



Heathwood Lower School
Leighton Buzzard

Heathwood

Newsletter

December 2024

Our vision for every child is to embed a love for learning, to be passionate about the world around them, to celebrate differences and be kind. Our children will learn important life skills so they leave Heathwood equipped to be successful learners ready for the next steps in their lives.

Diary Dates

December

6th Yr 4 British Museum
10th Preschool Open Classroom
2-3pm
10th Whole School Open
Classrooms, Gift Sale, Coffee and
Mince Pies 2:45 - 3:45 pm
11th Whole School Christmas
Dinner
12th Yr 4 Carols at All Saints
13th Outside Achievement
Assembly
13th Preschool open afternoon
2-3pm
16th Yr 1-4 Christmas Show 2pm
17th Class R Nativity 2.30-3.30pm
18th Yr 1-4 Christmas Show 2pm
19th Preschool invite parents to
Carols & Mince Pies 2.30pm
19th Mufti for Winning House
19th Hot Chocolate with the
Headteacher (by invitation)
20th Carol Service at St Leonards
2-3.30pm
20th Christmas Jumper Day
20th Last day of Autumn Term

January

6th INSET Day for Staff
7th Children back to School



Welcome

Christmas arrived at Heathwood on Friday and we started the festive season with our fantastic Awe and Wonder Day! Every class spent the day using a whole multitude of creative skills as they begin to prepare for Christmas at Heathwood. The glitter, the glue, the tinsel and lots of singing made it a very special day of Christmas activities! The day ended with a whole school assembly, the singing of Christmas songs and with every child in school hanging their own purposefully made decoration on the tree in the hall. It is a very special day as together we celebrate the start of Christmas!

We will be totalling all House Points, Value Stars and Merits for the term on the 16th December. The house with the winning number of points will be invited to wear Mufti on Thursday 19th December and children with the winning number of Value Stars and Merits will receive an invitation to have Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Sleep Show. The children enjoyed working alongside the school Mental Health Team and learning all about the importance of sleep and the impact of sleep. We look forward to seeing lots of you at our upcoming events including Open Classroom and Gift Sale and the Christmas performances. Please check the diary dates for details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term, and wish you all a very safe and festive Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Very best wishes,
Jackie Wright**



Preschool News

Preschool have had a busy month exploring the wonderful world of fairytales. We have built the three little pigs homes, and blown them all down. We have explored the woods and run from the big bad wolf. The children particularly enjoyed The Gingerbread Man.



To kick off our celebrations for christmas the children enjoyed decorating gingerbread men and taking them home, where i am sure they were shared. We will also be teaching the children about Hanukkah.

Reminders: Every Tuesday and Thursday we have our PE lessons, please can children come in appropriate shoes. A lot of children have similar clothes and water bottles please can these be labeled to avoid things going home with the wrong child.



Governors News

Governors were in school on the 13th November and enjoyed a roast dinner lunch and then after lunch performed a learning walk looking at science across the school.

Governors observed some fabulous learning and the children we spoke to were able to explain what they were learning. We looked at science books and we were very impressed with presentation and content.

Throughout the learning walk behaviour was excellent and children were very focussed. I would like to thank the Staff for the opportunity to look around the classrooms and look at the books.

After the learning walk we met with Staff to have an informal conversation about all things Heathwood. We then held our Governing Body meeting, where we discussed curriculum, Health & Safety, Finance and Safeguarding.

Lastly I would like to thank Mrs Wright and all her Staff for all their hard work this term. Also well done to all the children I know you have all worked very hard this term.

The Governors wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !!

Heathwood Giving Tree 2023

KidsOut's Giving Tree initiative invites you to buy a toy for a child in a local refuge home. Many of the recipients are children who have escaped domestic violence, being forced to flee their homes quickly and leave their possessions behind. Without a Giving Tree, these children may not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas.

You can donate by logging on to the link below

<https://www.kidsout.org.uk/shop/>
There you can purchase a toy or gift for a child from £5- £20. Kids out will do the rest



If you would like to donate, simply follow the instructions below:

1. Click into the Kids Out shop
2. Select the toys and dreams you would like to donate and purchase at the checkout. (Please note that the price charged includes some costs for distribution)
3. You will receive confirmation of your order but it will not be delivered to you but instead will be delivered to KidsOut for distribution to a refuge to support a child in great need.
4. You will also be asked if you want to include Gift Aid on your donation.

Open Classrooms

We look forward to welcoming Parents into school on **Tuesday 10th December from 2.45 to 3.45pm.**

As well as having an opportunity to see all the exciting work that your children have completed this term, you will have a chance to stop for a cuppa, and buy their Christmas gift that they have made during Awe and Wonder Day.



The gifts will cost £2.50 each and you can either pay cash on the day or make payment using School Money up until 2.30pm on 10th December.

Council News

The School Council would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated on Children in Need day.

Also a big thank you to everyone who baked or purchased cakes which helped us raise a whopping total of £492.37 for Children in Need.

Here are the School Council in their PJ's showing some of the lovely bakes!



Christmas at Heathwood

Christmas is a very busy time here and we'd like to take this opportunity to outline some of the events that take place for those of you who are new to Heathwood.

Friday 29th was Awe and Wonder Day - This is the day we make decorations and gifts for the Heathwood Christmas Tree and sing carols. The day finishes with all the children bringing a decoration to place on the Christmas tree.



Christmas Post Boxes - Post Boxes for the children to post their Christmas cards in, will arrive in each class this year on Monday 2nd December.

These will be emptied every 2-3 days. Please write the Class, as well as the name, on the envelope to help with delivery. Last collection will be Wednesday 18th December.

Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 11th December. All staff will join their class of children to enjoy a super traditional Christmas Dinner which is prepared and cooked on-site by our lovely kitchen staff. A letter has already been sent out for ordering.

Friday 13th is outside achievement assembly. We celebrate all certificates, trophies and medals that children have achieved over the term. Please make sure all items are brought into school by Wednesday 11th December.

Friday 20th is Christmas Jumper day. For a donation to Save the Children, come to school in a festive top or jumper with your normal school uniform. Please do not buy especially, anything festive will be lovely. Please donate using the link.



<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/cjd240022863>

We end the term with a Carol Service at St Leonards Church on Friday 20th. The whole school will walk to the church for the service at 2pm. All are welcome to join us at the church.



Challenge

Well done everyone. We have had a great year of challenges with lots of great ideas. A huge well done to Melissa and Freya in Year 2 who always do the challenge activities and have sent me some lovely work. Well done both of you.

This month, I want you to get creative again. My first challenge is a word challenge. I want you to think of a word (possibly your favourite word) and then write out this word and illustrate/decorate demonstrating the meaning of the word. For example, if the word is football, you could try and decorate it using footballs for the letter 'o's and the 'f' could be the shape of a footballer kicking the ball. You may like the word penguin and you could try to turn each letter into a different penguin. Be as creative as you can be.

The second challenge this month is a nature research challenge. We are now moving into winter and it is getting colder. In the Arctic/Antarctic, lots of different animals live. I would like you to find out for me though how they keep warm. How do the different animals who live in very cold places keep warm? How do penguins, polar bears and walruses keep warm? What do they have to help them survive in the very cold conditions.

I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

Mr Dicker

Gifts to avoid this Christmas

Please follow the link from the Child accident prevention trust as a guide to safer shopping at this time of year:

<https://capt.org.uk/8-dangerous-gifts-to-avoid-this-christmas/>



Our Value in December is Patience



"Wait your turn." "Wait 'til you're bigger." We often ask children to be patient, but developing this value takes time.

It's hard to wait for things! Many children find it hard to be PATIENT. Patience is the ability to endure a difficult situation without complaining. It means showing self-control and staying calm in the face of frustration or boredom.

When you're patient, you understand that some things are worth waiting for. But patience isn't only passive waiting - it means persevering when things get tough. Adults as well as children often get frustrated if they don't see immediate results. But at any age it's important to wait for the right time to speak or act.

The question we ask when we explore any of our focus values in assembly is, **How will developing this value in my life change my thinking and behaviour?**

Patience is a value which can have a hugely positive effect on ourselves and those around us.



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



St. Leonard's Church
Heath and Reach
Christingle and Crib
Service

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December 2024

3.00pm



www.saintleonardschurch.com

2024 Christmas Services in the Churches

Date	Time	Service
St. Leonard's, Heath and Reach		
Sunday 1 December	11.00am	Toy Service
Sunday 22 December	5.00pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24 December	3.00pm	Christingle and Crib Service
Tuesday 24 December	11.15pm	Midnight Service
Wednesday 25 December	10.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 29 December	11.00am	Joint Villages Service
St. Nicholas's, Hockliffe		
Saturday 21 December	7.00pm	Carol Service
St. Michael's, Eggington		
Wednesday 11 December	7.00pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24 December	3.00pm	Christingle Service
Tuesday 24 December	11:15pm	Lay-led Christmas service