

Friday 22nd November 2019



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Parents in Partnership

Parents in Partnership Meeting

A big thank you to all the parents who came to this week's meeting and to the parents who contributed to discussions through email and letters. The issue of homework is always a very divisive topic, with some parents believing that children should have more than we set at Herne and some parents thinking that children should not have any homework at this stage of their education. We truly value all the opinions that we have gathered and are now in discussion at leadership level to plan a way forward.

Some of the positive feedback we received regarded:

- The consistent approach in year groups regarding the day the homework is set and the day it must be returned.
- The homework sheets already stuck into homework books (or published on the website in Year 6) to avoid lost sheets.
- The times table booklets.
- No homework being set over the holidays for Year 3-5.



Some of the suggestions for improvement included:

- More information to parents regarding the **purpose** of the homework (maybe including this on the homework itself).
- Less homework should be set, so children have more time to pursue other interests (sport, drama, music...etc) – similar to the curriculum in Finland and many London boroughs.
- Use more digital approaches to help engagement and cut out marking time (eg. Doodle Maths)
- Improve inconsistencies of marking; sometimes presentation is regarded more highly than content.
- Writing out spellings seems very time consuming if the child can already successfully spell the words.

We already have plans to trial a new approach to homework in the Spring term for Years 5 and 6, as well as plans to change how children learn their times tables in the Summer term in Year 3. We will release further information about these trials in the coming weeks. We will also ensure homework guidance is provided for new parents when their children first join the school.

Friday After-School Football Club

This Friday (22nd November) will be the final Friday football club for this term. The club will restart in February and we will let you know the exact date in the Spring term.



Christmas Post Box

If your child would like to send their friends in school a Christmas card, we have a school Christmas Post Box in the link area. Children sort and deliver the Christmas cards to each class on a daily basis.

Please note: We can only deliver to children who attend Herne!

Envelopes must have the full name of the child they are for and their class name on.

The post box will be open from Monday 2nd December.

Football Success – Detailed Report by Joe and Harry (Year 6)

On Wednesday, the Herne football team travelled to Portsmouth Grammar School to play a Hampshire Cup match. This was the second round and the Herne team was very excited. We started the game very lively with Ryan forcing a save from the PGS keeper that went out for a corner. Following the corner Harry came close and hit the post but then Harry got a header on target which resulted in an own goal. Five minutes later, Ryan put in a low cross and Harry tapped it into the empty net. The half time score was 2-0 to Herne who were very pleased with how the first half went. Then the second half kicked off and Jack scored with a good clean strike which put Herne 3-0 up. Our next goal was from Ryan following good build up play with a lot of team play. Then Herne so nearly went 5-0 up but the bar was rattled by Harry's shot. Our fifth was scored by Max and was set up by Ryan who pulled the cross back so Max could fire it into the bottom left. Our final goal was scored by Finn who cut inside into the box and fired a low shot into the corner. Everyone did well including the defence and keeper (Joe, Dylan and Alex) even though they didn't have much to do. PGS even gave us dinner after the match!

GOVERNORS' UPDATE

Peter Castle's attendance at this week's Governors' Meeting gave us the opportunity to thank him personally for his tireless dedication to the role of Deputy Headteacher. Mr. Castle plays a key part in creating a really positive school ethos. He works to sustain an environment which actively promotes equal opportunities for every child to enjoy their school experience. At the same time, every encouragement is given to ensuring that all pupils achieve their full potential across the curriculum. With this in mind, Mr. Castle has been influential in promoting the school's Compulsory Acceleration Programme for reading. At our meeting he gave us an update on the favourable impact that this programme has had and continues to have, in enabling every pupil to reach their expected reading age. Before giving this teaching strategy our approval, Governors spent a great deal of time discussing its suitability, so we were very pleased to hear about its successful impact and are grateful to all the staff involved with its implementation.



Strategy



Creating robust
accountability



Financial
management

Governors were delighted to welcome Tim Dilks to his first Governing Body Meeting. Mr. Dilks is a retired teacher, having taught in three schools, including Churcher's College. He is familiar with Herne because for two afternoons a week he can be found in the Link hearing children read. His experience in education will be a most valuable asset to our team of Governors, whose strategic role is to ensure that the school is continually focussed on its vision and mission of Knowing Every Child, Inspiring Every Mind and Achieving Every Day.

Report from MARY FAIR (Chair of Governing Body)

Healthy Break Snacks

Just a reminder to parents that children's snacks provided from home at breaktime should be fruit, vegetable or cereal bar based (but please no nuts). We have seen lots of children eating chocolate based snacks in recent weeks. We are keen to keep a focus on healthy eating and would appreciate your help to achieve this. Thank you for your continued support with this matter.



Bags

Now our school has more pupils than we have ever had in recent years (480!), our poor cloakrooms are struggling to cope. Can we please ask parents to be very mindful over the size of bags that they send in with their children, the cloakroom pigeon holes are just not big enough for giant rucksacks or other large bags. We will investigate using an airport-style template at the front of the school to allow parents and children to see the size that bags need to fit into.

Are We Crackers? Can You Help?

Every year the school buys Christmas Crackers for each child to have at our special Christmas Lunch. As we are having a whole school push to reduce the use of single-use plastic, we are looking to purchase Eco-Friendly Crackers that are not wrapped in plastic-based paper or containing plastic novelties. Sadly, the cheapest eco-friendly crackers we have found (after extensive research) comes in at least five times higher than our usual cracker budget (the Eco-Friendly crackers are approx. 50p per cracker). If parents know of any companies that would like to sponsor these crackers to help the school with the cost, or any other eco-crackers the school could purchase at a more affordable price please get in touch by emailing: admin@hernejunior.com



Funding for Schools



Mr Markham has personally contacted every electoral candidate for East Hampshire with some independent financial facts about the impact of funding austerity on Herne and Hampshire schools in general. This is politically neutral and makes the point that, despite promises from many political parties for extra funding for schools, the challenge to reverse real-term cuts over recent years is immense. It may seem crazy that we are struggling to buy simple pleasures like Christmas Crackers to make our children's time at our Christmas lunch a little festive, whilst at the same time trying to keep all of the budget areas of our school afloat. If parents would like to see the funding calculations sent to candidates, this will be posted on our Twitter account [@HerneJunior](https://twitter.com/HerneJunior) this weekend and will be posted on our website during next week.

TOP TIP from our Eco Club

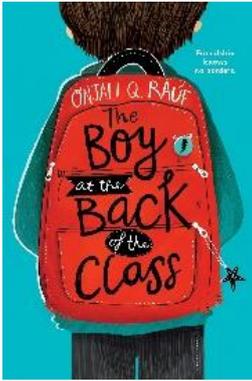
Use Ecosia as your search engine, while you search you will be planting trees which enables carbon capture. Ecosia uses the ad revenue from your searches to plant trees where they are needed the most. By searching with Ecosia, you're not only reforesting our planet, but you're also empowering the communities around their planting projects to build a better future for themselves.

<https://www.ecosia.org>



The Boy at the Back of the Class by O. Rauf – Book Review by Poppy in Plum

(...who loved this book so much she decided to review it)



This fantastic, heart-warming story about an empty chair at the back of a class until a new boy Ahmet arrived. Ahmet is 9 years old and has just joined a class as a new boy. Everyone thinks he is strange because he doesn't talk and doesn't smile. However four courageous friends learnt the truth, Ahmet isn't as strange as they first thought. He's a refugee who's ran away from a war in Syria! The more they find out the more they want to help their new friend. So together they come up with a plan...

This book inspires you to become a better friend and help other people. The boy at the back of the class is a touching story and I would recommend it to people aged 8 and above.

COMMUNITY MESSAGES



This poster has been produced by one of our local residents who is extremely worried about the air pollution in and around our school. We know that there are times when parents are queuing to drop-off that it is impractical to keep switching off and on your engines.

However, some cars that are parked up and are waiting to collect children are keeping their engines running and this is one of the main aspects of concern. Maybe it is to keep the heater running? But is this really necessary?

We know our children are concerned about this too! Your help and care is always welcomed. ☺

TONIGHT: THE CHOIR ARE PERFORMING AT THE TURNING ON THE LIGHTS EVENT AT THE SQUARE - 5.30PM PERFORMANCE. Please come along to join the crowd!

(Singers to arrive by 5.15pm please ☺)

November		December	
Mon 25th	3.30-5.30 Herne's Got Talent – Upper School Heat	Tues 17th	2.00 Year 5 service at St.Peter's Church
December		Wed 18th	2.00 Year 6 service at St.Peter's Church
Thurs 5th	3.30-5.30 OPEN SCHOOL – come and see your child's books.	Thurs 19th	FOH Christmas Fayre 3.30 – 5.30
Wed 11th	10.00 Year 3 Performance to Parents	Fri 20th	End of term - 12.30pm FINISH!
Thur 12th	Whole School Christmas Lunch 6.30 Year 3 Performance to Parents	January	
Fri 13th	Christmas MUFTI Day in support of the FoH Christmas Fayre (19th Dec).	Tues 7th	Children return for the Spring term. (Monday 6 th Jan is an INSET day).
Mon 16th	2.00 Year 4 service at St.Peter's Church		