

**Headteacher News**

Tests. Successive government have felt that these are an important part of children's schooling. They would argue that part of their role is to inform teacher assessments of a pupil's abilities – how well they have learned new knowledge and skills. And, in truth, there is a place for testing for exactly this reason; to combine with other evidence that teacher's gather throughout the year in order to assess their learning. However, one key area that the Department for Education (DfE) would argue that tests are for is accountability. To hold schools to account for their performance in terms of the academic success of their pupils. Recently, the DfE has changed the system of testing. Made it harder – 'raised the bar' as they call it. There is a more challenging new curriculum and far more demanding tests too. I thought it might be worth you seeing just how challenging they are now so I'll include various questions over the next few weeks as examples. Have a go! How about this one for starters. It comes from a DfE example of a Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test that children will take in Year 6.

Tick one box in each row to show if the underlined conjunction is a **subordinating conjunction** or a **co-ordinating conjunction**.

Sentence	Subordinating conjunction	Co-ordinating conjunction
I like ice-skating <u>and</u> roller-skating.		
Jamie likes roller-skating, <u>but</u> he has never tried ice-skating.		
Jamie will go ice-skating <u>if</u> I go with him.		

It is one of 49 questions they will have to attempt to answer in 45 minutes. If you know your conjunctions then I guess it's relatively straight forward but children will also need to know about (amongst other things) prefixes, suffixes, contractions, use of apostrophes, pronouns, relative clauses, subordinating clauses, modal verbs, synonyms, antonyms, past progressive, prepositions, subjunctive form, determiners, possessive pronouns, etc. The heat is on as they say and well and truly turned up. Although these are Year 6 tests, every class throughout the school will be focussing more on teaching children these complex grammar rules. So when you next hear about tougher tests, you'll know that they mean it!

Foundation News

We have some super singers in Foundation who are showing great enthusiasm in learning their Christmas songs to perform to you. They have really enjoyed working with Miss JR and visiting the 'Music Room'! Next week we will be introducing new role play areas in each room: 'The Nativity', 'Santa's Workshop' and 'Our Role Play' where the children will be able to set their creative minds to work and make their own. We look forward to seeing the results!

Year 2 News

Please don't be surprised if your children start digging up worms when you're out and about this weekend! They have become experts in finding them whilst learning about habitats in Science this week. As always, a big thank you for all your support with home reading. The children's reading reward charts are filling up quickly. Hopefully there'll be some prizes heading home before the end of term. A reminder that 2M will be heading to the allotments on Monday. Don't forget wellies and warm coats. Have a great weekend.

Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a great week writing their ancient tales, going on shape hunts and making their lanterns. Lantern making was a big highlight of the week, a big thanks for all your contributions and to the 'Stiltskin' project for making such a great day possible!

Year 4 News

Year 4 have been investigating shapes this week in Maths, identifying properties and lines of symmetry. In English the children have started a new unit on Diary entries. They have been learning a text from a real Roman soldier learning about his feelings towards the horrific battles that took place. In Science the children have been understanding how the ear works. Did you know there are bones in your ear? Ask your child to tell you more!

Year 5 News

Congratulations to the year group for achieving their various levels last week during 'Bikeability'. Well done for making such great progress with your cycling. This week, year 5 have had some exciting times designing their various crafts and boats in D&T. There have been some interesting creations made, trying to achieve the challenge of transporting a 500 gram cargo over a distance of 1 metre of water, without sinking!

Year 6 News

This week the children have written and performed their own animal poem based on Brian Moses' 'Walking with my Iguana.' On Monday we had a DT afternoon. The children looked at the packaging of soup; learnt all about hygiene in the kitchen; and completed a soup tasting session. They are now keen to get creative with their own recipes. May we please remind all year 6 children and parents / carers that their PE kits need to be in school on Mondays and Wednesday (6M and 6P), and Wednesday's and Thursday's (6M).

We will be needing a variety of newspapers for our English lesson on Wednesday (2nd Dec). If you have any that we can use, please ask your child to pass them to their class teacher.

Diary Dates**Fri 4th Dec 2015**

- Chocolate **Mufti**

Thurs 10th Dec 2015

- Christmas lunch

Fri 11th Dec 2015

- Christmas Fair

Mon 14th Dec

- Christmas Carol Service

Fri 18th Dec 2015

- Christmas Jumper **Mufti**
- Text Santa Appeal

- Last day of term

Mon 4th Jan 2016

- Non pupil day

Tues 5th Jan 2016

- First day of term

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb Inc.

- Half term

Thursday 24th Mar 2016.

- 'Wear a Hat' **Mufti** Day

Fri 25th Mar – Fri 8th Apr Inc

- Easter holidays

Mon 11th Apr 2016

- Non pupil day

Mon 2nd May 2016

- Bank holiday

Mon 30th May 2016

- Bank holiday

Tues 31st May – Fri 3rd June Inc.

- Half term

Mon 6th June 2016

- Non pupil day

**"Remember to check the
Lost Property Bins"**

Year 1 News

The children have had a fantastic week with the instructors from Balanceability and many of them have taken their stabilisers off! If you have not requested your allocated tickets for the Christmas performance please see your class teacher as we will be sending the tickets home next week as we have only one week to go!

Dangerous Driving

The school received the following email from a concerned parent.

My husband and I witnessed a silver Rover BW03 EDF this afternoon, she drove into the one way system and then went up into the pedestrian access of your school where the children are told to walk by. Then she turned her car around and eventually parked on the pavement, where there is a yellow sign "keep clear" We are concerned for our children and other's safety. She is putting our children at risk and she doesn't seem to care but her own convenience of collecting her children. Something need to be done about this.

Once more we would ask that drivers be mindful when manoeuvring around the roads close to school.
We would advise parents to phone the non-emergency 101 number to report such incidents.

Netball

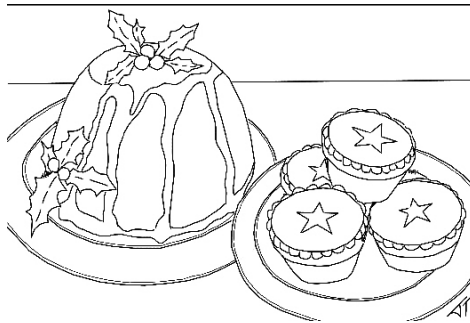
Netball club after school have now come to an end. This will continue in the New Year.

Music News

Thank you to all the families of choir and steel pan members who have returned permission slips for the carol service on Monday 14th December. We have already sold half the tickets so please get in quick if you would like tickets. If you have already ordered your tickets, these will be given out about a week before the event. We hope your children are serenading you with their songs at home and practising hard!

Maths Mission

Get your brains working and take the challenge to complete the Maths Mission! Every class has a copy of the challenge in their classroom for your child to record their answer on. The Maths Mission will need you to use your maths knowledge and estimating skills to find an answer.
How many mince pies would you need to buy to give one to everyone in the school?



Lost

Alfie Waite in 3X has lost his River Island coat, grey wool with black arms (duffle coat length). Please notify the school office if you know of its whereabouts.

Bikeability

Congratulations to the 91 children from year 5 who participated in the Bikeability programme last week. The instructors were very impressed with your achievements, especially during the wet weather. 89% reached a level 1 or 2 qualification. Well done

Balanceability

The year 1 children had a wonderful time this week taking part in the Balanceability programme. It was fantastic to see so many children changing from a balance bike to a two wheeled bike, within a short period of time. Well done, keep riding.

Montpelier School Games Go Ride

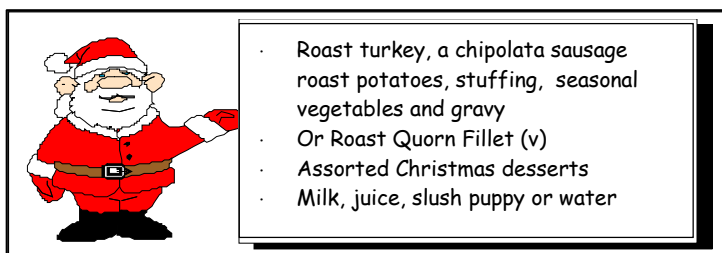
On Tuesday, Heles School hosted this year Go Ride event for year 6. It was a cold, wet and muddy day yet the children still had bundles of fun. There were two races; the first one consisted of a time trial. In this race the children were set off one after another in 20 second intervals to find the fastest riders from each school. The second race was a derby between all the fastest riders out of the school. Each rider completed one lap of the very muddy course and were seeded each rider then had the chance to compete for team glory and of course those all so valuable team points. Fantastic effort by all children, well done!

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Thursday 10th December

As Foundation & KS1 children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals we have assumed that they will have a Christmas lunch.

Christmas Lunch will be served on **Thursday 10th December** at a cost of £2.00 (to be paid in advance using the cashless system www.schoolmoney.co.uk). To help us cater for such large numbers of children we need to know if your child will be participating on the day. Please complete and return the slip below to your child's class teacher by **Monday 30th November**. Thank you.

ONLY Christmas lunch will be served on this day – no alternatives.



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FAO Class Teacher - SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Thursday 10th December

☐ My child: Class: would like Christmas lunch
on **Thursday 10th December** at a cost of £2 (please tick 1 item)
☐ My child is entitled to a free Christmas lunch