



Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

November 17

Welcome back, I hope you all had a restful half term.

We definitely started the half term with a 'BANG' by celebrating Heathwood Lower School's 50th Birthday! All children and staff came to school dressed in gold or something sparkly! We have all planted a golden daffodil bulb near the field and we finished the day for the children with a tea party and balloon release. After school we opened the school for visitors to view some of our archived books and photographs. Have a look at some photos from the day on our website or Facebook page.

It is the time of year to welcome prospective parents to visit Heathwood as they consider which school to choose for their child; it makes me very proud to show them around our wonderful school and I have met lots of impressed visitors.

Attendance has been superb so far and the competition is on to 'win' Heathwood the Attendance Bear - Well done in October to Classes R, 1 and 3 for the greatest weekly attendances.

Have a great month.

Susanne Dove

Phonics Open Morning for Parents and Carers

You are invited to a Phonics Open Morning from 9.00am - 10.00am on Thursday 2nd November. We will begin with a meeting in the Hall, where Mr Dicker will explain how we teach phonics at Heathwood and give you some information about phonics. You will then be invited to visit the classrooms where you will see phonics 'in action'.

Children in Need

This year the theme for Children in Need is 'The Big Spotaclar'. Children are invited to wear as many or as few spotty clothes as they wish, for a £1 donation. The Children in Need Charity have said they will still accept the old, round £1 coins.

Dates for your Diary

November

- 2nd Phonics open morning for parents
- 9th Yr 3/4 Tag Rugby
- 10th Class 4 to Remembrance Service in Leighton Buzzard
- 15th and 16th Parents Evenings
- 16th Yr 3/4 Sports Hall Athletics
- 17th Children in Need - 'Spotaclar'
- 22nd Flu Immunisations Classes R-4
- 24th Class 3 Assembly

December

- 2nd PTA Christmas Fayre
- 6th Class R Dell Farm Nativity Trip
- 8th Class 4 Carol Concert at All Saints
- 12th and 13th Christmas Production
- 13th Pantomime at Heathwood
- 13th Children's Christmas dinner
- 15th Mufti day for winning House
- 15th Outside Achievement Assembly
- 18th Class R Nativity
- 19th Xmas Jumper day
- 19th Last day of Autumn Term

Application for Schools

Lower School applications and Middle school transfer Deadline Monday 15th Jan 2018

School admissions for 2018 are now open, and Central Bedfordshire will be publicising the message widely over the coming 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 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 and you are interested in a place at Heathwood, please call 01525 377096 to make an appointment to visit our school.

Parents Evenings

We are looking forward to seeing you at Parent's evenings are on Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th November from 3.45 - 6.00pm. Appointment times will be coming home this week, please check your child's book bag.

If you have already had an IAP meeting with your child's teacher, there is no need to book a further appointment (please ask the class teacher if you are unsure)

Poppy Appeal

We will be selling poppies again this year to support the Poppy Appeal. These will be on sale at the beginning and end of the day from 2nd November. A donation of 20p - 50p is appropriate.

Class Assembly

Class 3 are hosting their assembly on Friday 24th November at 9.00am to share some of their learning from this term. Parents and Carers of Class 3 children are very welcome to attend.

Playground equipment

The Sports Council have worked hard to select new playground equipment for each class to use at playtimes and lunchtimes. It is lovely to see such a range of games being played by children of all ages. We have encouraged the children to care for their equipment and return it to their class bucket at the end of play ready for next time. If your child finds any equipment on the playground before or after school, please ask them to take it in with them.

Reminder: The playground is busy before and after school with parents, grandparents, young children and buggies; please remind children it is not the time to play with equipment or ride bikes or scooters.

Parking

It has come to my attention that a few parents are parking inconsiderately in Cotefield Drive and Chamberlain Gardens and this is causing difficulty for the residents. We value the relationship we have with all of our neighbours, please be aware of this when you drive to school. The parking on Heath Road is, by some parents, inappropriate and potentially dangerous for you and your children. Please do not double park or leave a vehicle on the zebra crossing or on the corner of a road entrance.

Pupil Premium

If your family is 'hard pressed' you may be eligible for Pupil Premium 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.

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

Run for Fun Competition

On Tuesday 10th October children from KS1 and KS2 took part in the Leighton Linlade Run for Fun. They represented the school brilliantly, with our KS1 girls winning a bronze medal - well done! It was a really enjoyable afternoon. ☺

Flu Vaccinations

The NHS Immunisation and Vaccination team will be in School on Wednesday 22nd November to give Classes R - 4 their flu nasal spray. If you have not already done so, please return the Flu Immunisation Consent form as soon as possible, even if your child will not be having the vaccination.



Well, this month I have been truly amazed by the children's responses to the challenges. There have been some excellent recycled creatures, brilliant research into why leaves fall and some good word searches. I do have to give a special mention to Marcia and Harriet for completing all three challenges and to Kyle, Connor, Maria and Emma for completing two out of three challenges. Well Done!

Another month is here ~ please encourage your child/ren to take part in one, or all, of these Challenges for November. Don't forget, we would also be delighted if your child would like to set a challenge for next month ... please encourage them to come and share their ideas with Mrs Dicocco.

This month's challenges are:

- Why do we sometimes see the moon in the daytime sky?
- Design and make your very own leaf picture (could be a whole scene, a leaf person or leaf creature)
- Make something from Lego using no more than 35 bricks

As usual the challenge is set for a month and entries should be placed on the Challenge display table or in the Challenge Box in the hall by 30th November. Every child who enters into the Challenge will be awarded a certificate and a small prize from Mrs Dicocco during our celebration assemblies.

Many thanks and have fun!

Language of the Term- Russian

This year we are continuing to celebrate other languages in assembly and learning to speak a few words. This term we are learning Russian and sign language. We have learnt
How are you? - Kahk deh-lah?
Happy birthday - S-dnyom rarsh-deen-iyá

Words of the week this month-

Care, caring, remember, remembered, charity, charitable, safe, safety

Value of the Month-Caring

Our Value for November is **CARING**

- Showing genuine concern or interest
 - Having affection or liking for
- To look after and provide for the needs of others

At school we will be thinking about the different ways we can show that we care. We will emphasize the importance of recognising and looking after those in need. We will point out that we should care for our environment as well as our friends, relations, pets and ourselves. This is an opportunity for us to think about caring professionals and there will be an emphasis on their work. As this is the season of Harvest Festivals we should think about our own harvest gifts and how they will help to care for less fortunate people for example children in parts of the world where life is very difficult. Very importantly we must learn to care for ourselves and we will be taking a close look at how we do this.

Thought for the month: 'You need to give care in order to receive care.'

"My guiding principles in life are to be honest, genuine, thoughtful and caring." Prince William

At home you might like to focus on caring for each other and caring for ourselves. It is a good opportunity for stressing the importance of washing hands, cleaning teeth, getting enough sleep etc. It is a good idea to start a weekly diary where your children can log the times they have helped to do chores and shown a caring attitude towards others in the family, this makes a very useful discussion document.



WOW!



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



Smart Raspberry After School Cookery Club comes to Heathwood Lower School

Hello, my name is Melinda Johnston, and I run the Smart Raspberry After School Cookery Club on Wednesday afternoons.

The children have had so much fun since they started the cookery sessions. In the first week, to keep things simple, they made Jammy Biscuits and then they progressed on to making Pizza dough topped with tomato passata, mozzarella and ham. The following week they made a delicious Banana Cheesecake and just before half term, they produced Chicken Couscous.

There is lots of enthusiasm during the classes, where the children are eager to develop new skills. They have already learnt how to use the weighing scales accurately, how to chop vegetables safely, knead pizza dough, as well as understand the importance of keeping clean whilst cooking.

Some of the recipes the children will be making this half term are Italian Breadsticks, Chocolate Brownies and to finish off the year, (which I am particularly excited about) they will be creating their own Christmas Cakes and icing them!

There are still spaces available, if you would like to sign your child up to this half term's sessions. Included in the price of £42.50 for 5 weeks, are all the ingredients, packaging and a laminated recipe card, so that they can try out the recipe again at home.

If you would like to book a place, please go to www.smartraspberry.com. Or if you would like to find out more about the After School Club, please contact me either via email: melindajohnston@smartraspberry.com or by telephone: 07887 576033.

Happy Cooking!