

# Headstart Herald



Positive Learning for Life      APRIL 2014

Headstart School  
Positive Learning for Life. Positive Learning for Life.

## Welcome to the new look newsletter!

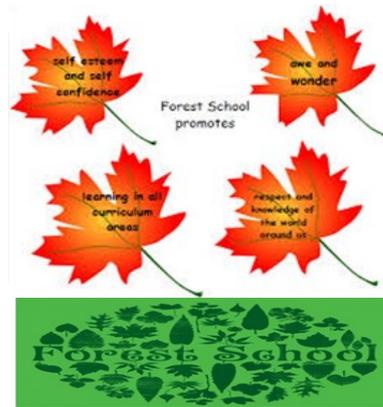
Headstart School welcomes you to this edition of the Newsletter. Since our last newsletter, where we told you about the great results from our Ofsted inspection, we have been working very hard to introduce new and exciting initiatives to make the education at the school unique and challenging with a balance of academic and social skills that will serve our pupils very well in life. We have some new staff and you will read a little about them in the newsletter and we have introduced the Forest School into our Curriculum, which has been very exciting for the pupils and allowed them to see learning across a range of environments.

The school has had several new buildings put up, a poly tunnel, more garden space

and many classrooms have been repainted to make them fresh and bright. We believe that it is important the school environment is positive and welcoming, making positive learning, a place where the pupils can feel proud and all achieve.

Headstart School has been looking at some new technology to support and enhance the achievements of the pupils and support positive outcomes. This includes a new numeracy and literacy programme that should be available to all next term. In addition, the school is in the process of upgrading the web site, so that it is more

user friendly. Next term we will be using the services of Future-Creative to produce a media arts project based around Personal, Social and Health issues. This is all very exciting for Pupils, Staff and you too.



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## Welcome to new staff at Headstart

The school has employed some new staff and already they have made a positive impact on the school and we would like to get to know them. Caroline Belchem is the Deputy Head Teacher and comes with a wide range of experience with SEN from a mainstream school. She has responsibility for SEN-

Co matters and Safeguarding and Child Protection and some of you may have already had the pleasure of meeting her. Mark Gransden is a new Key Stage 4/5 Leader and comes with a wealth of experience in a range of schools and has implemented Forest School at Headstart. Sue Sheeran is

a High Level Teaching Assistant and works across the school in a range of settings and supports SEN-Co work as well.

Patrick Boorman is a Trainer that has a lot of experience in schools, especially with matters around behavior and social difficulties.

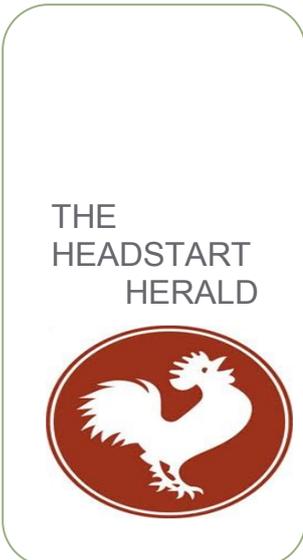


## Off site visits. Learning outside the classroom.

This term in our Topic based lessons we have studied the Theme, England. We are very fortunate in East Sussex to have a wealth of England's history right on our doorstep and so to bring the history of the country alive we took the pupils in the ASDCN facility to Bodiam Castle. The group were very excited to see the castle and were very keen to explore. The pupils were overwhelmed by the size and scale of Bodiam Castle and made some excellent comments about the moat and asked the guide lots of original and considered questions. At the end of the tour and with extra time to explore the group were all ready to go back to school. All the pupils said how much they enjoyed the visit and they also said that they hope to return in the near future. The pupils behavior and conduct at the Castle was excellent, it was a pleasure to see them so enthusiastic about history.

Skiing at Headstart School!! Well not quite. On Friday the 14th of February some pupils from the school went to Knockhatch Ski and Snowboard Centre to participate in a whole day of developing their learning and social skills. The pupils had two hours of group ski instruction to learn the basics of movement and turning and then had time to practice these skills throughout the day. The boys and girls that attended had a great day and their skills in the sport really did improve. It was great to see the pupils get along with each other and really enjoy the time they spent at Knockhatch.

The school has been very fortunate to link with and use the facilities of Bedgebury Pine-tum over the past term. This has provided the platform for some wonderful Forest School experiences which the pupils have enjoyed.



## Parents Introduction to Forest School

On Tuesday the 11th March the school held a parents induction evening to Forest school. It was a pleasure to see Parents and Carers come to the school and hear from some of the pupils what they have been doing at Forest School. Forest School learning is a key development at Headstart School, integrating many approaches to support the needs of the young people and allow access to learning on many different levels, this is important for the ongoing progress of young people. Mark Gransden did a very clear and helpful presentation of what forest school actually involves and then there was a question and answer slot. Refreshments were served during and after the presentation. It was a great

opportunity to welcome some of the Parents and Carers in the school, meet some of the staff and pupils and enjoy a really positive event. A big "Thank You" to all that attended and made it a special evening.



Headstart School V Saxon Mount School.

## Football

Seven pupils represented the school for the first football fixture of the Year. The game was played on a beautiful morning at Horn Tye Hastings. The game started at an excellent pace with our team controlling possession from the off. After 5 minutes DN broke the deadlock by scoring a well-placed finish into the bottom corner after nicking it from the Saxon Mount centre half. Saxon Mount pulled a goal back almost immediately with a great left footed shot from their centre forward. After the restart, Saxon Mount scored again to be 2-1 with a well hit shot into the top corner. JM made the scores level with a great bit of solo play. JO and DN went on to

work well and by half time it was 4-2. The second half started with both teams not wanting to concede the next goal. DN changed this by scoring a goal, he also picked up the ball in defense and alluded the opposition defense down the right wing. Once again, Saxon Mount were not beaten and 2 minutes later scored a goal which took the score to 5-4. LP and DS continued to marshal the defence for Headstart and made some excellent last ditch tackles. The final scores were Headstart 7, Saxon Mount 4. The pupils worked superbly and respected the opposition throughout the game. Both schools thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

## Construction and Land-Based

As part of the Horticulture and Construction this term, Key stage 2 and 3 groups have undertaken a new the building of a new Polytunnel. Progress has been amazing with all pupils showing great construction skills and team work. The true test came on the day the polythene had to be applied and winds grew and blew with great force , yet the pupils continued with patience and determination. The Tunnel will be ready for planting in term 4. The School is very proud of this achievement and we would like to thank all the pupils and Warren, Mark and Ralph

There have been lots of exciting developments at the farm. In the equine department we have been working hard training Shetland Ponies in preparation for working with younger pupils. Post 16 have really been involved with this in addition to their yard duties and land-based studies. We also had the arrival of eight baby rabbits that have had to have daily handling. We have now moved the small animals to a bigger enclosure, which some of the students were very keen to help with. It has been a great term and we really look forward to term 5.

We are proud to announce the arrival of two new little lambs, born on the 28th March. Mummy, Betsy is well and enjoying her new born and is calm and content .They have a small enclosure away from the rest of the group until they are stronger, which should not be too long, judging by the Spring in their step. The Lambs have not yet been named so we will have a competition at the school to find the names for the lambs. This will be revealed in the next edition of Headstart Herald.



**The Joys Of Spring!!**

## Accreditation at Headstart

Providing the best for our pupils is a priority at Headstart and making sure that the students have a mixture of Social and Academic balance is very important to carry the young people forward with Pride in there achievements in both areas. At Headstart, we offer the following academic and social qualifications; GCSE-English, Maths, Science. Btec in Art, IT users, Jamie Oliver cooking, Land-Based Studies,Media, Sport and in

addition Land Based studies in Equine, Construction and Vocational Studies. We offer entry level in Maths, English, ICT users and PSHE.

This year, one pupil is going for an A level in Art.

We are very aware that some pupils are very daunted by the prospect of examination boards and the process that is expected of various qualifications and that is why we aim to provide a

range that is personal for the pupils at our school and make the learning at Headstart individual and suited too the needs.

In term 6 we would like to invite parents to look at what the possible options are and discuss how we can best accommodate the needs of our students.

**At Headstart we believe in providing the best opportunities for all our pupils, both Academic and Social.**

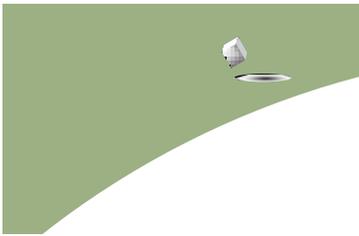
## SMSC

All schools across the country have an obligation to provide a curriculum that addresses SMSC. What is this? It stands for; Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural and we as a school believe that all four elements are valuable in supporting our pupils towards a positive life beyond school. All assemblies next year will have a theme based around these four areas and if you would like to, as parents/ Carers

come and support the assemblies in the capacity of guest speakers, we would be very happy to hear from you. These values are important for a positive life and the school will encourage these in tutorial time as well.



**Cultural Understanding and awareness is our responsibility.**



## Junk and Gems

### Trivia Corner-All Creatures Great and Small!

The blue whale can produce the loudest sound of any animal. At 188 decibels, the noise can be detected almost 500 miles away!  
Jelly fish have been on Earth for over 650 Million years, longer than sharks or dinosaurs!!!

### Culinary thoughts.

Next Time you make a cottage Pie, try using sweet Potato Mash on top with some bread crumbs and cheese sprinkled over it.

**Did you know?** An Earth worm has five hearts? OR Tarantulas can live for up to 30 Years!!!

### Important Dates

**Tuesday 22nd April INSET school is closed to Pupils.**

**10th June Coffee Morning**

**1st July. New Head of School .**

**4th July, Meet the Staff**

**9th July Discuss KS4/5.**

**Further Detail will be sent out nearer the above dates.**

**Wishing you all a very  
Happy Spring /Easter**

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## Focus on Autism



**Check the web for support and advice or Call the school and speak to a teacher.**

Autism continues to be a significant issue for many schools as the diagnosis of young people with Autism, particularly boys, continues to grow. Given the criteria for a diagnosis, this is hardly a great surprise. People with Autism are diagnosed with some clear deficit areas: Difficulties with Communication, Lack of Social Awareness and understanding, Lack of Empathy and how others might feel. In America, it also includes a lack of the capacity to regulate sensory intake. Pupils diagnosed with Autism present

challenges for schools but best practice with Autism can actually support all pupils. Some proven and tried top tips are: Keep your language clear, simple and direct. Talk through one point at a time and check for understanding. Provide some visual support when possible and keep this simple too. Try to keep from overreacting to a situation, even if the young person says or does something that could be considered controversial. Try to keep things quite rigid and do not have too many changes. Don't give too many options, this

can be confusing. Be consistent with your rules and expectations. Keep your voice in a clear, even pitch and don't overuse hand and body language. Have a clear set of rewards and make sanctions clear too. There is a huge amount of information on Autism and associated difficulties on the internet. In East Sussex, there is Autism Sussex in Battle that can provide some help and support. The National Autistic Society web site is great. You can also call Headstart, someone will be happy to discuss this issue with you.