



Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

February 18

What a busy month January was! It is a real pleasure for me to spend time looking at fantastic learning and watching lots of progress being made. I have scrutinised all the data and I have met with all the teachers to look at the progress that each child has made. Where children have made accelerated progress, I send home a very special 'Praise Postcard' to share the good news with you. Look out for them in the post.

Interim reports will be sent home on Friday 23rd February and Parents' Evening meetings will take place after half term. We look forward to seeing all of you, as this is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and look at their work - appointment letters to follow.

We had suffered from a lot of bugs and viruses this half term and attendance was very low in January - 93.82% The national expectation is now 96.10%. I'm hoping that the half term break will give us all a chance to recover and attendance will improve again.

I am aware that there are a lot of dates in the diary for next half term, but we have tried to keep the charity events as 'awareness' days instead of fundraisers. We will send text reminders for each event.

Have a super month and restful half term.

Susanne Dove
Head Teacher

Mental Health and Wellbeing week - 'Spread a little happiness' day

The 5th - 11th February is Mental Health awareness week. The School Council would like everyone to 'Spread a little happiness' by wearing Mufti on Friday 9th February - wear something that makes you feel happy!



Playground Safety

A reminder - please ensure the safety of all our children, parents and carers by reminding your child **not** to ride their bike or scooter **on the playground before or after school**. Your child must wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter to and from school.

Dates for your Diary

February

- 5th PTA Meeting
- 5th - 11th Mental Health Awareness week
- 6th Safer Internet Day
- 6th Gym Competition KS1 and 2
- 7th Dovery Down visiting Class R for Chinese New Year
- 9th Sign2Sing
- 9th Spread a Little Happiness Day - wear mufti.

March

- 1st World Book Day
- 1st Fairtrade Coffee Morning 9am
- 2nd PTA Pamper Evening

World Thinking Day (Lord Baden Powell Day)

Children are invited to wear their Brownie, Cub, Rainbow or Beaver uniform as we celebrate Lord Baden Powell day on Thursday 22nd February.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fair Trade Fortnight is a national campaign to raise awareness of Fairtrade. As the only Gold Level Fairtrade School in Leighton/Linslade, we know lots about Fairtrade and are always keen to share our learning with others. We will be involved in lots of activities during the 2 weeks and would like to invite you to join us for the Coffee morning on Thursday 1st March @ 9am

Sign to Sing

This year we have again signed up to take part in Sign2Sing which is a fantastic fundraising activity raising money to help vulnerable deaf children in the UK and Uganda. Children have been learning a specially written song with signs and will perform the song to raise money for Sign2sing on Friday 9th February. We will accept donations of £1 on the day. Have a look at the sign2sing website.

Sport Relief

Sport Relief is fast approaching. This year Sport Relief is a week, and is between 17th and 23rd March. On Thursday 22nd March, we plan on holding a 'Run a mile' activity to support this charity. Each child will have the opportunity to go to the field and run or walk or skip a mile for Sport Relief and we ask that your child brings in £1 on that day to support the charity. So children (and staff), get practising!

6th Class 2 trip to Roahl Dahl Museum
 6th Parents Evening
 8th KS1 Athletics Competition
 8th Parents Evening
 9th Mothers' Day Coffee Morning
 14th March NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assembly for children
 22nd Sports Relief Day
 22nd Class 4 Residential meeting for parents 3.30pm
 23rd Class 1 Assembly 9.00am
 27th KS2 Netball Competition
 29th Autism Awareness Silly Sock Day
 29th End of Term

World Book Day
 World Book day is on Thursday 1st March. We would like to invite children to dress up as a book or poetry character and be ready to talk about their favourite character. 'The Book People' book fair will be in school from 28th February until 7th March @ 3.30 in the Library.

Autism Awareness
 It is Autism Awareness Week 26th- 30th and the School Council would like to invite everyone to join in with Silly Sock Day on Thursday 29th March. School uniform and silly socks please.



Reading at Heathwood

We are very proud at Heathwood of the children's reading progress and their love of reading. Your continued input at home makes a real difference and we always really appreciate it. The expectation is that children are read to or heard read at home at least three times per week. We stamp diaries and award House Points for reading at home.

In school we change reading book as per the following:

Class R: 2 new books every Monday and Thursday. School staff read with individual children twice weekly. Guided Group reading with a Teacher once fortnightly.

Class 1: New book every Monday, Wednesday and Friday if the previous one has been read. School staff read with individual children weekly. Guided Group reading with a Teacher once a week.

Class 2: New book every Monday, Wednesday and Friday if the previous one has been read. Guided Group reading with a Teacher once a week.

Class 3: Children are encouraged to change their book as and when they need to. Guided Group reading with a Teacher once a week.

Class 4: Children are expected to change their book as and when they need to. Guided Group reading with a Teacher once a week.

We have made a change to our Group Reading this year. During every week, each group: reads once with the class teacher; carries out a comprehension exercise related to the story with support staff; reads independently; and takes part in a phonic or spelling activity.

Additionally, individual reading with a 'Volunteer' takes place in all classes depending on availability of volunteering adults.

There will be a Reading 'Open Morning' for Parents and Carers on Tuesday 27th February @ 9am. Please join us to hear more about reading at Heathwood and see reading in action in the classes.

CHALLENGE

Hello, here we are again with another set of challenges for the children. So far this month we have one 'three challenge star' ★★ ★ Well done to Amelia in Year One! However, we do have this weekend still to go; will anyone match her and complete all three challenges? Well done also to Kishan in Year Four for completing two of the challenges. The challenges will close on Monday 5th February and will be celebrated with children on Wednesday 7th February. Congratulations to all those children who have, completed January's challenges.

Our research challenge for this month has been submitted by Phoebe in Year Three, so well done to her and we both hope you enjoy finding an answer for this. Please encourage your child/ren to take part in any (or all) of the challenges and don't forget, when they are asking those challenging questions, could they be challenges for the whole school to find out? There are house points to be won for coming up with new and interesting challenges.

This month's challenges are:

- **Make a paper aeroplane which can fly more than 1 metre and hold cargo such as some coins.**
So far, I have managed a paper aeroplane which can carry 2x1p coins and still glide!
- **Design and make a Superhero mask using your own choice of media.**
- **Why is Space called space and why is it black?**

Happy challenging!

Mrs Elaine Dicocco

Language of the Term - French and sign language

We have been learning 'please' - 's'il vous plait' and 'thank you' - 'merci'.

Value of February - Happiness

Words of the month - February,
imagine, important



Our Value in February is HAPPINESS

A feeling of contentment brought about by special people, objects or events

At school as we show happiness in all our exciting activities we will be thinking of the term ahead and consider how we can bring happiness to our families and friends during this time.

We will help our pupils to realise that if everyone at

Heathwood is to experience happiness then every member must play their part. We will emphasise that there are many parts of the world, and indeed parts of our own country, which are not very happy places and we should think of them too.

The most important thing to realise is that true happiness comes from within and that outside influences such as material possessions only provide temporary happiness.

Thought for the month: 'The happiness that you give to others is the happiness that comes back to you.'

At home you can ask yourselves these questions 'What makes you truly happy?' and 'How can we help to make those around us feel happier?' These questions should lead to some interesting family discussions.

WOW!



Let us know how your child has demonstrated this month's Value of
Happiness at home.



Term Dates 2018/19

Please be aware that these may differ from other schools in Leighton Buzzard

Autumn

Wednesday 5th September 2018-Friday 19th October 2018

Monday 29th October 2018-Thursday 20th December 2018

Spring

Friday 4th January 2019-Friday 8th February 2019

Monday 18th February 2019-Friday 5th April 2019

Summer

Wednesday 24th April 2019-Friday 24th May 2019

Monday 3rd June 2019-Friday 19th July 2019

INSET Days

Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September 2018

Thursday 3rd January 2019

Tuesday 23rd April 2019