



# Spring Term Newsletter

19th January  
2024

Happy New Year to you all!

The start of any new year is always filled with excitement. There are so many new opportunities and things to look forward to as well as the inevitable changes that are often made. The Spring term, although often starting with a cold snap and a spattering of snow, is a reminder of new changes and resolutions.

We have already sent a letter to our Henley families about the proposed changes to class structure at Henley and this has largely been received positively. We have been interviewing for new TA's to work in both schools so we are looking forward to being able to introduce new staff very shortly.

Teachers have planned exciting new topics for all of our classes. These include Investigating Opposites (EYFS and KS1), The UK and beyond (LKS2) and Extreme Weather (UKS2). After the recent floods, we all have some experience of extreme weather but I know the children will be investigating weather all around the world and not just in the UK. We are already planning educational visits at each of the schools as well as whole school and mixed class visits. More information will be shared about these shortly.

I would like to say a very public Thank You to Helmingham Parish Council who have generously donated £100 to the school. We have yet to decide how to spend the money but it will be spent wisely and with the guidance from the Pupil Parliament and School Council representatives.

This week in Science, Eagles have begun their new topic, Rocks, by exploring the different rocks and stones outside and within our school grounds. The children enjoyed searching for rocks of different colours, textures and patterns and brought them inside to study more closely. Next week they will be learning about the different types of rocks and seeing how they can classify their own.



Barracuda Class from Henley and Eagles Class from Helmingham collaborated to take part in a Design and Technology project day. They worked in groups to design and create a model vehicle that could move using an electric-powered motor. They took on different roles, including engineers, suppliers and builders and were responsible for their own jobs within the group. They had to be adaptive when things didn't go right and reflect on their final products. They all had a lot of fun and worked really well with their peers from different schools.





Hedgehogs enjoyed the winter sun during their outdoor learning session at the cabin. They lit a fire after discussing their own safety around it and then cracked some eggs, dipped bread in and cooked egg bread. They came back for seconds, sitting in the sun on the edge of the cabin. They worked collaboratively to carry all their equipment and ingredients up to the cabin.



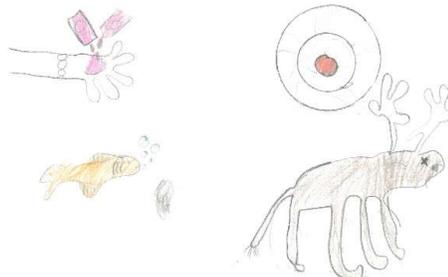
The children in Foxes class have been making signs on the tracks in the forest. They were creating routes for each other to follow in -4\* temperatures.



Dolphin Class at Henley have been writing poems about the contents of Grandma's medicine based on the story George's Marvellous Medicine.

My Medicine for Grandma

A marvellous medicine I shall make,  
 So give me a few flappy, flaky frogs and an eyeball from a snake,  
 Give me air bubbles from a fish and an old flea's tooth  
 And a hair from a wombat and a rotting dead moose.  
 Give me a dollop of shampoo and conditioner and a lizard like a bat  
 And a snail's tail and a slimy stinky rat.  
 Will she go pop? Will she go fizz?  
 Will she go flying? Will she go whizz?  
 Will she go itchy all over? Will she turn into a gate?  
 Or will she even be able to skate?  
 Oh, Grandma, if you only knew  
 What I have got in store for you!



As mentioned before Christmas, we will be completing a critical incident test over the next couple of weeks. The exercise aims to test how quickly and effectively we could contact parents in the event of an emergency, such as a gas leak or occasion where the premises are made unsafe. During this call you may be asked how quickly you would be able to get to the community centre to collect your child in an emergency situation.

I would also like to draw your attention to the trust commitment that has been drawn up by The Trust in response to requests from parents. It is available on the trust website at the address below.

<https://www.consortiumtrust.org/page/?title=Our+Commitment+to+you&pid=543>

**Consortium**  
Develop • Create • Engage

## Our Commitment to You

You told us what is important to you

**Right Treatment**

You can trust us to:

- Do what we say we will do
- Be helpful, polite and treat you fairly and with respect
- Try to understand your circumstances
- Follow processes correctly
- Tell you what to do next if you're not satisfied with how you've been treated
- Protect your personal information

**Getting it right**

We will:

- Provide you with the correct decision or information
- Explain things clearly if the outcome is not what you'd hoped for
- Say sorry and aim to put it right if we make a mistake
- Use your feedback to improve how we do things

**Keeping you informed**

We will:

- Deal with your request the first time you contact us, or as soon as we can
- Tell you what will happen next, and by when
- Keep you updated of progress
- Ensure you know the best way to contact us

In return, we need you to:

- Give us the correct information at the right time
- Tell us when something changes
- Be on time for any appointment
- Treat our staff with respect

Thank you to our parents/carers who completed the Autumn Term Questionnaire and we would encourage you to complete this Spring Questionnaire which will help us to track the parent view across all our settings. If you haven't got involved yet or are a new parent within the Trust then please also complete the survey.

The results of the survey have been, and will continue to be, shared with Academy Heads and the Trust Board on a school by school basis and in time the cycle of surveys will provide us with a snapshot of where parents are and allow us to develop plans to respond to any emerging issues.

We would very much like to encourage you to complete the Spring Term survey by clicking on the following link <https://forms.gle/4ZWqk79bD2nvebY67>

Please complete the survey by **Monday 29th January 2024**.

## A Few Regular Reminders



**We do expect** children to read at home throughout the week. The national recommendation is

**KS1 and EYFS- 10 mins daily/ KS2- 20 mins daily** but we ask that you try to fit in 5 times a week as a minimum. This does have an impact on their progress and attainment in school.



Times Tables Rockstars - a fun way to learn times tables! Times Tables knowledge is a fundamental part of the primary curriculum. The children KS2 all have their own login details and have been set times tables to practise. Please support your child to use TTR as often as possible.

## WHAT ARE YOUR CHILDREN LEARNING IN CLASS?

Please make sure you are checking your **child's class pages on the school website** for the most up to date information about their learning. All classes will be adding information for their topics and recommending resources that you might be interested in sharing at home.

Please continue to use the Curriculum Visions website- the collection of books and videos support our topics and are easy to access at home. The login details are below.

**The user name is: henley.primary/0001**  
**Password: jungle**

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE!



It has been noted that there are several children coming in wearing the incorrect uniform, or variations to it that do not conform with uniform policy. Please make sure that your children are wearing the correct PE kits and school uniform.

Please make sure that you do not wander into the school at the end of a school day (unless accompanied by a member of staff). Children are often on site until 6pm and it is important that we are doing all that we can to ensure that they are safeguarded appropriately.

**Spring Term Dates for the diary**

**Tuesday 30th January @ 2.30** Helmingham Christingle Service @ Framsdén church

**Thursday 1st Feb- Helmingham-** @1.30 English (Reading and Writing skills) workshops for parents and children to work together

**Friday 2nd February @1.30** English (Reading and Writing skills) workshops for parents and children to work together

**Week of 5th February Children's Mental Health Week**

**Friday 9th February-** PM Wellbeing activities in school with parents

### **PARENT CONSULTATIONS**

Tuesday 5th March 3.30-7pm

Wednesday 6th March 3.30-6pm

**Thursday 7th March** World Book Day

**Week of 11th March Science Week**

**Wednesday 27th March** Greenfields Ski Centre Trip

**Term Ends- Thursday 28th March (Easter Break starts Good Friday 29th)**

**Friday 17th May @1.30** Maths Workshops for parents and children to work together

Please see below the **staff email addresses** so that you can contact your child's class teachers directly in the first instance if you have anything to share or discuss. They will not respond to emails between 6pm and 8am (to protect their personal time) but will aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

Mrs Cross (Hedgehogs): [s.cross@gfpschools.org](mailto:s.cross@gfpschools.org)

Mrs Richardson (Foxes): [a.richardson@gfpschools.org](mailto:a.richardson@gfpschools.org)

Mr Hempenstall (Assistant Head Teacher) (Eagles): [c.hempenstall@gfpschools.org](mailto:c.hempenstall@gfpschools.org)

Mrs Helen Leeks (Eagles): [h.leeks@gfpschools.org](mailto:h.leeks@gfpschools.org)

Miss Bramhill (Jellyfish/ Class 1): [b.bramhill@gfpschools.org](mailto:b.bramhill@gfpschools.org)

Miss Way (Seahorses/ Class 2): [e.way@gfpschools.org](mailto:e.way@gfpschools.org)

Mrs Townshend (Dolphins/ Class 3): [c.townshend@gfpschools.org](mailto:c.townshend@gfpschools.org)

Mrs Jary (Dolphins/ Class 3): [a.jary@gfpschools.org](mailto:a.jary@gfpschools.org)

Miss Snell (Barracudas/ Class 4): [f.snell@gfpschools.org](mailto:f.snell@gfpschools.org)

Mrs Jo Lawrence (SENCO): [j.lawrence@consortiumtrust.org](mailto:j.lawrence@consortiumtrust.org)

For queries regarding school meals, transport, Pupil Premium, absences, medication, and calendar dates contact the school offices:

[office.henley@gfpschools.org](mailto:office.henley@gfpschools.org)

[office.helmingham@gfpschools.org](mailto:office.helmingham@gfpschools.org)

For queries regarding **safeguarding** please contact Stephanie Hawes who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for both schools. [ht@gfpschools.org](mailto:ht@gfpschools.org)

Alternative safeguarding leads are: Mrs Townshend, Mr Hempenstall, Mrs L. Cross and Ms Sherman.

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If you receive certain benefits, or are on a low income your child may be entitled to Free School Meals. Please follow this link to see the criteria and to apply online: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals>. You will receive an immediate response. If you think you may be entitled, we'd urge you to make an application, even if you don't think your child will have a school dinner. This allows the school to access additional government funding which we can use to support your child's education.

We continue to celebrate the children's achievements on our WOW board in school. If your child has won awards out of school for their sporting achievements or out of school activities, then please let us know so that these can be celebrated in school too. Well done to everyone who has made it on to the Wow board this week!



*If you have any worries, concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch, firstly with your child's teacher and then with Mrs Townshend and Mr Hempenstall, then myself if this persists.*

 Miss Stephanie Hawes