



# Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

November 18

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

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.

It is also the time of year that I look closely at progress in all classes and send home Praise Postcards to children who have made accelerated progress - do look out for them in the post.

Attendance has been superb so far and the competition is on to 'win' Heathwood the Attendance Bear - Well done in October to Classes R and 4 for the greatest weekly attendances.

We are very proud to be at Heathwood and I would urge you all to remind your children of the importance of looking smart in their uniforms please (shirts tucked in, buttons done up, ties tied properly and school socks). A reminder that jewellery must be kept to a minimum (stud earrings only due to safety reasons), no wrist bands or friendship bracelets please.

Have a great month.

**Susanne Dove**

## Pre School News



There was much excitement in Pre-School when we discovered a toad had come to visit in our garden ... we were all very quiet and interested in watching the toad until we had to let him go and return to his home. We have also been lucky to have a visit from Jake's mummy with her new baby Annabelle who came and spent a little while with us. Jake told us about his new baby sister and she was very well behaved. We learnt about what she needs and what she can do ... doesn't sound as much fun as we have! We have had a few new people join us, but we always make the most of new learning opportunities, so if you know of anyone looking for a good pre-school, please recommend us.

### Maths Open Morning for Parents and Carers

You are invited to a Maths Open Morning from 9.00am - 10.00am on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November. We will begin with a meeting in the Hall, where Mrs Wright will explain how we teach maths at Heathwood. You will then be invited to visit the classrooms to see lots of maths going on. PTA invite you to join them for coffee afterwards.

### St Barnabas Church Christmas Tree Festival

From Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, as part of the weekend of activities, Heathwood will be decorating and displaying a Christmas tree at St Barnabas Church, Linslade. Pop along and take a look at the childrens' lovely decorations.

### Dates for your Diary

November

- 1<sup>st</sup> Maths Meeting at 9.00am
- 1<sup>st</sup> Class 2 trip to Stoke Bruerne
- 7<sup>th</sup> Phonics Meeting at 9.00am
- 7<sup>th</sup> Class 3 Parents' Lunch
- 8<sup>th</sup> KS2 Tag Rugby
- 9<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Remembrance Service
- 14<sup>th</sup> Class 2 Parents' Lunch
- 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Parents' evenings
- 15<sup>th</sup> KS2 Sports Hall Athletics
- 16<sup>th</sup> Children in Need - 'Spotacular'
- 19<sup>th</sup> Houses of Parliament visit
- 21<sup>st</sup> Class 1 Parents' Lunch
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Class 3 Assembly
- 28<sup>th</sup> Class R Parents' Lunch

December

- 7<sup>th</sup> Out of School Achievement Assembly
- 7<sup>th</sup> PTA Christmas Fayre 4.00-6.00pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Class R Trip to Dell Farm

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

### Phonics Open Morning for Parents and Carers

You are invited to a Phonics Open Morning from 9.00am - 10.00am on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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'.

PTA invite you to join them for coffee afterwards.

11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Production (Afternoon)  
 12<sup>th</sup> Children's Christmas Dinner  
 13<sup>th</sup> Pantomime visiting Heathwood  
 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Production (Evening)  
 14<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Carol Concert at All Saints  
 18<sup>th</sup> Class R Production  
 19<sup>th</sup> Mufti Day for Winning House  
 20<sup>th</sup> Carol Service at St Leonards Church 2.00pm  
 20<sup>th</sup> Xmas Jumper Day  
 20<sup>th</sup> Last day of Autumn Term  
 January  
 4<sup>th</sup> Children back to School

**Parents Evenings**

Parent's evenings are on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November from 3.45 - 6.00pm.

You will be invited to make a 10 minute appointment with your child's teacher to discuss how well they have settled into their new class. Appointment letters will be coming home shortly, please sign up for as many slots as you can to help us allocate everyone a time. We will notify you of your appointment time by return.

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

**Learning at Home (Classes 1-4)**

Now we have been using Lexia for a couple of years, we are delighted that most of the children are working within the appropriate level. If there are any times when children might need a bit more practice, we will plan for this in school rather than asking you to work with your child on it at home (unless we have particularly set it as an IAP objective that we have discussed with you). Could we please remind you that all children in Classes 1-4 need a pair of headphones (named) in school everyday. Thank you for your ongoing support.

As an alternative to Lexia, do have a look at Flurrish [www.flurrished.com/numberfy.apk](http://www.flurrished.com/numberfy.apk) - a great android App to develop number bond and times tables skills. The whole family can play as guests.

**Poppy Appeal**

We will be selling poppies again this year to support the Poppy Appeal. These will be on sale during morning registration from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November. A donation of 20p - 50p is appropriate.

**Class Assembly**

Class 3 are hosting their assembly on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Cotefield Drive Pathway**

It has been brought to our attention that sometimes the pathway leading to school from Cotefield drive gets covered in moss. This can get damp and slippery, causing a health and safety issue. It is not our land and the council will not let us adopt it, so we would urge you to contact the council and lodge a complaint if you notice an issue with it.

**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**). I would encourage all children to have a free meal at lunchtime instead of bringing a packed lunch. For Years 3 & 4 School dinners will be £2.10 per day /£10.50 per week / £81.90 for this half term.

**Run for Fun Competition**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October children from KS1 and KS2 took part in the Leighton Linlade Run for Fun. They represented the school brilliantly, with our KS2 girls winning a GOLD MEDAL! Well done! It was a really enjoyable afternoon. ☺

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.

**Children in Need**

This year the theme for Children in Need on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November is "The Big Spotacular". Children are invited to wear as many or as few spotty clothes as they wish for a 50p donation. In addition, there will be fun activities that the children can take part in during the day to help raise further money and boost house points at the same time. There will be Spotacular Treasure Hunt, entry fee 10p; the longest milk bottle top challenge requiring small denomination coins up to 10ps (unless you are feeling generous and then you can send what you as a family think is appropriate), and tuck shop will be selling Pudsey Bear Biscuits for 50p. We would also like to make a collage of spotty pictures, so if your children could take photographs of anything spotty from around the house and send them in that would be great.

### Bottle Tops

We would appreciate it if you could all save and send in your plastic tops from milk bottle cartons. All colours are needed (red, blue, green and orange etc.) for the Children in Need Spotacular milk bottle top challenge. There is a collection box in the School Library area. Many thanks.

### 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 Wilkins 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](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



Hello again, here is the news from the October challenges and some new ones for all you challengers. We have some new star challengers.  Well done to Rosie in Year R, Ellie and Amelie in Year 2 who completed all three challenges. Also special mentions for completing two challenges go to Joshua (R), Olivia (2) and Raef and Persephone (3).

My goodness what brilliant ideas some of you had with your board games ... so nice to see, and what a brilliant display we had of 2D and 3D shapes! I am also impressed by the standard of research completed by the children; keep up the good work and I hope you enjoy finding out the answers.

I am very pleased to say that Amelie in Year 4 has set a research challenge for you this month ... so let's get busy finding out some answers! Here are the challenges for you

- **Amelie's challenge; How are pens made?**
- **Sentence challenge: Can you make a sentence from the picture to describe or tell/start the story you imagine. My challenge is to use only 6 to 10 words.**
- **Build a maze; this can be using any materials e.g lego, cardboard inner tubes, straws, bricks etc**



Enjoy and I hope to get more challenges back from more children than before so please get busy! Happy challenging!

Mrs Elaine Dicocco

### An extra challenge - the PTA would like you design a logo for them!

This will be used on their event posters and letters. The logo needs to incorporate the Heathwood 'H' somewhere, but other than that you can be as creative as you like! Entries (named on the back please) need to be handed into the School Office by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The winner will receive a prize from the PTA and see their logo used in all future PTA correspondence. All entries will receive a certificate. The winner will be chosen at the Christmas Fayre on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### Language of the Term-

We are continuing to learn German and I am encouraging the children to share anything they know or find out about Germany for the Languages board in the hall. Well done to Lily in Year 4 who has found out that football is known as Fussball in German.

We will continue to learn more German words including:

Please : **Bitte**

Thank you very much : **Vielen dank**

Yes : **Ja**

No : **Nein**

### Words of the week this month

which, witch, new, knew, won, one, right, write.

### 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.



30 October 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers

There are still some spaces for the Smart Raspberry After School Cookery Club this half term.

We will be making some of the following delicious recipes: Two Cheese Pasta, Ginger Biscuits, Spinach & Ricotta Filo Parcels, Mince Pies, Christmas Cake and decorating their Christmas Cake.

If you would like your child to attend the cookery sessions, please go to [www.smartraspberry.com](http://www.smartraspberry.com) to book a place.

The cookery classes will be running for the next 6 weeks on Mondays. They start at 3.40pm and finish at 4.40pm. The next session will be **Monday, 5 November** and the last session will be **Monday, 10 December**.

The price for the 6 weeks is £45.00

With kind regards

Melinda Johnston  
Area Manager, Smart Raspberry Cookery School, Leighton Buzzard & Dunstable

## Community News



### Leighton Buzzard Christmas Festival

The Leighton Buzzard Christmas Festival runs over three days, usually on the first weekend in December. The High Street becomes home to a wide range of activities and entertainment throughout the weekend. The Festival kicks off on Friday night with the towns Christmas Light switch on and fireworks.

#### **Leighton Buzzard Christmas Festival 2018** **Friday 30th November – Sunday 2nd December**

Our Christmas Festival returns to the High Street & Church Square on Friday 30th November – Sunday 2nd December, with a wide range of activities and entertainment throughout the weekend.

**Friday** kicks off our Christmas Festival in style from 4pm, with our lights switch on at 7pm. There will be over 30 craft and gift stalls as well as the ever popular food court, funfair and firework display.

**Saturday** sees Santa's Grotto alongside the regular Saturday Charter Market, Pop-Up Market and Christmas entertainment throughout the day, this year featuring Grandmas' Secret Santa and a Chocolate-Egg laying Chicken from Norway. Leighton Fun Runners return with their annual Santa Dash from Church Square during the morning and the funfair remains in the High Street until late in the day.

**Sunday** is our traditional family day, with the funfair and an array of street entertainers creating a unique atmosphere which is perfect for getting into the festive spirit. After his debut at the 2017 festival, seasoned entertainer Matt Barnard is back for 2018, bringing his unique sense of humour and calamity to the town with the Comedy Christmas Cavalcade, alongside our over sized and overly excitable bouncing elves (new for 2018).

Further opportunities to browse and seek out that unique gift for a loved one exist throughout the High Street during the day, along with festive favourites.