



# Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

January 18

Welcome back to the Spring Term 2018! I do hope you all had a fabulous Christmas break and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and friends a very Happy New Year ☺

We have a very busy term ahead of us and are looking forward to lots of exciting learning. Stunning Starts to new topics are underway, Curriculum leaflets will be coming home before the end of the week and please check the website for up to date information about your child's class. We will start the new year with a reminder of 'The Heathwood Way', a 'non-negotiable approach' to learning (an 'I can do it' attitude), and a pride in ourselves and our environment; including smartness of school uniform, tidy work books with neat handwriting and an organised, litter free environment. I hope you will join us with encouraging 'The Heathwood Way' at home.

We look forward to sharing this term with you all.

**Susanne Dove**  
Head Teacher

## Term Dates 2017/18

### Spring

Wednesday 3 January 2018 -  
Friday 9 February 2018

Monday 19 February 2018 -  
Thursday 29 March 2018

### Summer

Tuesday 17 April 2018 -  
Friday 25 May 2018

Monday 4 June 2018 -  
Friday 20 July 2018

### INSET Days

Tuesday 2 January 2018  
Monday 16 April 2018  
Friday 6 July 2018

Monday 7 May 2018  
May Day Bank Holiday

Please note: These INSET dates might be different to other schools locally.

## OFSTED

As you know, we had our OFSTED inspection at the end of last term. It was an interesting day starting with the Pantomime and finishing with the Christmas production of Puss in Boots.

The inspector was very impressed with our school and will be writing a full report in due course. I will be sending you her summary as soon as it arrives.

Well done to our children and staff and thank you to you all for your Parentview comments and to those of you who spoke with the inspector on the day.

## Pupil Premium

If you believe that you may be entitled to claim Pupil Premium grant for your child and you do not already do so, or if you are not sure, please contact Central Beds Council to lodge an application.

Tel: 0300 300 8306 or [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

If your family is 'hard pressed' you may be eligible for this grant; the school uses this funding to support your child's learning in a variety of ways, it can also cover some of the cost of trips, school clubs and music lessons. Do please come and speak to Mrs Hiles in the Office.

## Parking

As we begin a New Year, I ask that you consider the need to drive to school, and maybe instead make the most of the opportunity to walk to and from school. Parking can be a problem around the school area and we often receive complaints about inconsiderate parking in Cotefield Drive, Chiltern Gardens and Heath Road which causes difficulty for the residents and is potentially dangerous for you and your children.

### Dates for your Diary

#### January

- 8<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Swimming starts (10 weeks)
- 18<sup>th</sup> 'Fun Food' Lunch day with the teachers
- 26<sup>th</sup> Class 2 Assembly at 9.00am
- 26<sup>th</sup> PTA Pamper and Shopping Evening
- 30<sup>th</sup> KS2 Railway Safety

#### February

- 6<sup>th</sup> Sign to Sing Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Half term
- 21<sup>st</sup> Class 4 trip to Holdenby House
- 22<sup>nd</sup> World Thinking Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mid-Year Reports
- 26<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> March, Fairtrade Fortnight

#### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> World Book Day (Poetry)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class 2 Roald Dahl Museum trip
- 6<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evening
- 8<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evening
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Tea Party at 2.30pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Class 4 Residential meeting for parents
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Class 1 Assembly at 9.00am
- 29<sup>th</sup> End of term

#### April

- 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Class 4 New Barn Residential

### School dinners

School dinners for children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 are **free**, funded by the government (UFSM-Universal Free School Meals). We are very proud of our super school meals (have a look at the menu on the school website). Jill and Rachel work really hard to provide a nutritious and delicious selection of food every day. I would encourage all children to have a free meal at lunchtime instead of bringing a packed lunch. For Classes 3 and 4, School dinners will be £2.00 per day/£10.00 per week/£56 half term.

All dinner money should be sent in a sealed envelope via the class teacher on a Monday morning and cheques made payable to 'Heathwood Lower School'. Alternatively payments for school meals can be paid for online to NatWest account name Heathwood Lower School, sort code 60-02-13 account number 62411632 please reference with your child's name prefixed with SM.

### Railway Safety

On 30<sup>th</sup> January Network Rail are visiting Heathwood to inform Years 3 and 4 about dangers on the railway and how to keep themselves safe. The children will see light hearted and serious presentations and take part in games, a quiz and a poster competition.

### Pre-School News

Welcome to Mrs Anna Hunt who joins Pre-School as a new member of staff. There are currently places available on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. We also have some places available for children starting school in September who would like to extend their hours to full days. Please speak to a member of the Pre-School team.

### Houses of Parliament Trip

On 14<sup>th</sup> December the four different Councils went to the Houses of Parliament. It was exciting because we didn't know what would happen next. It was also an adventure because the underground train was jam-packed with people so we couldn't get on. When we got there we got to sit in the House of Commons and House of Lords and listened to a live debate. We saw Andrew Selous who is our MP. He was planning on building 13,000 more houses in Leighton Buzzard. After that we had our yummy lunch and walked to Buckingham Palace. We nearly got back to Leighton Buzzard on time but the train got delayed so we got picked up from Cheddington Station. It was the best trip ever!

By Oliver and Marcia

# CHALLENGE

Here we are again with another set of challenges for the children. Please encourage your child/ren to take part in these, there is normally a good range and don't forget to remind them to come and share their own ideas for challenges; there are house points to be won if the challenge is taken up! Whilst December was a very busy month, for obvious reasons, some of the children have still found the time and enthusiasm to take up our Christmas challenges so a very well done to them. They will be announced in assembly on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January when they will be able to collect their rewards.



So far we have one person who is a 'three challenge' star ... Well Done to Emma in Year 2. Also a special mention to Gracie-Mae who has completed two of the challenges.

## This month's challenges are:

- **Build a tower to support/hold a tennis ball at least 17cm above the ground.** You can use straws, lolly sticks, paper, card or any recycled materials.
- **Design an active playground for school.** Try thinking about zones (areas for different activities). What activities/games would you like to play at break or lunchtimes?
- **The answer is 25cm; what is the question?** Create your own problem that results in this answer, be as adventurous as you like and show your understanding of mathematical problems. Children in years 3 and 4 should have a two-step problem at least.

Happy challenging!

Mrs Elaine Dicocco

## Language of the Term

This year we are celebrating other languages in assembly and learning to speak a few words. This term we will be learning French and continuing to learn sign language. We will start with Hello - Bonjour, and Thank you - Merci

Value of January - Respect

Words of the month - Wednesday, although, consider, decide.

Our Value for January is

# RESPECT

- A feeling of regard for the qualities and achievements of oneself and others
  - A caring and appreciative attitude towards the world in general

In school we will begin by admiring and enjoying the wonderful learning environment that we are so fortunate to have. We will discuss the importance of respecting and caring for our school and everyone in it. Emphasis will be placed upon the need to think before we speak and treat others as we would wish to be treated. It all starts with self-respect so we will always try to build our pupils' self-esteem and encourage them to look after themselves by getting plenty of sleep, exercise and healthy food as well as taking care of their own property and respecting possessions belonging to others.

Quote for the month: "I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university." — [Albert Einstein](#)



At home you could remind each other of the need to show respect in order to live a calmer, happier life. It would be a good idea to make a family list of all people and things which should be cared for and respected every day, eg. each other, pets, toys, furniture, the garden etc.. Encourage the children to respect their own property by looking after it at home and at school (it helps if it's all named).  
Make sure that toys are put away, pets are fed and responsibilities undertaken willingly.

### WOW!



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

