



Value of the week:

In assembly this week, we considered one of the aspects that we need in order to be mentally healthy: positive messages. We considered what things someone might say to another person that might hurt them or make them feel sad, and then considered what good, kind, nice things we could say that would make someone feel happy and proud. In assembly, we were quite good at compliments, and the children's challenge this week was to compliment others or say nice things.

We also began to explore the best type of compliment (although all are good!) with the following exercise:

Close your eyes and picture one of your favourite people in the world. Why are they one of your favourite people?

When children opened their eyes, they explained that this liked the person they had chosen because:

- "She is kind.
- He always plays with me
- She makes me laugh
- We like the same things so always have lots to talk about
- He notices if I am feeling sad and helps me
- She notices if I am by myself and asks me to play."

We then began the discussion about the fact that these were all about what a person is like inside and their qualities and personality, not about whether they wear nice clothes or their hair looks nice. So compliments about anything is good, but focusing on the qualities and personality will really help someone grow.

Achiever of the week:

Minibeasts: Phoenix S
Minibeasts: Mila W
Tigers: Jason O
Zebras: Molly S
Penguins: Freddie J
Giraffes: Eva W
Lions: Michal S
Meerkats: Heidi M
Eagles: Evelyn M

Value of the week:

Minibeasts: Olly H
Minibeasts: Rayhan G
Tigers: Lily M-V
Zebras: Lottie B-K
Penguins: Freddie J and Lily B
Giraffes: Raeya J
Lions: Kai N
Meerkats: Isla S
Eagles: Sophie H

	Changes and reminders next week:
Monday 12 th	
Tuesday 13 th	
Wednesday 14 th	Voice in a Million
Thursday 15 th	
Friday 16 th	FoHPFS Pamper Evening

World Book Day:

I write this on the eve of our WBD celebrations and am looking forward to seeing lots of different costumes tomorrow. Thank you for the efforts you have gone to – I know many children were really very excited about dressing up!

Parents' Evenings:

Thank you to all those of you who came to parents' evenings and also to those who filled in the questionnaire. This is really important as a snapshot of what we are doing well and what needs to improve, and I would like to thank you for your many positive comments and good feedback: just as children receiving the positives this really helps us to grow.

If you feel that there are things that we are not doing well enough, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact me directly on rhughes@heyfordparkfreeschool.org.

Attendance: 97.05 – well done!

Readathon: a message from Mrs Dallas:

We have two weeks left of our Readathon where we are raising money for the Read For Good Charity. This charity helps children in hospital get new books to read and the opportunity to share their books with a Read For Good storyteller. The children cannot have second hand books in hospital in case of infection so it is important they have something to do whilst having to go through various treatments. Just £5 buys a book and £10 sponsors a story telling session. If you want to find out more about this charity you can visit the site www.readforgood.org. Don't forget to complete your sponsorship cards and keep up the reading everyone!

Please remember you, friends and family can donate online by finding our school and clicking the link 'sponsor a child' on the website. Thank you for the donations that have been made already!

Staffing update:

We are looking to recruit a new teaching assistant to join our team after Easter. If you know anyone who is interested, please suggest that they keep checking our website: my intention is that the post will be advertised early next week, and I am more than happy to show potential candidates round the school: please do pass on my email address:

rhughes@heyfordparkfreeschool.org

Voice in a Million:

We are looking forward to taking selected children (those in the choir in Years 4 and 5) to "Voice in a Million" in Wembley arena on Wednesday. If your child is going and you have any questions, please email Mrs Dallas on rdallas@heyfordparkfreeschool.org

We realise that for those children involved this is going to be a late night. Some children will cope with this well, and will be able to be at school the next day as normal. However, some may need a lie in: we will leave this decision to you as parents but please do not keep children off all day – this won't be authorised. However if you would like to bring children in later, this absence will be authorised: good times to bring them in are 10.15am (after break), 10.45am (for the last lesson before lunch) or 12.45pm (for the afternoon session.)

Music lessons:

In Monday's newsletter, I gave a link to Oxfordshire County Music Service for parents who might want to sign children up for an instrument. As a teacher, I can't go through that process so am very grateful to one parent who wanted to sign her daughter up for the information she gave which might help others:

The selection of instruments currently listed as available at HPFS is limited to brass and some string instruments. I was advised by the lady on their help desk to register via the website for lessons for any instrument and to then ring them and they would put in a manual request for a different instrument of my choice (piano or violin, for example). They cannot guarantee that these will definitely be made available, but if enough people register for a specific instrument, they may be able to arrange a tutor. The advice was not to be put off if you didn't want to play one of the listed instruments, but that the online system will only allow requests for lessons on instruments that are already taught. They are happy to process requests for any instrument, but you may have to be patient while they assess the viability of providing a new option.

Future Dates for your Diary: Whole School events:

Wednesday 14th March – Voice in a Million (selected children)

Thursday 15th March—Second Sixth Form Open Evening—5pm

Friday 16th March – Pamper Evening (a Friends event)

Tuesday 20th March – Meerkats trip to the farm (postponed from last week)

Wednesday 21st March – 2pm to 3.15pm – come and see your child in their classroom

Wednesday 21st March – Year 8 Options Evening

Wednesday 28th March 2-3pm – Superheroes Dads Read Too – reading afternoon with Zebras and Penguins

Thursday 29th March – School finishes at 2pm for Easter Holidays (no Wraparound provision)

Have a lovely weekend, and Happy Mothers' Day to all of our mums!