



# Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

December 17

Well, December has arrived and Christmas has begun in earnest!

Today we held our traditional Christmas Decorations Day and our Awe and Wonder celebration assembly where every child brought a decoration that they had made to add to our tree in the hall.

We are looking forward to having a great time at Heathwood's 50th Christmas Fayre on Saturday☺ and I hope you are able to join us and support the hard work of our PTA.

We will be totalling all house points from this term and one house will be invited to wear Mufti on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

See you all at the Fayre.

We wish you all a very festive Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Susanne Dove**

**Hot off the press...**We are thrilled to have just heard that we've received our recognition of commitment for becoming a Rights Respecting School!

## **Christmas at Heathwood**

Christmas is a very busy time here and I wanted to take this opportunity to outline some of the events that take place for those of you who are new to Heathwood.

**Christmas Post Box** - We have a post box which opens in the Library on 1st December for the children to post their Christmas Cards in. Every day the box will be opened by Class 4 and the cards will be delivered. (Please write the Class, as well as the name, on the envelope to help with delivery.)

**Christmas Decoration Day (December 1st)** - We all spend the day using cutting and fine motor skills in preparation for Christmas (glitter at the ready!) We finish the day with an Awe and Wonder assembly and every child brings a creation to decorate the tree.

**Christmas Performance (Classes 1-4 Dress Rehearsal)** - This is the 'first run' and a chance to perform to Class R and Pre-School as the audience

**Christmas Performance (Classes 1-4)** - Two performances, an afternoon at 2pm with a crèche and an evening at 6pm for adults only. Please make sure you order your tickets.

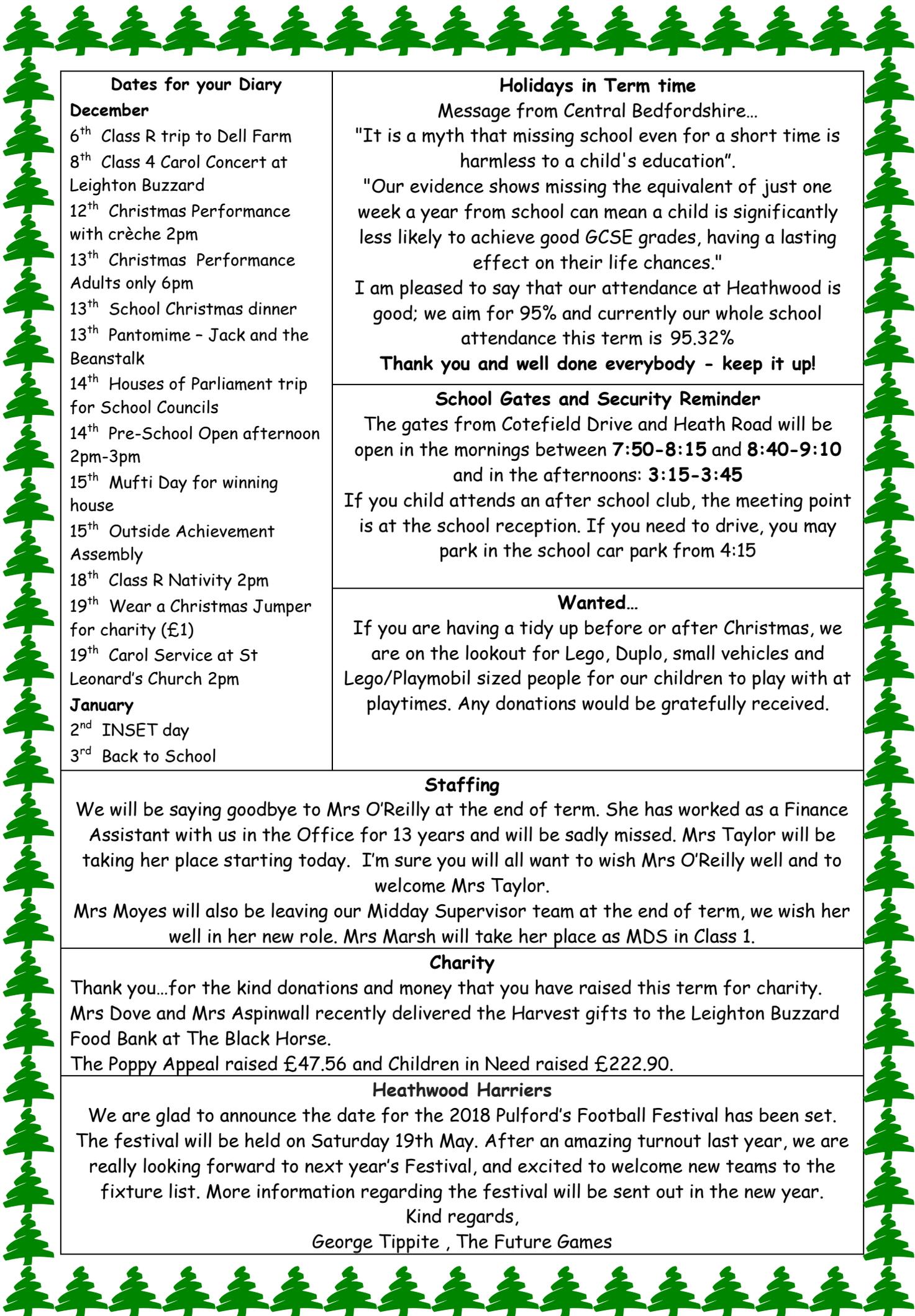
**Nativity Performance (Class R)** - All parents and grandparents are welcome at 2pm.

**Christmas Panto** - M&M Productions comes to Heathwood to entertain the children with a traditional pantomime - this year it is to be 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This event is supported by the PTA, so we only ask for a small contribution from parents.

**Christmas Dinner** - All staff join the children to enjoy a super traditional Christmas dinner which is prepared and cooked on-site by our kitchen staff. Christmas crackers are included. Please return the slip (in your child's book bag) for ALL children having a school Christmas dinner, so the kitchen who how many to cater for.

**Christmas Jumper Day** - Wear school uniform but with a Christmas jumper instead of your school jumper or cardigan. This is a Save the Children event - please bring £1 to support this charity.

**Carol Service at St Leonard's** - We walk to St Leonard's Church for a Christmas Service at 2pm led by Class 4. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for the service and the walk (please be at school by 1.45pm). However, please note that it is a small church and guests are limited to standing room at the back of the church or seating in the gallery.



**Dates for your Diary**

**December**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Class R trip to Dell Farm
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Carol Concert at Leighton Buzzard
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Performance with crèche 2pm
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Performance Adults only 6pm
  - 13<sup>th</sup> School Christmas dinner
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Houses of Parliament trip for School Councils
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Pre-School Open afternoon 2pm-3pm
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Mufti Day for winning house
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Outside Achievement Assembly
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Class R Nativity 2pm
  - 19<sup>th</sup> Wear a Christmas Jumper for charity (£1)
  - 19<sup>th</sup> Carol Service at St Leonard's Church 2pm
- January**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> INSET day
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Back to School

**Holidays in Term time**

Message from Central Bedfordshire...

"It is a myth that missing school even for a short time is harmless to a child's education".

"Our evidence shows missing the equivalent of just one week a year from school can mean a child is significantly less likely to achieve good GCSE grades, having a lasting effect on their life chances."

I am pleased to say that our attendance at Heathwood is good; we aim for 95% and currently our whole school attendance this term is 95.32%

**Thank you and well done everybody - keep it up!**

**School Gates and Security Reminder**

The gates from Cotefield Drive and Heath Road will be open in the mornings between **7:50-8:15** and **8:40-9:10** and in the afternoons: **3:15-3:45**

If you child attends an after school club, the meeting point is at the school reception. If you need to drive, you may park in the school car park from 4:15

**Wanted...**

If you are having a tidy up before or after Christmas, we are on the lookout for Lego, Duplo, small vehicles and Lego/Playmobil sized people for our children to play with at playtimes. Any donations would be gratefully received.

**Staffing**

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs O'Reilly at the end of term. She has worked as a Finance Assistant with us in the Office for 13 years and will be sadly missed. Mrs Taylor will be taking her place starting today. I'm sure you will all want to wish Mrs O'Reilly well and to welcome Mrs Taylor.

Mrs Moyes will also be leaving our Midday Supervisor team at the end of term, we wish her well in her new role. Mrs Marsh will take her place as MDS in Class 1.

**Charity**

Thank you...for the kind donations and money that you have raised this term for charity. Mrs Dove and Mrs Aspinwall recently delivered the Harvest gifts to the Leighton Buzzard Food Bank at The Black Horse.

The Poppy Appeal raised £47.56 and Children in Need raised £222.90.

**Heathwood Harriers**

We are glad to announce the date for the 2018 Pulford's Football Festival has been set. The festival will be held on Saturday 19th May. After an amazing turnout last year, we are really looking forward to next year's Festival, and excited to welcome new teams to the fixture list. More information regarding the festival will be sent out in the new year.

Kind regards,

George Tippite , The Future Games

# CHALLENGE

Once again the children have really astounded me; I don't think I have ever seen the challenge table looking so impressive! There have been amazing creations from less than, or equal to, thirty-five Lego bricks, which I have captured by photographs so the Lego will be on its way home. The leaf pictures were superb; we have some really creative children ~ well done to all.



Three challenge stars this month are Amelie and Bella in Year 1 and Isabel in Year 2. Super challenge children!

I would also like to give a special mention to our 'two challenge children' who are Harvey and Charlie D in Year 2 and Marcia in Year 4 ~ well done!

So here we are rapidly approaching Christmas and I have just shared the new challenges with the children. All the children can take part in as many of the challenges as they would like; please encourage and support them in their efforts. A very special 'Well Done' to Georgia in Year 4 for setting this month's research challenge.

### This month's challenges are:

- Why is sand called sand and where does it come from?
- Make a Christmas gift tag ... be as creative as you like.
- Design and construct a Christmas sleigh using your own choice of media. Your sleigh should not be longer than 30cm.

Happy challenging!

Mrs Elaine Dicocco

All entries are put on the Challenge Display in the Hall. Every child who enters into the challenge will be awarded a Bright Ideas certificate and a small prize by Mrs Dicocco during our celebration assemblies.

Value of December - Patience

Language of the term - Russian

Words of the month - patient, patience, predict, predicted, enquire, enquired (10 House points for using these in your writing!)

**WOW!** Let us know how your child has demonstrated this month's

Value of **Patience** at home.



Our Value for December is

## Patience

"Wait your turn." "Wait 'til you're bigger." We often ask children to be patient, but developing this value takes time.

It's hard to wait for things! Many children find it hard to be PATIENT.



Patience is the ability to endure a difficult situation without complaining. It means showing self-control and staying calm in the face of frustration or boredom. When you're patient, you understand that some things are worth waiting for. But patience isn't only passive waiting--it means persevering when things get tough. Adults as well as children often get frustrated if they don't see immediate results. But at any age it's important to wait for the right time to speak or act. The question we ask when we explore any of our focus values in assembly is,  
**'How will developing this value in my life change my thinking and behaviour?'**

Patience is a value which can have a hugely positive effect on ourselves and those around us.

### Smart Raspberry Cooking Club

The children who have attended this term's Smart Raspberry Cookery Club at Heathwood Lower School have had a very enjoyable time learning new cookery skills. They will be finishing off the year by baking their own Christmas Cakes and decorating them.

I am very happy to be running a new term of After School Cookery Club. It will be starting on **Wednesday, 17 January 2018** and will run through to **Wednesday, 21 March**. This term I am able to offer a new lower price, of **£7.50 per child, per session**.

Your child can come and learn the skills involved in cooking, to experiment with different ingredients and most importantly to enjoy food! We make a wide variety of savoury and sweet dishes, some of which are ready to eat and some of which simply need to be cooked or heated at home. During the Spring Term, we will be making a variety of recipes including: Vegetable Lasagne, Carrot Cake, Rustic Bread and Treacle Sponge.

All ingredients, cooking equipment, use of aprons and packaging, plus a laminated recipe card to keep each week are included within the cost.

### Spring Term 2018 – Wednesdays

1<sup>st</sup> half term: £30 (17/01/18 - 7/02/18)

2<sup>nd</sup> half term: £37.50 (21/02/18 - 21/03/18)

**Time – 15.40-16.40 (Please note new time)**

### Children in Year 1-4

If you would like to book a place for your child please book online: [www.smartraspberry.com](http://www.smartraspberry.com)

Places are allocated on a first come first served basis with a maximum of 12 in a class.

If you have any questions please get in touch on the above contact details.

Kind regards

Melinda Johnston

Smart Raspberry Area Manager, Leighton Buzzard