

Be Safe, Belong, Be Inspired

Headteacher's Weekly Newsletter



A message from our headteacher Alex

We have closed the week with huge amounts of progress in the school, I am so proud of all of the year groups and the progress which they have made. Gill is also cheering on the year 7s as she awarded a proud cloud for transforming their lunch times and for using such awesome manors, which is great progress. Children and young people have learnt the importance of Gill in our school and how she likes to be treated!

Our year 5/6 ended the week with parents joining the class for a session of sporting fun, it's always lovely to hear the school full of laughter and for us to share with parents the school community.

I was lucky enough to visit Stable Futures twice this week. Before the summer I took Jess for a trial horse riding lesson where Martha our lead at Stable Futures kindly and delicately supported a very anxious Jess onto a horse and gave her, her first riding lesson. This week I saw a very confident and caring student tack up her horse and ride it off down the lane, this is outstanding progress and a really great opportunity to see students being successful in our provision which is an extension of the school. Many of our children struggle with being in a school and accessing learning, Stable Futures is crucial in their lives as they can build confidence and skills which will then transfer into the classroom and contributes to ensuring that they are given opportunities to have the skills to be great citizens.

Learning looks different for all our children which is in line with the school vision and the pedagogy which we use across the school and will carry onto the secondary school this coming term. We approach teaching our children who are often anxious about missed learning and about what may be expected of them in a lesson with kindness and with adaptations in each lesson to ensure that children can remain in the classroom calmly and without being overwhelmed.

We want our children to be able to access age-appropriate learning and build their long-term memory over time through making links in their learning experiences. We do this through a school pedagogy that promotes and encourages a clear structure of both guided and independent practice: our "I do, We do, You do" approach.

We aim for our children to be able to know more, remember more and as they progress in their learning, are able to do more. This will lay the foundations for future success in whatever career path they choose to pursue.

"I do, we do, you do" is a teaching strategy that involves a gradual release of responsibility from the teacher to the students. Students can build their skills and confidence over time by starting with explicit instruction and modelling moving to guided practice, and finally to independent practice.

The three phases are:

- **I do:** In this phase, the teacher explicitly models how to complete a task or solve a problem, so children know how to approach the task. The teacher may use think aloud, demonstrations, or other methods to show our students how to do the task.
- **We do:** In this phase, the teacher and the students work together to complete the same task or solve the same problem. The teacher provides support and guidance as needed, but our students actively participate in the task. Children will add their own ideas and strategies to help collaborate and work through the model or problem together.
- **You do:** In this phase, our students work independently to complete a similar task or solve a similar problem. The teacher provides feedback and support as needed, but the students are responsible for completing the task independently. Children will still be guided and supported if necessary to avoid any misconceptions and re-direct the learning. If needed, children will go back to the "we do" shared practice stage before trying again at "you do" independently.

We believe at Haywards Farm School and at Northcroft School by using this method of teaching that our children and young people will learn in an environment that is kind and aspiration for all.

Additional updates:

On Friday we got the notification that Northcroft School has been registered by Ofsted. Which means we are now ready to start the transition with our KS3 students.

Upper KS3 students have seen the site and will be talking to parents about how best to show the lower KS3 students the site and what that looks like.

No timetable changes happen week one after any holiday so we will return to school after half term and be in touch with parents before moving any further forward.



Class updates:

Cherry Class

In English, we've been busy learning all about the features of a set of instructions and even built our success criteria together. We had a great time following a set of instructions to create our very own woolly mammoth. Cherry class have been continuing to build relationships with people and animals! This week we met Trigger and learnt how to brush his beautiful mane correctly using the right brushes. To round off our half-term, we took a wonderful trip to Stonehenge! After all our learning in History, it was amazing to see this ancient site in person. We spent time soaking up fascinating facts that tied into everything we've been studying. Not only did we learn that Stone Age people made pottery and stitched clothes with thread and bone needles, but we also discovered that their clothing was crafted from stinging nettle fibres. We finished the day with a lovely picnic under the bright skies—it was a perfect day filled with learning, laughter, and a bit of sunshine. What a fantastic way to end the term before the break!



Chestnut Class

Chestnut class have been busy this week finishing off their instructions in English and thinking about using imperative verbs as part of these. We had a great end to the week including some Halloween themed activities of pumpkin carving and Halloween themed sewing to support fine motor skills. The children were also able to start learning about using maps to find four figure grid references in geography lessons.



Maple Class

Maple Class have had a great final week of our first half term. The children have edited and published their Grendel poems, using figurative language to bring the monster to life. We had a great time with parents on Tuesday, playing lots of team building games such as a tic-tac-toe, hula-hoop and balloon races. In Science, they have been learning about microorganisms and how to classify them into fungi, bacteria and viruses. On Wednesday, we went to the Living Rainforest to learn about organisms in their natural habitats. We spotted amphibians, reptiles, birds, invertebrates and mammals. The children were really excited to see Cinamon the Sloth moving around in the canopy above our heads.



Secondary Classes

As we come to the end of autumn term 1 it is a great time to reflect on all of the achievements our children have made, it is exciting to think of the progress that will be made at the end of the academic year for our children after such a successful first half term. Year 7s started the week with a careers trip to the police station where they looked at the different roles the police force offer and asked some excellent questions. In English children were introduced to Shakespear and came up with some key questions they would like to find out about him. Children finished the week with water rescues in Swimming and showed excellent listening skills as well as clear improvement in their swimming abilities. To celebrate Halloween and work on some essential life skills children did some pumpkin carving as well as making a delicious pumpkin pie.

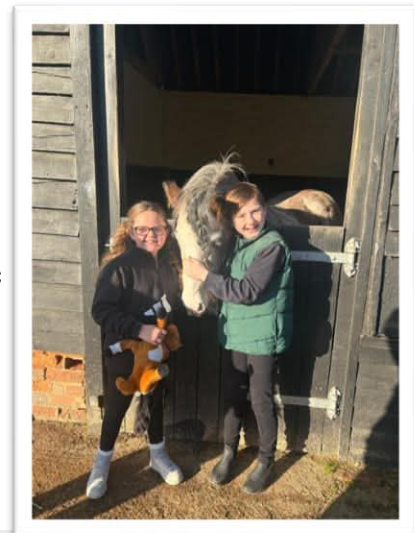
In Aser class students have been working towards their AQA award in horse handling which they achieved this week, a great way to finish the half term. Students also went for a trip to the Greenham Common control tower and were very interested in the military history. In PE students went Paddle boarding, transferring their water skills learnt in sailing this half term to a different water sport.



Dates for the Diary

This week is half term- return to school on 04.11.24

- **Monday-** Cherry Stables AM. 7EC Paddocks PM.
- **Tuesday-** Year 8/9 paddle boarding.
- **Wednesday-** Maple swimming tbc.
- **Thursday-** Cherry Paddocks AM. 7EC Stables PM. 7EC Swimming tbc
- **Friday-** 1pm finish



Have a restful weekend, Alex.



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