

HEENE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Headteacher's message

Date: Friday 20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderfully positive few weeks in school, and I wanted to share some important updates as we move towards the end of term. We would be extremely grateful if all parents and carers could take a few minutes to complete the Ofsted Parent View survey. The link has been sent to you with this newsletter. Your feedback really helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to improve.

I am delighted to share that we are now forming a full Governing Body for Heene CE Primary School. This follows the end of both our Rapid Action Plan group last academic year and our Transition Board this year. This is a very positive step for the school and reflects the hard work, commitment and determination of our whole staff team. We know there is still more to do – better never stops after all – but this marks real progress in our school journey!

We are now looking for Parent Governors to join the new Governing body. If you think you may be interested in the role, or if you would simply like to find out a bit more about what it involves, please do come and speak to me. I would love to hear from you!

An area we are really focusing on is attendance, in line with the government push on this. We fully understand that children get unwell sometimes; however, we often see a dip in attendance in the final week of term. To encourage everyone to keep going right to the end, we are introducing a fun attendance raffle for next week. For each day your child is in school and on time next week, they will receive one ticket for an Easter raffle. At the end of the week, we will hold a draw and one winner per class will receive an Easter treat. A little incentive and a bit of fun, which is open to all – while reinforcing the importance of good attendance right up to the last day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of our pupils, our staff and our whole school community. An extra thank you this week to Nathan, and the team from St Matthews for the wonderful Easter prayer space that was organised for the children.

Wishing you a lovely weekend!

Laura Turner - Headteacher

Early Years

This week we have enjoyed some different story times. Mrs Begum came to read a story in Urdu and we joined up with Year 1 to have a story together and the Year 1 children got to read the stories they have written to us.



Year One

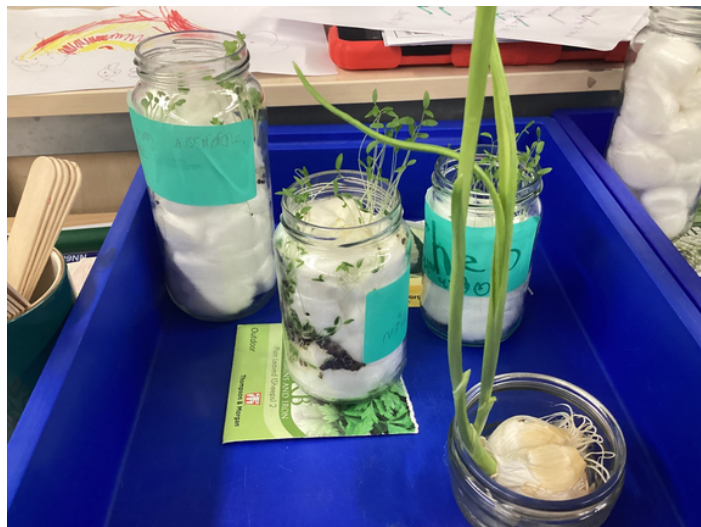
This week in DT, Year 1 have been practising their sewing skills. The children learnt how to thread a needle and tie a knot independently. They were then introduced to a running stitch and enjoyed having the chance to practise this themselves. They are now feeling confident and excited to use their new skills to make their own puppets

next week!



Year Two

In Science, we have continued to observe how our bulbs and seeds have grown! Have you planted anything this year?



Year Three

This week in Year 3, we have been exploring shadows using torches and different objects. We found that shadows can change shape, Can get bigger or smaller and we can create multiple shadows using more than one torch.



Year Four



This term in Science Year 4 have been researching about human impact on the Earth. We have been looking at different materials and how they decompose. We set up an experiment to see how different items decompose over a period of time. Here is week 1 of our items!

Year Five



News from the flamboyance of Flamingos and pride of Peacocks



Year 5 are looking forward to their geography field trip on Monday looking at marine pollution. We looked at drawing sketchmaps of the Worthing seafront. Flamingo also really enjoyed their rockpooling visit for Wild Beach this week.

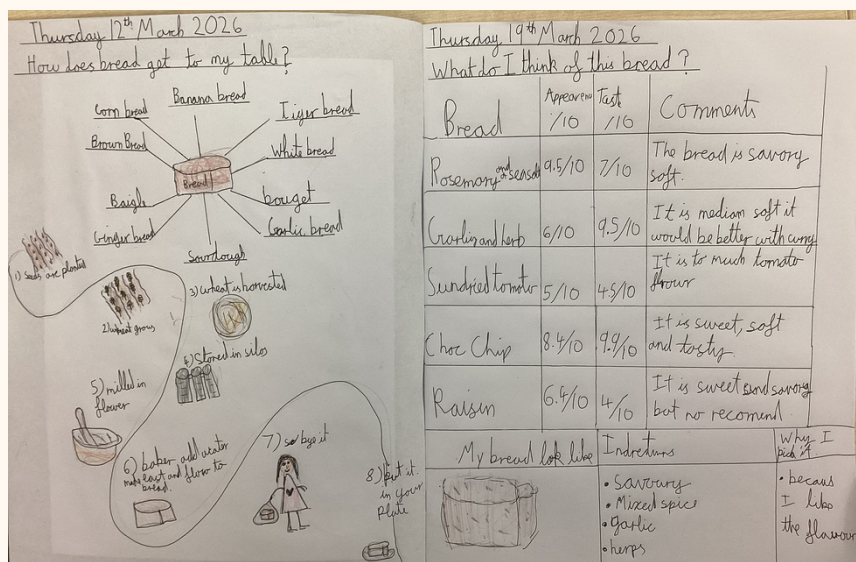


Reminder: please update your consents on Arbor



Year Six

This term, Year 6 will have a go at making their own bread! We have been tasting different breads, this week, and thinking about the flavour combinations that we'd like to include in our own bread.



DCAT
DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER
ACADEMY TRUST

Attend, Belong, Flourish:

Helping every child achieve their God-given potential

You are reading this as your child attends a DCAT school. At DCAT we are committed to helping your child achieve their God-given potential. We take school attendance very seriously.

We consider ourselves to be very supportive and approachable and as such our family of schools and will try to make considerations for pupils who need extra support, where possible.

We are, however, bound by law to ensure that every pupil attends.

Missing a few days of school here and there may not seem a major issue, but research shows that it can have a significant impact on your child's learning. It is a fact that children who miss school can fall behind their peers and struggle to catch up academically, socially and emotionally.

Most of the work they miss is never made up, which can not only lead to gaps in their learning, but also have an impact on their future options and opportunities.

Poor attendance often starts at primary school and children who fall into this pattern are likely to underachieve at secondary school and beyond.

We also know that friendships can be affected by persistent absence.

Persistent absence is where a child misses 10% or more of school (the equivalent to one day or more a fortnight across a full school year). It can be hard for a child who misses lots of school to form relationships with their classmates and this can affect a child's wellbeing.

At DCAT we know that good attendance at school is the single most important factor to ensure that young people have the maximum life chances - attendance is strongly linked to educational achievement. Promoting positive school attendance is everyone's responsibility.

- Pupils who miss school risk failing to achieve what they are capable of
- Figures have shown that 90% of persistent, poor or non-attenders fail to achieve five or more good grades at GCSE and approximately one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- Developing good habits of attendance and punctuality are key life skills
- When pupils miss school... they miss out!

Attendance

What to do if your child is unwell?

If your child is not well enough to go to school it is your responsibility to notify School before 9am on the day of absence.

How do I inform school?

Please ring school on 01903 201386 and leave a message on the absence line, state your child's name, Class and the reason for absence ie. Vomiting, diarrhoea, temperature, headache etc

Alternatively

you can now email us on:

attendance@heenepriamary.co.uk

Please state your clearly child's name, Class and the specific reason in the email. Many thanks

Focus on - Attendance Matters!

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

EYFS Goldfinch Class- Nelson + Nela
Year 1 Robin Class - Ikay + Jodie
Year 2 Blackbird Class - Mayokun+ Nyah
Year 3 Kestrel Class - Veronika + David
Year 4 Magpie Class - Livia + Harrison
Year 5 Peacock Class - Alfred + Melissa
Year 6 Buzzard Class - Sebastian + Ava

Hummingbird Class -Tiana + Timi
Starling Class - Lilly + Ralph
Puffin Class - Willow + Joshua
Nightingale Class - Gennaro + Freya
Kingfisher Class - Bruce + Christina
Flamingo Class - Benedict + Kumsal
Eagle Class - Felix + Valentina

Let your light shine

EYFS -	Georgia (Goldfinch Class)	Taim (Hummingbird Class)
Year 1 -	Kayla (Starling Class)	Thea (Robin Class)
Year 2 -	Ahdiyah (Blackbird Class)	Oliver (Puffin Class)
Year 3 -	Arlo (Nightingale Class)	Krishna (Kestrel Class)
Year 4 -	Finn (Magpie Class)	Max (Kingfisher Class)
Year 5 -	Dotty (Flamingo Class)	Mia (Peacock Class)
Year 6 -	Sewa (Buzzard Class)	Bode (Eagle Class)

Headteachers Award - Freya (Year 3)

Attendance matters!

Year R - 88.76%

Year 1 - 88.75%

Year 2 - 88.75%

Year 3 - 91.17%

Year 4 - 94.67%

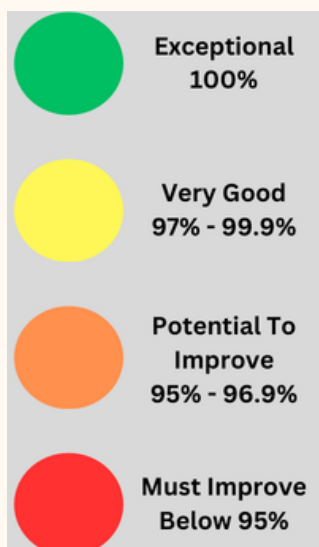
Year 5 - 94.64%

Year 6 - 91.03%

We aim for 96% attendance or above.

This week our whole school attendance is **91.06%**

Academic year to date **93.37%**



Key Dates 2026

22nd-27th March - NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

23/03	Year 5 Beach trip - field work (both classes)
24/03	Year 5 Peacock Class Pizza Express trip
26/03	Year 5 Flamingo Class Wild Beach (rockpooling + picnic lunch)
26/03	Year 5 Netball Competition @ Worthing College
27/03	Year 2 Sussex Dolphin workshop
27/03	Last day of Spring term (3.20pm)

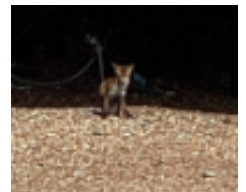
Easter Holidays 28/03-12/04 inclusive

Back to School - Monday 13th April

Wild Beach

Flamingo class went to the pier for a picnic lunch and some rock pooling, as well as a litter pick and thinking about safety at the beach.

The sun was shining for our picnic, it was a lovely opportunity to chat with our friends and take in our surroundings. The children soon spotted a patch of beach good for making sandcastles and set to work creating allsorts of different castles, villages and mountains. We were watched by one of the local beach foxes, sitting in the sun seeing what we were doing.

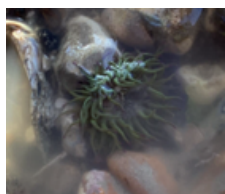


Then it was time for a Beach clean.



Learning how to 'Float To Live' is very important, but also fun. The children listened to some scenarios and talked about how to keep safe at the beach.

The tide was then far enough out for us to have a look in the rock pools where we found lots of interesting things.



Nature Notes

Jessica (Starling Class) and Mabel (Goldfinch Class) visited Coombes farm to see the spring lambs and calves. They took the tractor ride up the hill and saw lots of crows and pigeons and a buzzard. Here is a photo of them in the lambing shed.



Minette (Peacock) went to Nymans, Petworth and Winnie the Pooh bridge during half term.

Here Minette is next to a giant Redwood at Petworth.

She just loved the Fire Wire plants at Nymans.

And here is a picture of Minette on the Winnie the Pooh bridge in the same pose as Christopher Robin.

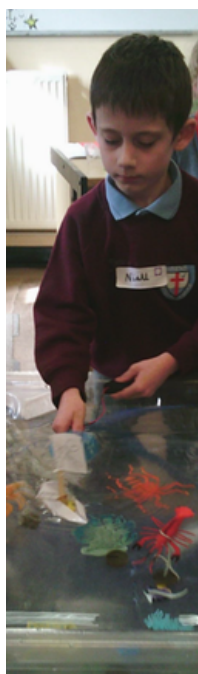


*We look forward to seeing photos of your adventures and what you find whilst you are out and about in nature.
Please send them to naturenotes@heenepriamry.co.uk*

STEAM day at Sompting Abbotts

Last Friday, we were given a fantastic opportunity for some students from Years 2 and 3 to attend a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) day at Sompting Abbotts school. The children undertook 4 exciting activities - creating pictures using art and science together, making 3-D shapes from paper, creating and testing a mini boat and orienteering.

We were very well looked after by the brilliant Year 8 students who guided us to where we needed to go and made sure we were well fed and watered. The children had a wonderful time playing in the lovely grounds at the school.



Thank you so much to Sompting Abbotts School for organising the day and looking after us so well.



Head of School DSL
Laura Turner
lturner@heeneprimary.co.uk



Family Liaison & Attendance Officer DDSL
Clare Christian
cchristian@heeneprimary.co.uk



Assistant Head + SENDCO DDSL
Laura Dobson
ldobson@heeneprimary.co.uk



SEN Teaching Assistant DDSL
Nikki Gregg
ngregg@heeneprimary.co.uk



Office Manager DSL
Sarah Turnbull
officemanager@heeneprimary.co.uk



Chair of Governors
Jenny Barnard – Langston
j.barnard@lcat.academy

HEENE PRIMARY SAFEGUARDING TEAM

UPDATE - MENINGITIS OUTBREAK

As you may have seen in the press, there is an outbreak of meningococcal disease group B (MenB) in Kent. Sadly, this includes two young people who are known to have died. Understandably, this will cause concern in West Sussex and students and staff may be feeling worried about the risk of this disease.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is leading the response, and West Sussex County Council's Public Health team is staying in close contact with them and local partners. The control measures put in place in Kent are aiming to prevent further cases. There are currently no cases of this infection linked to the Kent situation in West Sussex. It is important to remember that meningitis spreads through close and usually prolonged contact. **School pupils should continue to go to school and do their normal activities unless directly advised otherwise by the local health protection team.**

From 2015, the MenB vaccine has been available on the NHS as part of routine childhood immunisations, so those aged over 10 have not received it as part of the routine schedule. It is therefore important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of the infection:

There are numerous strains of the meningococcal infection. Teenagers are routinely offered the MenACWY vaccination in year 9, which protects against MenA, MenC, MenW, and MenY. If someone missed this vaccination at school, they could still get it, up until their 25th birthday, by contacting their GP.

Symptoms of meningitis

Symptoms of meningitis develop suddenly and can include:

- a high temperature (fever)
- being sick
- a headache
- a rash that does not fade when a glass is rolled over it (but a rash will not always develop)
- a stiff neck
- a dislike of bright lights
- drowsiness or unresponsiveness
- seizures (fits)

These symptoms can appear in any order. You do not always get all the symptoms.

When to get medical help

Call 999 for an ambulance or go to your nearest A&E immediately if you think you or someone you look after could have meningitis or sepsis.

Trust your instincts and do not wait for all the symptoms to appear or until a rash develops.

Someone with meningitis or sepsis can get a lot worse very quickly.

Call NHS 111 for advice if you're not sure if it's anything serious or you think you may have been exposed to someone with meningitis.

If you've had medical advice and are still worried or any symptoms get worse, get medical help again.

Makaton- Sign of the Week



Learn



Makaton



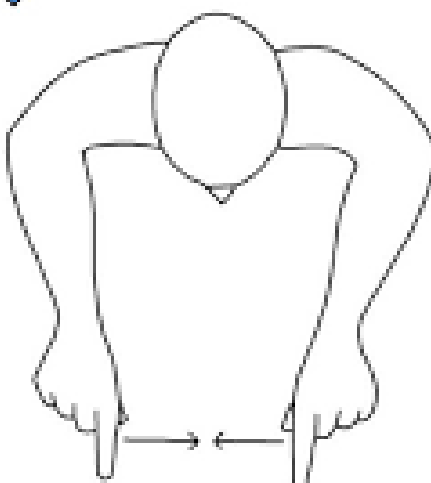
signs

and



symbols.

Sign of the Week - equal, same



Remember - with Makaton sign language, we say the word at the same time as signing it.

Attendance - Illness

It is your responsibility as a parent/carer to make contact with school by leaving a message on 01903 201386 or sending an email to attendance@heenepprimary.co.uk before 9am on each day your child is unwell, giving a specific reason for absence ie. diarrhoea, vomiting, headache etc

01903 201386

attendance@heenepprimary.co.uk



REMINDER

Please order your child's hotmeal at home. You can order a whole term ahead, this in turn helps us with ordering the ingredients that will be needed to fulfil the advertised menu. There are so many children whose parents are not ordering - which is resulting in menu items running out. We cannot predict in advance what is required if you don't order.

If you need help setting up your account or with the ordering system please come to the school office who will be happy to help.

To set up your parent account, simply go to the link below:

<https://relishschoolfood.co.uk/parents>

We also have a step-by-step guide to help you set up your account should you need it.

READING recommendations

Books for Topics

SCAN ME

If you like...

Jacqueline Wilson

...try these!

Visit www.booksfortopics.com for more ideas!

The image features a stylized tree with green leaves and red apples. The leaves are replaced by various book covers. The tree's trunk is a thick brown pole. A dark blue banner with white text is wrapped around the trunk. A large, curved blue arrow points from the banner towards the right. At the base of the tree, there is green grass and a single red apple. Three more book covers are shown on the ground near the base of the tree.

Book covers visible on the tree:

- THE PERFECT PARENT PROJECT** by STEWART FOSTER
- Splash** by CHARLIE HOWARD
- Do You Speak CHOCOLATE?** by Castles
- THE MYSTERY OF THE COLOUR THIEF** by ELLA JONES
- ELLA on the OUTSIDE** by CATH HOWE
- JAZ SANTOS vs. THE WORLD** by Priscilla Mantle
- VOTE FOR EFFIE** by JACQUELINE WILSON
- THE BOY WITH THE BUTTERFLY MIND** by VICTORIA WILLIAMSON
- A Kind of Spark** by KATE MURPHY
- THE EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING LIFE OF LOTTIE BROOKS** by KATIE KIRBY

Book covers visible at the base of the tree:

- KATY** by JACQUELINE WILSON
- DOUBLE ACT** by JACQUELINE WILSON
- Sleepovers** by JACQUELINE WILSON

iSwim

Swimming School

- ✓ From ages 4+
- ✓ Small Class Sizes
- ✓ Professionally Qualified
Swim Teachers



At iSwim we are passionate about swimming and water safety.

We aim to teach your child to swim with good technique and with ease.

We progressively build on early water skills such as aquatic breathing, buoyancy, flotation and rotation. We develop a healthy respect for water so your children will understand the dangers and know how to stay safe around water.

Contact Helen

iswimschool@aol.co.uk
or call 07790 503612

More info at:
www.aruntridents.co.uk

**Monday, Tuesday
& Wednesday
evenings**

Oak Grove College,
Worthing

**Saturday
mornings**

White Meadows
School,
Littlehampton

BTS



Worthing HMV

ARRANG LISTENING PARTY

March 21st 3-4pm

**SCAVENGER HUNT
QUIZZES**

**WORDSEARCH
TRADING CARD SWAP**

FREE STICKERS



PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS



more fun, more friendships, more smiles
during the easter break!

book
now!



Excellent



★ Trustpilot

Your Nearest HAF clubs...

WORTHING:

- Our Lady of Sion School, BN11 4BL

LANCING:

- Sompting Village Primary School, BN15 0BU

CRAWLEY:

- Hilltop Primary School, RH11 8QL
- Seymour Primary School, RH11 9ES

HAF BOOKINGS:

<https://haf.bookinglab.co.uk/westsussex/37147/login>

HAF SPACES:

FREE HAF
PLACES AVAILBLE
FOR THOSE
ELIGIBLE AND
RECEIVING
BENEFITS
RELATED FREE
SCHOOL MEALS.



Our 5* Holiday Clubs are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained over the Easter holidays.

And with the HAF programme, your children can attend sessions free of charge. Each session includes healthy food and enriching activities.

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.

Book now for lots of Easter fun!



scan Here For
more information

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps/HAF

Excellent



★ Trustpilot

Week ending Friday 20th March 2026



Top Rockstar in each year group

Year 2: Harrison

Year 3: Eleanor

Year 4: Aisha

Year 5: Dorota

Year 6: Matilda

Winning Class: Magpie

NUMBOTS

NumBots leaderboard coming soon...



**Week ending
20th March. Well
done everyone!**

Top Spelling Shed Groups¹

#	Group	Score
1.	Flamingo	13,428,815
2.	Peacock	13,240,886
3.	Magpie	7,119,605
4.	Kestrel	6,631,421
5.	Nightingale	6,533,345
6.	Eagle	6,031,636
7.	Puffin	3,706,340
8.	Blackbird	3,596,540
9.	Buzzard	2,648,678
10.	Kingfisher	1,999,158

Top Spelling Shed Pupils

#	Avatar	Pupil	Groups	Score	Total Score
1.		Antonia-Grace	Flamingo	7,594,586	188,384,930
2.		Melvin	Nightingale	6,324,864	119,422,426
3.		Jessica	Peacock	5,408,982	38,495,536
4.		Emmanuel	Kestrel	5,097,176	696,740,031
5.		Emmanuela	Eagle	4,749,638	75,151,868

YOUTH DROP IN

The Youth Drop-In is a safe, fun and welcoming space for young people in school years 7-13 to come and unwind with friends after school.

school year 6 welcome in summer term!



TOAST
BOARD GAMES
POOL
FOOTBALL
TABLE TENNIS
NINTENDO SWITCH
CARD GAMES
SOFAS

Tuesdays

3.15-4.45pm (term time)

Youth Lounge, St Matthew's Church

