term 2

News from FHIS

Halloween Colouring Competition - You are a crafty lot! A huge thank you to all the children and families who participated and helped to raise an amazing £200 towards the new all-weather surface required beneath the Trym-trail. Winners of the competition will be announced in next week's Newsletter.

Christmas - Thanks to those of you who have already placed your Christmas apron orders. **Just a reminder, that the last date for orders is Wednesday 11th November.** The constraints and pressures of Covid-19, on both the print company and FHIS Committee, mean that we will be unable to accept any late orders. We have also taken the decision not to order any extra items for those of you who want to purchase more / forget to order. We are sure you will understand. So, what are you waiting for? Please place your order now.

We understand that for many of you, the pressures of life due to Covid-19 are stressful. For this reason, FHIS will be inviting children and parents to get in the festive spirit and participate in a Covid safe day of fun on **Friday 11th December**. More information will follow in next week's Newsletter so watch this space.

Simplified Trustees' Annual Report - A final shout out for help. As FHIS raised over £25,000 for school projects in 2018/19, we are required to complete a simplified trustees' annual report. If you can assist with this, please contact Andrew by email at FHISinfo@gmail.com Thank you

If you can help, have any ideas for fundraising (or anything else) or comments, please drop us a line at FHISinfo@gmail.com as we'd love to hear from you.