

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

# HCJS News

Haddenham Community Junior School



## A Message of concern and respect

### Headteacher

-----ANDY LEACH-----

Welcome to the very first issue of the new look HCJS newsletter. I really hope you like it. As we gradually move away from Weduc over the coming months, now feels a really good time to think about how and when we communicate school news. Feedback is always welcome of course, but this will be a work in progress for a month or two at least. In my section, I'll usually try and have a theme of some sort, but I may just muse on school life.

*What have you done today to make you feel proud? It's never too late to try*

*What have you done today to make you feel proud?*

*You could be so many people if you make that break for freedom*

*What have you done today to make you feel prouder? (Heather Small – 2000)*

Away from my own words, a big aim of this newsletter is to celebrate all the fabulous things that our pupils/ your children get up to in school - and there is an awful lot to celebrate about HCJS and our amazing pupils. If my own children were anything to go by, you may sometimes struggle to get them to tell you more than 'alright!' 'OK' or (my George's favourite 'Not much' in response to the question..."What have you done today?"

I apologise for starting on a somewhat negative note, but I want to take a moment to address a concerning trend that both myself and the staff, particularly our teachers, have noticed. Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in aggressive or challenging behaviour from a small number of parents and carers during our interactions, especially in telephone conversations. While we always strive to communicate openly and respectfully, I must emphasise that such behaviour is not acceptable. Our staff are dedicated professionals who deserve to be treated with courtesy. I have therefore instructed them to issue a polite reminder if a conversation becomes inappropriate and, if necessary, to end the call. I truly regret having to put this in writing, but I feel it is important to ensure that our school remains a place of mutual respect and positive collaboration. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## A Fresh Start for school meals at HCJS

We are pleased to announce that from the beginning of the summer term we will have a brand new provider of school lunches at HCJS. After being well looked after by our good friends at Haddenham St Mary's (Homemade at Haddenham St Mary's) for the last 8 years, we felt it was time to explore other options and after a period of due diligence we have chosen 'Fresh Start Catering as our new partner. There will be more information in the next couple of weeks; however, in the meantime if you wish to get a flavour (pun intended!) of their meals offer, please have a look at their website: <https://freshstartcatering.uk/faq/>

Fresh start will be holding a taster session for parents on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March – further details to follow.



## Staffing Updates – Year 6

**We have two significant staffing announcements to share today, both concerning Year 6.**

Firstly, I am saddened to inform you that Mrs. Collins will be leaving us at the end of this term. I know this news will disappoint many, as she has been a vital part of our Year 6 team. While I share in this disappointment, I must also extend my heartfelt congratulations to her—she has been appointed Deputy Head at Alfreston School in Beaconsfield. This is a well-deserved opportunity for someone who has shown immense dedication and made a significant contribution to HCJS. She is more than ready for this next step in her career.

I hope the surprise of her mid-year departure is softened by the news of her replacement. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Smart will be stepping into the role. After a brief period overseeing The Nest, he will return to full-time teaching and take over 6C for the remainder of the academic year. As many of you know, Mr. Smart brings a wealth of experience and expertise, making him the ideal person to continue guiding the class.

Secondly, I am delighted to share that Miss Newitt is expecting! As some 6N parents and carers may already be aware, she will begin her maternity leave at the end of June. Since this will only leave a short period of three to four weeks before the summer holidays, we have decided to manage the cover in-house. Mr. Gore and I will be looking after the class, with occasional support from Miss McMahon.

On the subject of Mr. Gore, you may have noticed his absence this week—he is currently on paternity leave following the birth of his second beautiful daughter. Huge congratulations to Mr. Gore and his partner, Ailis, on this wonderful news!

Just before half term, Mr Leach was delighted to accompany our Year 6 team to the District swimming gala at the Gutmann centre in Aylesbury. The team finished as Bronze medallists (from a strong field of eleven schools.). As always HCJS pupils represented our school brilliantly – competing strongly; with passion and commitment, but whilst supporting each other (and the other schools) with kind sportsmanlike behaviour. Well done to all the children involved – We are very proud of you!



Other News and results

**Year 6 football (25.03.25)**

**HCJS 2 – 0 Turnfurlong Junior School**

### Other Achievements

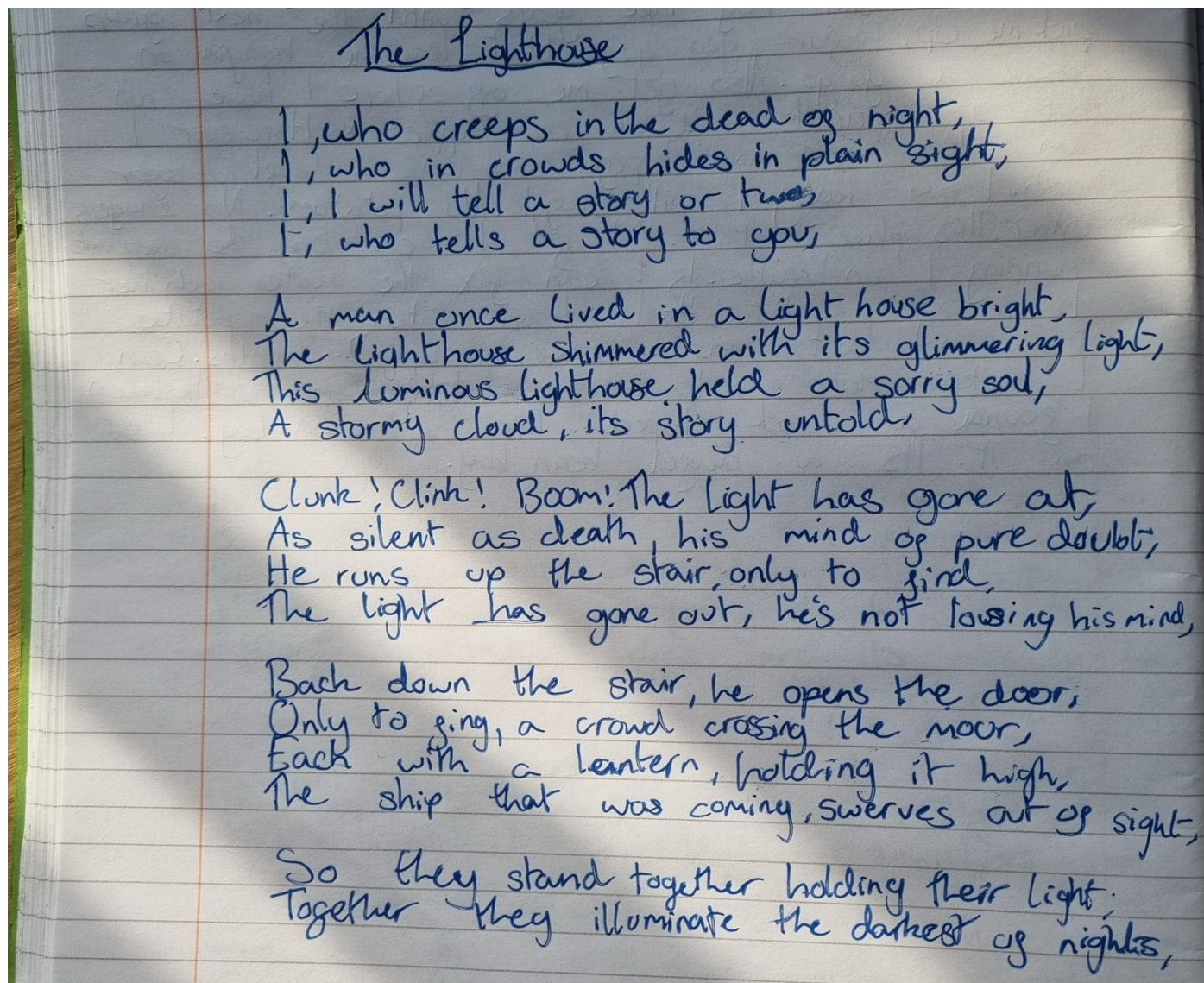
Congratulations to last half term's TT Rock Stars 'Rock Heroes' (Pictured below)





### The Lighthouse – By Safia 5A

(We kept the shadow on the photograph – It seemed appropriate for the content of the poem)



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### Upcoming dates:

THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – WORLD BOOK DAY

FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – OPEN BOOKS

9<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – SCIENCE WEEK

MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – FRESH START TASTER SESSION

WEDS 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL & THURS 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY – PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS