



# Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

January 19

Welcome back to the Spring Term 2019! 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 and to thank you all for the kind Christmas gifts and cards ☺

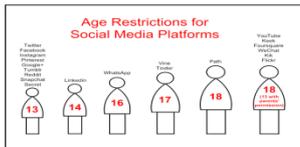
We have a very busy term ahead of us and are looking forward to lots of exciting learning. Stunning Starts to new topics are underway, Curriculum leaflets are on the website, please check for up to date information about your child's class. We will start the new year with a reminder of 'The Heathwood 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

## Online Safety and Gaming

- Is your child on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube?
  - What games or online games are they playing?
  - What are they commenting on? How do you know?



We know that many children are using social media, games and online gaming when 'officially' they are too young. **Please keep in mind .... If an adult tries to groom them via social media or online gaming they could argue that they thought they were talking to another adult.**

**Make sure your child knows what personal information is and that they're [share aware](#).**

What are the risks of online games?

- Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.
- Some players can be abusive towards others or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.
- Children may play with adults they don't know. People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of [grooming](#).
- Some children may find it hard to stop playing games or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.

Finding appropriate games for children can seem confusing. But there are lots of games that have been created for children and families. Looking at games' age ratings can help you to work out what's suitable.

All boxed games for consoles and computers within the UK are given a PEGI ([Pan-European Game Information](#)) rating of age 3, 7, 12, 16, or 18.



These age ratings tell you who the game is suitable for based on the type of content you'll see when playing. Indicators on the game's packaging explain why it's been given its rating. For example, it'll say if the game shows violence, sex, or horror.

Games on app stores also have age ratings. Google Play, Windows Store, Nintendo eShop and Oculus use the PEGI system. But the Apple App Store and Amazon Apps have their own age ratings. Most games distributors will provide information about the game's content so

make sure you read before downloading.

Age ratings are a helpful guide, but each child is different. So it's also useful to think about how mature your child is for their age and the kinds of content they'd feel comfortable with.

Ensure you understand the social media and Games that your child is using. If you don't know your *Roblox* from your *Snapchat* or are getting in a *Twitch* trying to keep on top of the social media networks your child is using, visit the [Net Aware website](#)

### Dates for your Diary

#### January

14<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting 7.00pm

14<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Swimming starts (10 weeks)

15<sup>th</sup> Class 3 British Museum trip

17<sup>th</sup> 'Fun Food' Lunch day with teachers

#### February

1<sup>st</sup> Class 2 Assembly at 9.00am

5<sup>th</sup> Sign to Sing Day

11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Half Term

19<sup>th</sup> Phonics Meetings for Parents  
9.00am and 5.00pm

22<sup>nd</sup> World Thinking Day

25<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March, Fairtrade Fortnight

26<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evening

27<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Holdenby House trip

28<sup>th</sup> Class 2 Roald Dahl Museum trip

28<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evening

29<sup>th</sup> Fairtrade Coffee Morning

#### March

7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day

21<sup>st</sup> Class 4 Residential meeting for parents

22<sup>nd</sup> Class 1 Assembly at 9.00am

29<sup>th</sup> Outside Achievement Assembly

29<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Tea Party 2.30pm

#### April

4<sup>th</sup> Mufti for winning House

5<sup>th</sup> End of term

24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Class 4 New Barn Residential

### Term Dates 2018/19

#### Spring

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019-Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019-Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

#### Summer

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019-Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019-Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

#### INSET Days

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Local Elections: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### 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 Wilkins 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.

### Job Vacancy

We are currently looking for a Casual Early Years Practitioner who is enthusiastic, motivated and reliable, preferably with NVQ level 3 or working towards, to join our fabulous team. We are looking for a knowledge of the EYFS, and an understanding of children's development and needs is desirable. The successful candidate needs to be a positive and conscientious team player. If you are interested, please call in at the office for an application form.

### Pre-School News



Well done to all our children today who returned to Pre-School what a wonderful day we have all had ~ no tears and lots of fun and learning. We discovered some ice in the morning and went out later in the afternoon to see what had happened to it. Despite cold fingers we did have fun!



### Rag Bin

As part of our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, and to raise some money for school, we have introduced a new Rag Bin. The bin is sited on a concrete block behind the school bins to the left of the main school entrance. You can fill the bin with any of the following items: clean wearable clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts and soft toys. Just drop your items in the bin and when it is emptied the school will receive money for the number of kilograms collected.

Once the bin is emptied, the items are sorted into low and high grade. Low grade is used to make industrial cleaning cloths, carpets, underlay and mattress linings, and high grade items are sent to developing nations where the clothes are reused.

Please support the school by filling the bin when you Spring clean!



Hello again and welcome back to another set of challenges which will be introduced to the children on Wednesday. Last month's challenges have not yet been completed, but I do have a three star challenger, so very well done to Amelia in Class 2. ★★ ★ On that note don't forget to remind your child to send in their entries, as the December challenge will end on Wednesday when they receive their certificates and small prizes.

We have had a challenge set by Charlie F in Year 2 so well done to him and he will get his housepoints on Wednesday.

- **Charlie's challenge is a creative one 'To create a dinosaur out of, or on, cardboard'.**
- **Mrs Dicocco's challenge is a literacy based one; Find all the words in the topic word search for each class ~ a good way to get started on your learning.**
- **A construction challenge: Make a slide for a mini figure like Lego or Playmobil. You can use any materials you choose.**

Have a super month and enjoy the challenges!

Mrs Elaine Dicocco

### Language of the Term

This term we will be finding out about China. If you and/or your child knows anything already, please encourage them to share their knowledge with us and don't forget they can earn house points by adding to the language board. Later this month we will be learning the following words:

|                |     |              |
|----------------|-----|--------------|
| Hello          | 你好  | Nǐ hǎo       |
| Good Morning   | 早上好 | Zǎoshang hǎo |
| Good Afternoon | 下午好 | Xiàwǔ hǎo    |

**Value of January - Respect**

**Words of the month -  
continue, complete, length, different, 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.

## Desktops

We are looking to replace the 12 desktop computers in Pre-School, Class R and Class 1. If you have a company or work for a company that can help us, please speak to Mr Waterhouse or someone in the School Office. Thank you.

## Application for Schools

Lower School applications and Middle School transfer

**Deadline Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019**

School admissions for 2019 are now open, and Central Bedfordshire have been publicising the message widely over the last few months, including making parents aware of all open evenings for prospective pupils.

**There is NO automatic transfer** - parents must apply for all school places to their local authority.

If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 and you are interested in a place at Heathwood in September 2019, please call 01525 377096 to make an appointment to visit our school.