



# Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

September 17

## Welcome back!

I hope that you all had a fabulous summer; I can see that the children are refreshed and eager to start the new school year.

I would like to welcome all those children, parents and staff who are new to Heathwood. Starting somewhere new is both exciting and challenging as you learn new routines and make new friendships. We hope you will find our school community friendly and supportive. It is very easy to make assumptions that we all know what happens on a daily basis and at special events. If you are uncertain or have any worries please do not hesitate to ask. We aim to work in partnership with you for the benefit of all our children.

If you see a new family on the playground, please make an effort to make them welcome ☺

We will be reminding children about 'The Heathwood Way' this week, a 'non-negotiable approach' to learning ('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.

Heathwood is an inclusive school that promotes a set of values; we strive to nurture our pupils in order that they may become confident, caring, compassionate children, ready to make a positive contribution to the wider community when they leave our care. We work tirelessly to ensure the school continues to flourish and maintain its welcoming, family feel. I hope that as many of you will get involved in the life of the school as possible, by working together can we make sure your sons and daughters enjoy school and develop the skills and knowledge they need to build successful, happy lives.

**Susanne Dove**

### Dates for your Diary

#### September

- 11<sup>th</sup> Class R Open Afternoon 1:15-3:15
- 12<sup>th</sup> First full day for Class R
- 15<sup>th</sup> Photographs (individual and whole school)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Class 4 trip to Local Quarries
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jeans for Genes day
- 25<sup>th</sup> PTA AGM
- 28<sup>th</sup> KS2 boys football competition

#### October

- 5<sup>th</sup> Lunch with the teachers
- 5<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Local History walk
- 9<sup>th</sup> Harvest Assembly - 2:30
- 10<sup>th</sup> KS1+2 Run 4 Fun
- 11<sup>th</sup> KS2 Faith Tour trip
- 13<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Assembly
- 16<sup>th</sup> Class 2 trip to Stoke Bruerne
- 20<sup>th</sup> Class 1 Whipsnade Zoo trip

#### November

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

#### December

- 1<sup>st</sup> PTA Christmas Fayre

### Daily Routines

The school gates are open in the morning between 8:40 and 9:10, and in the afternoon between 3:15 and 3:45.

Doors will open at 8:55 and close at 9:00. If you are late, please bring your child to the Office where we will mark him/her in and escort them to class. Lateness after 9:05 is unauthorised.

Just a reminder - children are the responsibility of parents until 8:55. For their own safety, please do not let children play on the Trim-Trail or ride scooters or bikes in the playground.

### School Diaries

This year's school diary is coming home today and contains reading records as well as lots of school information all in one place. We expect these diaries to be in school every day and taken home every evening. Please spend time with your child looking through and signing appropriate pages. Please encourage your child to look after their diary, they are costly and we will have to charge £3.50 for any that are lost.

### Medicines

Medicines kept in school must be prescribed by a GP. Inhalers must be provided in the original box with instructions for use. All medicine must be clearly named. A form must be completed at the office if your child is prescribed any medicine that needs to be administered in school.

### Playtime Snack

Children in Classes R, 1 and 2 receive a fresh fruit snack daily as part of the Government's 'Schools Fruit and Vegetables Scheme'. Children in Classes 3 and 4 are allowed to bring a 'healthy snack', e.g. a piece of fruit, vegetable or cheese, for morning break.

Fairtrade Council sell tuck on Fridays at playtime. Tuck costs 50p.

We encourage children to have a water bottle in school every day, water only please.

### Holidays in Term time

Message from Central Bedfordshire..."It is a myth that missing school, even for a short time, is harmless to a child's education. Our evidence shows missing the equivalent of just one week a year from school can mean a child is significantly less likely to achieve good GCSE grades, having a lasting effect on their life chances."

May I remind you that holidays in term time are not authorised, unless in exceptional circumstances. If you do need to apply for time off for your child, please fill in the appropriate form giving us at least 2 weeks notice. Unauthorised absence of more than 10 half days in any 12 weeks will be referred by the Education Welfare Officer for a fixed penalty fine. It is your responsibility to keep a check on how many unauthorised days your child has had off school.

### Rewards and Celebrations

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. We have a mufti day at the end of each term for the House with the most points.

We continue to award Merit certificates for Active Learning, a pencil to the 'Star Writer', a mathematical reward to the 'Amazing Mathematician' in each class every other week, and a challenging puzzle award for the monthly Challenge.

On Fridays at 9:00 we hold a Celebration Assembly, this is to recognise 'Good Work' and 'Star Writer' or 'Amazing Mathematician' and 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.

And of course, Heathwood the Bear is awarded to the class with the best weekly attendance.

### 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/£68 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.

### 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 Uniform

The children returned to school today looking very smart in their new school uniforms. We are proud of our uniform and I expect children to have their top button fastened, shirt tucked in and tie tied correctly at all times.

I know how expensive uniform can be - please make sure it is all named so that we can return any mislaid items to you promptly!! Please also ensure that your child has a full named P.E kit in school every day.

### Parking

Parking can be a problem around the school area and we often receive complaints. 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. Please do not park over someone's driveway, near the school crossing or the entrance to a road.

### 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](http://www.coolmilk.com)) for details on how to register.

### Challenge!

For those new to Heathwood (and to remind those who have not yet taken part in one of our challenges), we aim to set monthly challenges for all children. These are designed to stimulate the children's thinking and develop creative, investigative and research skills. We would be delighted if your child/children would like to set a challenge and they should come and see Mrs Dicocco who will add them in during the year. To start us off this year, the September challenges will be introduced to children on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September and will be:

- Why doesn't the sky fall down?
- Can you design and either draw, sketch or paint a poster to illustrate (and persuade others to visit), the best place you have been during the Summer Holidays?
- Can you make an edible 3D shape? Please put your shape on the Challenge table or bring in a photo.

All entries are put in the Challenge Box in the Hall. Every child who enters into the Challenge will be awarded a Bright Ideas certificate and a small prize from Mrs Dicocco during our monthly Challenge assemblies.

### Harvest

In Britain, 'thanks' have been given for successful harvests since Pagan times. Traditionally, people have brought produce from the garden, the allotment or farm to distribute among the poor and senior citizens of the local community.

At Heathwood we ask for donations of store cupboard food which we donate to support local families in Leighton Buzzard.

Please bring in your Harvest donations from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

We will celebrate Harvest Festival with a Heathwood Harvest Assembly on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 2:30 - you are all welcome.

### 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.

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 come and speak to Mrs Hiles in the Office or contact Central Beds Council to lodge an application.

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

### Language of the Term - Russian and Sign Language

This year we will be continuing to celebrate other languages in assembly and learning to speak a few words. We will start with Hello - Zdravstvuyte or Pri-vet



**Words of the week this month -  
welcome  
usual usually  
between  
protect protection**

### Staffing

Mrs Stanford will be having an operation on 13<sup>th</sup> September and will be off work for up to 12 weeks and I'm sure you would like to join us in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Miss Leah Wright has decided to resume her college studies and therefore will not be with us this year.

### Heathwood Harriers

Heathwood Harriers football club starts this Saturday 9th September. Training is held every Saturday morning during term time between 9:30 and 10:30 for Years 1-4, while Reception children start at 9:30.

Parking is available on the playground and training takes place on the school field.

All children are welcome.

## Our Value for September is **PRIDE**

- A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of one's close associates, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired.

**In school** we will be concentrating on 'The Heathwood Way', taking pride in ourselves, and being especially proud of our learning and our environment. We continue to celebrate great learning and to show and tell each other how proud we are. We will discuss what pride looks like and how it makes us feel.

**Thought for the month:** "Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us."— Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

**At home** you could make a point of talking about pride in each other in your family, particularly telling children why you are so proud of them- 'I'm really proud of the way you waited so patiently', 'I'm proud that you are so kind to your brother' etc.

x 'I'm so proud of you!' x



**WOW!**



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

