



Issue 16

Friday 25th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to our summer term. We hope you had an enjoying Easter break. This term is the shortest term in our academic year and already the first week has past in a blink. Please keep your diaries current with the dates section at the end of the fortnightly newsletter; reminders will also be sent on Arbor.

The Easter holidays was certainly a busy time for our school environment. The Local Authority has completed the toilet block refurbishment by replacing the cladding, windows and roofing, they have also replaced the ramp and steps servicing Beech classroom. Our continued improvements to the outside space have also moved forward. I would like to extend huge thanks to **Ant and his team** from **'Field Groundworks LTD'**, who have finished the new year 6 area with a wet pour rubber crumb flooring – it looks fantastic! This is within the fenced area, installed by **Mr Lavender**, for the year 6 pupils. The area just in front is now ready to be reseeded and we hope the fine weather through May will help the new grass grow. The investment of funds through 'Friends' is hugely appreciated and has ensured that the school can continue to improve our school environment for everyone.

In the library we have a clothes rail with 'pre-loved clothes', please remember to take a look – we will also bring the rail out but if you would like to take a look, please do not hesitate to pop in. We ask for a small donation, if you can.

Term 5 has launched with a whole school emersion into VE day. This year as you will know, Thursday 8th May, marks the 80th year celebration of the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces in 1945, we now know this day as VE Day, Victory in Europe Day. Throughout the term the children will be learning about World War II and gaining an insight to how things were 80 years ago. There are a number of events that will feature throughout the term to support this learning. Our stunning start was a visit from **Hands on History**, kindly sponsored by **Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council and Heathfield Rotary**; this was a spectacular day, where Daryl planned and Nick and Becky delivered an exciting day literally bringing history to life! Each of the classes have written a piece about the day:



Little Punnetts and Beech class: We learnt what a soldier would wear during the Second World War. Did you know that the British Army made soldiers polish the bottom of their shoes to make them look smart if they were laying down! After lunch, we heard an air raid siren and a gas cracker. They were quite loud and the children thought it would be scary to hear them. We made flags to celebrate Victory in Europe day and had a parade around the playground to show everyone our flags.



Hazel class: Hazel class had a fantastic day on Thursday learning lots of new information about



World War 2 and VE day. First, we found out about the different uniforms that soldiers and pilots wore during the war. We then enjoyed an activity called 'Battling the Blitz', which was a simulation of how Londoners often worked together to form a bucket chain to fight fires caused by bombs. We didn't have buckets of water,

but we did have buckets of ping pong balls! The children worked together to pass the full buckets along the line and then passed





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empty buckets back again, all as quickly as they could! After that, they learnt how to shoot at a target, which was then followed by time to dress up in different outfits and uniforms from the time period. We also explored the contents of an evacuees' suitcase.

After lunch we had a demonstration of two war time sounds; a gas rattle and an air raid siren. Finally, we created our own VE day celebration flags whilst listening to a medley of music such as 'Wish me luck as you wave goodbye' and 'Pack up your troubles', before parading around the playground waving our flags. What a great day!



"I liked the siren noise. They used to wee in their boots because it makes them comfy" [It helped to soften the hard leather!] (Albert) "We were learning about World War 2. I tried a helmet on!" (Ollie) "I really liked the noisy sirens. We shot at the tanks. We had to put out the fire with buckets of water! It was really fun!" (Cian) "I liked the siren and shooting at the tanks." (Sid) "We went outside to hear the sirens. The people had to go somewhere safe." (Willow) "The pilot uniform was good. I liked the dressing up. I wore some of the children's clothes. The siren was loud!" (Amelie) "I loved shooting the tanks!" (Albie) "In the hall we made a bucket line to put out the fire." (Alex) "I liked dressing up as a soldier." (Gabe) "I've enjoyed all the activities. The shooting was really good." (Tommy) "I have thought about the soldiers who were brave and what they did." (Merlin) "I thought about what it would be like to be in World War 2." (Jack) "The rifle was interesting. I've never seen one that long before." (Edi) The pilot uniform was good." (Amelie)

Oak class: The children loved the day and have had so much to share about it. Here are a few of their summaries and comments: We played a water game to try and put out a fire. At the end there was a big bucket of ping pong balls and we had to pass the ping pong balls along and pour them into another bucket at the end. Ava said this was good fun. Some people accidentally spilt the balls as they were not holding the bucket right.

Stanley- We dressed up in World War 2 clothes, such as army clothes, a pilot in WW2, children and the navy. I liked the army clothes best. Millie - We played with cross bows and shot them at pretend army tanks. We had 3 goes each. I managed to hit the tank quite a lot. Emily - We learnt to use Morse code and got special torches. It was fun as it was hard to work it all out. Harry - We learnt about gas masks and that babies had the biggest one. This surprised me. The adults had to pump the air. Freddy - We got to see an air raid siren. Icarus said it was quite loud. We also heard a gas rattle and this was loud but not as loud as the siren. Della- We made flags saying things like peace at last. Then we paraded them. Ethan - we got to hold different artefacts of World War 2, like a fake pigeon was used to take messages to the soldiers.



Elm class: Elm class enjoyed the whole day; the staff were very knowledgeable and imparted a lot of facts, such as: black leather was used in WW2 as it was cheaper than the brown leather used in WW1; ankle straps were made from canvas, as the woollen ones used in WW1 shrunk when they got wet, cut off circulation and caused trench foot, and soldiers had to polish the soles of their boots so they would look smart in case they had to lay down to fire their gun! In the afternoon Key stage 2 were lucky enough to hold and investigate many different artifacts, which we drew and learnt about. We sent messages by morse code to each other using special torches – some of us did better than others: Mrs Jones was able to decipher Mrs Winter's message even though Mrs Winter's signalling meant some of the letters were wrong! We learnt a lot whilst having fun, despite the horror of war.



A periscope used in tanks



The spoon was shaped like this so the soldiers could get ALL of their food out of their mess tins.



We each made a VE day flag and took part in a parade around the playground.

All of the classes are now creating some art work to be included in the various celebrations both in and out of school.

On **Thursday 8th May**, we ask that you send your child to school in evacuee clothes – we will mark the day with different activities throughout the day.

There are many celebrations in our local community over this period:

Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council invite you on Saturday 3rd May 1pm – 7pm to Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane - VE celebrations including live music, stalls, vintage rides, children's activities, dog show, food, drink and vintage vehicles.

Warbleton Parish Council invite you on Thursday 8th May 6pm till 9.45pm to Rushlake Green, village Green – please see flyer attached

Heathfield & District Bonfire Society invite you on Thursday 8th May, 7.30pm – 10.00pm to Cade Street Recreation Ground, Old Heathfield – please see flyer attached

Punnetts Town Village VE Day invite you on Saturday 17th May to join them for an afternoon of fun – please see flyer attached

As a school we will have our fabulous finish on the afternoon (from 1pm) on **Friday 23rd May**. This will be a Maypole and VE day celebration afternoon. We will have some of our traditional Maypole dances alongside VE day celebration dances and songs. The pupils will also create art work that will be exhibited in our art exhibition and refreshments will be served by 'Friends' – please keep this date free and join us with the members of Young at Heart (this event is weather permitting).

Tag Rugby: The team were excellent and played incredibly well together for their second tag rugby competition. Thank you to Mr Vockins who worked with Mrs Winter and Elm class to help coach the children to deepen their understanding of Tag Rugby.



Attendance: Good attendance really helps the pupils in their social, emotional, and academic learning. Please prioritise attendance at school and talk to us if you or your child has any concerns. We ask Nursery parents to inform the school of any absence in line with school policy, to ensure the school attendance records are accurate. Our target as a school is 96%.

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	School % overall to date
Week 1	100%	98%	96%	100%	91%	100%	99%	96%	96.1%



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Achievements out of school: Please send in any achievements that your child has achieved out of school, so we can celebrate their success.

Well done to Tommy for coming 1st in the Horam Skate Jam during the Easter Holidays. He was the youngest skateboarding competitor!



Stars of the week:

Each week the adults and children reflect on the week and choose a member of the class to receive the 'Star of the week' certificate. These are presented in our celebration assembly every Friday and shared in the fortnightly newsletter.

Week 1:

Elm: Sebastian Oak: Annabelle Hazel: Wilf Beech: Beech class Little Punnetts: Zayn

Well done everyone! Thank you to everyone for being the best you can be!

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead. Please remember to send in sun cream and water bottles as the weather starts to improve.

C. Kinsella

All dates are subject to change – more details will follow regarding specifics. Yellow highlight will show new additions from the previous newsletter.

Term & Week	Date	Event
T5 W2	Thursday 1 st May	Y6 at Young at Heart for the day – details sent
T5 W3	Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday – School closed
	Wednesday 7 th May	9.00-10.30 Parents invited to Steering group hosted by school to discuss Literacy difficulties and ways to support pupils
	Wednesday 7 th May	Y3/4 Tennis at Cross in Hand Tennis club – details sent to team
	Thursday 8 th May	VE Day 80 th Anniversary celebrations – children to dress up as evacuees
T5 W4	Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th May	KS2 SATs week
	Saturday 17 th May	Punnetts Town Village VE day – see village posters
T5 W5	Monday 19 th May	Class photographs – NOW on Monday 19 th May
	Tuesday 20 th May	
	Wednesday 21 st May	Y3/4 Tri golf event at Beacon – details to follow for team
	Thursday 22 nd May	Y1/2 Wellie walk – details to follow
	Friday 23 rd May	Maypole & VE celebrations – parents invited starting at 1pm (weather permitting)
T5	Friday 23 rd May	Last day of term 5
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May – Half term		
T6	Monday 2 nd June	First day of term 6
T6 W1	Friday 6 th June	Y6 Bikeability – details to follow
T6 W2	Friday 13 th June	Friends Father's Day pop up shop – details to follow
T6 W3	Friday 20 th June	Sports Day (Reserve date 27.6.24)
T6 W4	Tuesday 24 th June	Young at Heart visit
	Thursday 26 th June	Change around Day – pupils to spend day in new class in readiness for September
T6 W5	W/C Monday 30 th June	Reports sent to parents in Nursery & Reception
	Tuesday 1 st July	Parent consultations Y1-Y6
	Wednesday 2 nd July	
	Thursday 3 rd July	Y6 welcome evening at HCC



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T6 W6	Wednesday 9 th July	Swimming Gala – details to follow
	Thursday 10 th July	Y5/6 Production
T6 W7	Thursday 17 th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
T6 W8	Monday 21 July	Y6 signing shirts
	Tuesday 22 July	Mufti Day and ice cream
	Tuesday 22 nd July	Last day of term 6
Wednesday 23 rd July – Thursday 4 th September – Summer holidays		
T1	Wednesday 3 rd September	INSET day (pupils not in school)
	Thursday 4 th September	First day of term 1