



AUTUMN TERM 2021 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone!

It has been another busy start to the school year and I am really pleased that we have been able to take children on educational visits again. These are a really important part of our school experience and we have others planned throughout the year. Helmingham have already welcomed Auckland the owl to school and have been dissecting owl pellets, Class 4 at Henley have been to Hampton Court Palace to learn more about Tudor England and Class 2 took a trip in time to the Ipswich transport museum.

We have also had visitors in school from the Trust Central Team. These visits were to discuss the curriculum and the progress that the schools are making and I am pleased to report that in both schools, these visits were very successful. I am incredibly proud of the school staff, the children and their families in each setting and the work that everybody does to make our schools special- Thank you!



We are continuing to link our learning across the school with our curriculum Threads: **Community, Culture and Civilisation, Chronology, Comparison, Cause and Consequence and Legacy**. The children are using the language and themes associated with these to share their learning and explore their topics in class.



We recently sent home a letter to tell you all about Learning Pi- the platform that we are introducing to share your child's learning, achievements and progress. If you haven't already signed up for this please do so at learningpi.org

This will be an essential tool for communicating learning, targets, homework activities and school reports over the coming weeks and months. Children will be given activities to complete which strengthen their learning characteristics and encourage meaningful engagement with the wider community and supporting their personal and creative development. The children have been taking part in assemblies to introduce the platform and will continue to do so in the run up to Christmas.



Excitingly, we are planning a Greenfields whole school trip to the Regent Theatre to watch the pantomime.

This will be on the last day of the Autumn Term (more information will follow shortly).



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.



Unfortunately it would appear that the Covid pandemic is not going to be going anywhere very soon so please remain vigilant to possible symptoms. Regrettably we have

been sent further information from Suffolk County Council advising that from 1st November **staff and visitors to the school will need to resume wearing facemasks in communal areas**. This does mean that we will be asking you to be wearing facemasks in the playground again when you are collecting children. The government and SCC will review this again on November the 15th. Please see the message from Stuart Keeble below.

A message from Stuart Keeble, Director for Public Health

"We have seen the number of Suffolk pupils with Covid-19 increase so are working with schools to implement these additional measures immediately to help break the chain of transmission. We are taking these numbers seriously and school leaders are being extremely vigilant to ensure children and staff are safe..."

... face masks and restrictions on visitors are to be reintroduced to Suffolk schools to help slow the current rate of transmission in education settings.

SCC are advising that the following measures be implemented from Monday 1 November 2021:

- **Staff** in education settings (specialist, primary, secondary, further and higher education) to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- **Students** in all secondary, further and higher education settings to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- Specialist, primary, secondary, further and higher education settings to restrict entry to their site to essential visitors only. Essential visitors would be those from Health, Social Care and Specialist Education teams delivering direct support to children and young people and visits focused on safeguarding. It is important that these activities continue.
- Any visitors to wear a face covering while on-site, this includes adults collecting children in the playground.

Please also remember that if your child is showing symptoms, we recommend that they get a PCR test, not just a Lateral Flow. If a



child, or their sibling, or anyone in the household has a positive test, the family need to isolate. Please see the risk assessment on the website for further details.



Both schools have also been busy carving pumpkins- Thank you to the Friends of Henley and Friends of Helmingham who have generously donated prizes for the winning pumpkins and all those that have taken part



Henley Pumpkin Prizes: Helmingham Pumpkin Prizes:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| • Class 1- Evelyn O | * Luna |
| • Class 2- Nieve P | * Lyra |
| • Class 3- Molly M | * Tyler |
| • Class 4- Lucas RJ | * Florence |



A message from Mrs Scopes (Mrs Gardner)

A great big thank you to all the parents and friends of Henley school for the generous gifts and messages on my retirement.

I have enjoyed over 26 years at Henley and have many happy memories of my time at the school. Many will know I also married in the holidays and it was a pleasure to have our wedding at St. Peter's church Henley. It was made even more special to see some parents and pupils at the church, thank you. Maura Scopes

A Few Reminders!

- Please make sure you sign up for your parent's evening sessions when we return after half term- We are still aiming to do these as face to face sessions as we consider them essential however if we are unable to do this, we will arrange virtual sessions or telephone

conversations in their place (More information will follow).

- If your child has long hair, please ensure it is tied back/up appropriately
- Now that the weather is turning cooler, please make sure that your child has a **coat**. We do encourage them to be outside in all weathers!
- Please also ensure that your child has **wellies** in school- they will only be able to be on the school field if they are wearing wellies.



Ideas, Suggestions and Comments- there will be a box in the entrance hall near the main office for you to add any comments you may wish to share.

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 the Assistant Academy Heads (Mr Hardy and Mrs Townshend), then myself if this persists.

Enjoy the Half Term holiday!



😊 Miss Stephanie Hawes

Other Dates to be aware of this term

Helmingham school photos- 5th November

Parents' evenings- 10th and 11th November

Greenfields Christmas Craft day: 10th December

Christmas Fair @ Henley- 11th December

Helmingham- Christmas Lights-Mon 13th December

Carol Service- KS2 Henley- 15th December

Henley Nativity performance- Thursday 16th December

Panto- Friday 17th December (last day of term)



As always, we wish to celebrate the children's achievements on our WOW boards in school. If your child has won awards out of school for their sporting achievements or out of school activities, or they have completed new or unusual challenges, then please let us know so that these can be celebrated in school too. A photo with a small piece of information is also useful.



I am always keen to hear your views! I always say that if I don't know about a problem, I cannot try to solve it. As with any schools there are a few grumblings. We are human and make mistakes. We don't always get things right but we do like to work with you for the absolute very best for all our children.