



Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

October 17

Well, we've only been back a few weeks but the summer holidays seem a distant memory! The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm and have embraced the exciting learning in each class and the range of extra-curricular clubs and activities that we have planned.

It has been a real pleasure to get to know our newest children in Class R, they have settled in really well and we are all very proud of them.

Thank you for your continued effort with school uniform, the children are certainly looking very smart and showing how proud they are to belong to Heathwood Lower School ☺

Attendance has been superb so far and the competition is on to 'win' Heathwood the Attendance Bear - Well done in September to Classes R, 1, 3 and 4 for the greatest weekly attendances.

Congratulations to Rabbit House for the most House Points in September.

Some of you have noticed the new security cameras around the school. They were fitted as part of the Fire Alarm and Intruder system updates which has been a project across many Central Bedfordshire schools this summer. Whilst they are there for security, it is lovely to watch children playing nicely on the playground and working hard in PE. They sometimes even give us a wave!!

Have a great month

Susanne Dove

Celebrate....Celebrate....Celebrate....Celebrate....Celebrate....Celebrate!

We have a very special celebration coming up at the end of this month - Heathwood Lower School will be 50 years old on 30th October! The School Council are very busy organising events for the day which will include dressing up in gold or something sparkly, holding a "street" tea party, and every child planting a daffodil bulb. We will welcome donations of cake on the day!



Dates for your Diary

October

5th Lunch with the teachers
5th Class 4 Local History walk
6th Class 4 PE Singing Fun Day
9th Harvest Assembly - 2.30pm
10th KS1+2 Run 4 Fun
11th KS2 Faith Tour trip
13th Class 4 Assembly 9.00am
16th Class 2 trip to Stoke Bruerne
20th Class 1 Whipsnade Zoo trip
20th Out of School Achievement Assembly
30th Heathwood is 50!

November

2nd Phonics Open Morning
9th KS2 Tag Rugby
15th KS2 MK Dons Sports Festival
15th/16th Parents evenings
16th KS2 Sports Hall Athletics
17th Children in Need - 'Spotacular'
24th Class 3 Assembly

December

1st PTA Christmas Fayre
6th Class R Dell Farm Nativity Trip
8th Class 4 Carol Concert at All Saints
12th and 13th Christmas Production
13th Children's Christmas Dinner
15th Out of School Achievement Assembly
18th Class R Nativity
19th Xmas Jumper Day
19th Last day of Autumn Term

Harvest

Harvest festival is an annual celebration that occurs around the time of the main harvest. In Britain, thanks have been given for successful harvests since pagan times. Harvest festival is traditionally held on the Sunday of, or nearest to, the Harvest Moon.

In British schools, people bring in produce from the garden, the allotment or farm. The food is often distributed among the poor and senior citizens of the local community, or used to raise funds for the church, or charity.

This year we are planning to donate the gifts from our Harvest Festival to the Salvation Army. The charity provides food parcels to vulnerable families in Leighton Buzzard and the surrounding area.

Non-perishable Harvest gifts may be brought into school from Monday 2nd October to add to our collection in the hall, on the stage.

- Rice / Pasta
- Tinned fish / meat
- Baked Beans
 - Soup
- Shower gel / Soap
- Breakfast cereal - variety packs
- Tooth paste / tooth brush
- Long life fruit juice
 - Tinned fruit
- Long life milk
- Pot noodles

You are warmly invited to join us in celebration of our Harvest Assembly which will take place on Monday 9th October at 2.30pm.

School Lunches

It is that time of the year again when we all enjoy sharing lunch with the children. Many of the staff regularly eat a school meal in the dining hall with the children but on 5th October we will all be joining them to have a meal together.

After half term we would like to invite you to join us to have lunch with your child. Look out for the letter in your child's book bag in the week before the lunch (Class 4's letter will come out before half term).

Dates as follows:

Class 4 - Wednesday 1st November
Class 3 - Wednesday 8th November
Class 2 - Wednesday 15th November
Class 1 - Wednesday 22nd November
Class R - Wednesday 29th November

Application for Schools

Lower School applications and Middle school transfer - Deadline is Monday 15 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 2013 and 31st August 2014 and you are interested in a place at Heathwood, please call 01525 377096 to make an appointment to visit our school at your convenience.

<p style="text-align: center;">PTA</p> <p>A very big welcome to our new PTA Committee: Chair: Jen Geary Vice Chair: Rachel Harrington Treasurer: Yulia Lewington Secretary: Tracey Cunningham Newsletter: Anne Marie Turner</p> <p>PTA Facebook page: Clare Earnshaw and Rachel Harrington</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank you' to our PTA Committee from last year for doing a fabulous job☺</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Class Assemblies</p> <p>Class 4 are hosting their assembly on Friday 13th October at 9.00am and Class 3 on Friday 24th November to share some of their learning from this term. Parents and Carers of these children are very welcome to attend. We hold an 'Out of School' Achievement Assembly at the end of each half term. Children are encouraged to bring in certificates and medals etc. that they have been awarded at clubs out of school.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Parents Evenings</p> <p>Parent's evenings are on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th November from 3.45 - 6.00pm.</p> <p>You will be invited to make an 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.</p> <p>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)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Rewards and Celebration</p> <p>At Heathwood we have a House Point system, our 'Houses' are Squirrels, Foxes, Rabbits, and Badgers- your child will know which house they are in. Points are awarded in class, in assembly, at playtimes and lunchtimes. The points are collected and counted weekly by the House Captains and celebrated on Fridays. The House with the most points at the end of each term is awarded a House Mufti day.</p> <p>We continue to award Merit certificates for Active Learning, a pencil to the 'Star Writer' and a mathematical reward to the 'Amazing Mathematician' in each class every other week.</p> <p>On Fridays at 9.00am we hold a Celebration assembly, this is to recognise 'Good Work' and 'Star Writer' or 'Amazing Mathematician'; you will be invited by text if your child is to receive an award. A photograph and super learning is displayed in school each week, do feel free to have a look.</p> <p>And of course, Heathwood the Bear is awarded to the class with the best weekly attendance.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Boy's Football Competition</p> <p>On Thursday 28th September ten Class 3 and 4 boys took part in the Leighton Linlade Boy's Football Tournament and came third in their group! They represented the school brilliantly, winning 1, and drawing 2, out of the 3 group matches. This put them into the playoff matches. It was a really close and enjoyable final match which resulted in a draw and a penalty shoot-out! We are massively proud of their sportsmanship, teamwork and behaviour. ☺</p> <p>Well done to Jack, Lucas, Zac, Kishan, Leo, Joe, George, Daniel W, Isaac and Tommy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Enrichment</p> <p>Every Friday afternoon the children in Classes 1-4 join in with 'Enrichment activities'. Children are grouped in House teams (split into two) and take part in a different activity each week - Heathwood Sewing Bee, Heathwood Crystal Maze, What's in the News?, Campfire's Burning, Together we're a Masterpiece, Great Heathwood Bake off, Heathwood Am-Drams, Mad Scientists (do ask your child what activities they have enjoyed so far). "We are really enjoying the Enrichment afternoons because they are great fun, it's good to work with other children, and learn new exciting skills!"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pupil Premium</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 0300 300 8306 or customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Phonics Open Morning</p> <p>Mr Dicker will be sharing our phonics scheme on Thursday 2nd November and demonstrating the meaning of digraphs and trigraphs. There will be an opportunity to see phonics in action around the school. All welcome.</p>	

CHALLENGE

Marcia has been working hard both in class and out of class and has designed a word search linked to 'Fairtrade', so we have decided that this would lead into a special challenge for this month ... to design a word search which has words related to Heathwood School and would tie in with our 50th Birthday Celebration.

Please encourage your child/ren to take part in one, or all, of these Challenges for October; they are normally fun and boost children's thinking, creativity and investigative skills. We would also be excited if your child would like to set a challenge for the next month ... please come and share ideas with Mrs Dicocco. This month's challenges are:

- Why do leaves fall?
- Make a junk creature no more than 20cm tall/wide
- Make a word search with words that relate to Heathwood School

This challenge is set for a month and entries should be placed on the display or in the Challenge Box on the display in the hall by 30th October. Many thanks and have fun!

School Health - Nits and Worms!

Just to make you aware that we have had reports of head lice and thread worms in school. Please ensure that you check your child if you have any concerns and in the case of thread worms, ensure that children are reminded to wash their hands thoroughly after going to the toilet.

Flu Vaccinations

The NHS Immunisation and Vaccination Team will be coming into school on Wednesday 22nd November to give Classes R - 4 their flu nasal spray. Information from the team will be sent out to parents nearer the time.

Parking

Parking can be a problem around the school area and we have already received complaints from our neighbours in Chiltern Gardens and Cotefield Drive. Please do not park over someone's driveway, near the school crossing, on grass verges or the entrance to a road.

Please remember 'The Star' public house allows parents to use their car park and we would encourage you to make use of this facility if you need to drive.

Term Dates 2017/18

Autumn

Tuesday 5 September 2017 - Friday 20 October 2017
Monday 30 October 2017 - Tuesday 19 December 2017

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 (Please note: these might differ from other schools)

Friday 1 and Monday 4 September 2017,
Tuesday 2 January 2018, Monday 16 April 2018,
Friday 6 July 2018

School Diaries

I have signed all the children's school diaries this week and was thrilled to see so much support for reading at home. Do please remember to sign and comment every time you read with your child at home, working in partnership really does make a difference.

There is a vast amount of information in the diaries, please take some time to look through with your child and sign the relevant pages at the front, I noticed that many of them are still blank. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We presently have a vacancy on the School Governing Body for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in being a Parent Governor, please pop along to the School Office for further information.

<p>Value of the Month-Responsibility</p>	<p>Words of the week this month- beneath, final, finally, before, care, caring.</p>
<p>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 Please - Pozhaluysta Thank You - Spasibo</p>	
<p>School Milk If your child would like to have milk at school in the coming term from 'Cool Milk' please see their website (www.coolmilk.com) for details on how to register.</p>	<p>Jeans for Genes day Thank you for your kind donations, we raised £197 for this charity which helps disorder-specific charities and patient groups to deliver inspiring projects and support services for children affected by a genetic disorder in the UK.</p>

Our Value for October is

RESPONSIBILITY

- The ability to make and act upon appropriate and sensible decisions
 - To recognise the consequences of one's actions
 - To take care of oneself and one's property

In school our pupils are often given jobs to do which they are encouraged to see through and do to the best of their ability. We will consider the importance of looking after ourselves and our possessions. We will stress the need to take responsibility for the way we behave and encourage our pupils to make the right choices.

Responsibility in a global sense will be discussed and consideration given to how we as a school could make the world a better place,

At home during this month you may like to assign your children small jobs which they are responsible for completing eg. keeping a tidy bedroom, setting the table, dusting, feeding pets etc. They could also be responsible for making sure they have everything they need for school each day. All that is needed is praise for a job well done!

"We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future."
George Bernard Shaw

WOW!



Let us know how your child has demonstrated this month's Value of Responsibility

at home.



