



Heathwood Lower School
Leighton Buzzard

Heathwood Newsletter



February 2025

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

February

4th Gymnastics Competition
6th PTA EGM 6pm
11th Internet Safety Day
14th Yr3 Science Museum Visit
17th - 21st Half Term

March

4th Class 4 Hazard Alley Trip
5th Class 4 Parent Lunch 12.15pm
6th World Book Day
6th Y3 /4 Let's Play Day 2-4pm
12th Class 3 Parent Lunch 12.15pm
13th Y2 Firefighter Visit
14th PTA Mufti Day
19th Class 2 Parent Lunch 12pm
20th Yr 3/4 Netball 2-4pm
21st Mid Year Reports sent home
21st Red Nose Day
21st PTA Spring Disco
25th Preschool open classroom 2-3pm
25th Parents Evening (Virtual)
26th Class 1 Parent Lunch 12pm
27th Preschool open classroom 2-3pm
27th Parents Evening (Virtual)
28th National Skipping Day
28th Mother's Day Tea Party 2pm

April

1st Choir Spring Concert 3-3.30pm
2nd Y3/ 4 Cluster Sports Festival
2nd Class R Parent Lunch 11.45am
3rd All Classes Open Classroom 3-3.45pm
4th Yr4 Bikeability
4th PTA Easter Egg Hunt
4th Outside Achievement Assembly- All medals and certificates in by Wednesday.
4th Last Day of Term



Welcome to the Spring Term!

What a busy month January was, I can not believe we are already into February and just two weeks away from half-term. The time goes by so very quickly!

It has been an absolute pleasure for me to spend time looking at lots of fantastic learning and seeing all of the super progress being made. I have spent time analysing our school data and have met with all the teachers to look at and discuss the progress of each child. In school we continue to recognise and celebrate your child's achievements through our weekly assembly, and the awarding of merits, value stars, house points, Headteacher stickers, postcards home and of course lots of positive praise - all of which I know the children love to receive.

Interim Reports will be sent home on the 21st March and Open Classrooms will be held on Thursday 3rd April @ 3pm so that you can see all the wonderful learning for yourselves. Parents' Evening meetings will then take place towards the end of March. We look forward to meeting you virtually, and to discuss your child's progress - look out for information about signing up coming soon.

Despite having our fair share of bugs and viruses so far this half term, attendance was 96.43 % in January. The National average is currently 93.4%. Well done to everyone for achieving this super attendance percentage!

Have a great February and I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break!
Mrs Wright



Preschool News



The children have been busy over the last few weeks exploring night and day. They have enjoyed learning about nocturnal animals and helped us create some wonderful displays. We would still love to see some pictures of your torch lit walks.



They have also enjoyed learning about Chinese new year and decorating our home area. Preschool challenge: This month as part of our 'Starry night' topic we will be sending home bedtime routine checklists. We will be giving out prizes to the children who return the completed checklist.



We will be sending home activity packs with the children due to start school in September. There will be some maths games to try at home and we will be introducing the characters from our home reading books ahead of us sending the book bags home next term.

Wanted: We would be grateful for donations of spare clothes. Particularly socks, boys pants and trousers. If your child goes home in spare clothes please can you return them, Thank you. We are also missing a white owl from our 'Owl babies' story sack. If it has accidentally gone home with anyone please could you return it.

Reminder: Due to allergies please ensure there is no food left in your child's bag. Pack lunches are kept in the kitchen. There is a number of toys from home been brought in, we cannot guarantee these will not be lost or damaged. Please avoid bringing priceless toys in.

Governors News

The first meeting of the Governors for 2025 is scheduled for February 12th. During this meeting, they will examine the end-of-term data from Autumn and assess the progress and expenditure related to Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funds.

Additionally, Governors will review the results regarding Staff and Pupil wellbeing.

On the management and resources front, they will analyze the budget compared to the forecast and conduct an annual benchmarking review.

Safeguarding and Health & Safety will always be included on the agenda for every meeting.

With so much to accomplish, the Governors are gearing up for a busy Spring Term.

Wishing everyone happy learning!



Council News

Is your New Year's resolution to live in an more environmentally friendly way?

If so there are some top tips at

<https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/blog/the-ultimate-20-step-guide-to-eco-friendly-living/>

Maybe you can compost at home or have a meat free meal each week, like we do in school.

The School Council and Rights Respecting Council held a joint meeting last week to discuss the results of the recently completed Children's Questionnaire. They have looked at the data and will be hosting an assembly with the whole school to look at ways we can improve our school for every child. The focus will be on showing kindness and listening to one another.

Procedures for inclement weather

As we are approaching the time when we have traditionally had some severe weather, we would like to remind you of our procedures.

If there is an extremely heavy snowfall and we have no choice but to close the school, the decision will be made as soon as possible. We do not take the decision to close lightly; however, the roads to the school can become very dangerous and we do have to maintain safe staff:children ratios. We always consult with the Chair of Governors Mrs Paula Bangs, and our Site Agent Mr Simon Clowes, who both live locally, before making that decision.

The presumption is that school is always open (if it is safe to do so) **unless we have alerted you via text or the website. Please note that a message will NOT be sent to let you know the school is open.**

When the weather is very cold, the playground and paths around the school can be dangerously icy. We will, of course, salt the pathways, but may we remind you to walk carefully. If it is safe for us to open on severely snowy days, our procedure is that the Heath Road and Chiltern Gardens gates **ONLY** will be open, Mr Clowes will grit a direct path to the school and children can enter via the front Office or Library doors.

When the weather is bad, we take the children out to play for short periods of time. Therefore, please ensure your child is sent to school with appropriate outdoor clothes, i.e., gloves, hat and warm coat. They also need a change of footwear, preferably snow boots or wellies and warm socks.

What did you do today?

We would like invite parents into school who are interested in sharing insights about their jobs or professions. This would be a valuable addition to our whole school assembly for the children. If you feel comfortable participating, please contact the office. We would love to learn about your experiences beyond the school day

Parent Questionnaires

A link to the Parent Questionnaire will be sent out shortly. We kindly ask that you take a moment to complete it. This is a valuable tool which will help us better understand the needs of all our parents and children at Heathwood Lower School. Thank you.

Reading at Heathwood

We are very proud at Heathwood of the children's reading progress and their love of reading.

Your continued input at home makes a real difference and we always really appreciate it. Please comment and sign your child's diary when you hear them read.

The expectation is that children are read to, or heard read, at home at least three times per week. We stamp diaries and award House Points for reading at home.

In school we change reading books every Monday, as a minimum, for the week ahead.



Safer Internet Day 2025

We will be having a focussed day for Safer Internet use on Tuesday 11th February.

With so many children accessing the internet and playing games online, the safe use of the internet is even more pertinent. Please ensure that if your child is gaming online that they only access age appropriate games. Please click on the link to the NSPCC website for further support and advice.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Please make sure you talk with your child about internet safety, and stop to consider what else they are doing online.

See our Website for more advice.

<https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Online-Safety/>

The NSPCC have also produced information for parents called 'Is Whatsapp Safe For My Child?' Please follow the link for more information.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>



Challenge

Well, we are in February already. Thank you and well done to all of the children who completed one or both of the January challenges. I had some lovely work and ideas again and I loved seeing them.

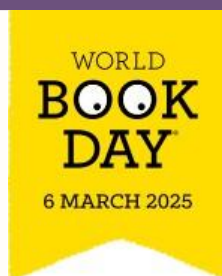
This month, I've got two creative challenges for you. Firstly, I'd like you to have a go at creating your own model of a dinosaur. You are only allowed to use paper or cardboard though. What can you create? What will your dinosaurs look like? Will they be modelled on a real dinosaur or have you created your own?

Secondly, I've got a construction challenge for you. Can you design and then make your own bridge out of paper straws that would be able to hold a toy car? Have a go, see what you can create - would it be able to hold your toy car?

When you have had a go, you can either bring them in to show me or get your grown ups at home to take a picture and send it in to me via the school office email.

Have a creative month,
Paul Dicker

World Book Day



This year World Book Day is on Thursday 6th March.

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day by inviting all of the children and staff to come to school wearing their pyjamas.

Continuing with our focus on children's wellbeing and the importance of good bedtime routines, the theme for the day will be Bedtime Stories. We are asking children and staff to share with their class their favourite bedtime story.

Find out more about World Book day here;
<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Ofsted Parent View



Please let us know your thoughts.

Around this time of the year we usually ask that you complete your parent response to the OFSTED questions on Parent View which can be completed by both parents every school year.

Ofsted Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think of your child's school, including:

- how happy your child is at the school
- how the school manages bullying or challenging behaviour
- if your child has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), they will ask how well the school supports them.

The survey can be completed at any time - you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected - click on the link below

<https://mobile.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



Our Value in February is

HAPPINESS

A feeling of contentment brought about by special people, objects or events

At school, as we show happiness in all our exciting activities, we will be thinking of the term ahead and consider how we can bring happiness to our families and friends during this time. We will help our pupils to realise that if everyone at Heathwood is to experience happiness, then every member must play their part. We will emphasise that there are many parts of the world, and indeed parts of our own country, which are not very happy places and we should think of them too.

The most important thing to realise is that true happiness comes from within and that outside influences, such as material possessions, only provide temporary happiness.

Thought for the month: 'The happiness that you give to others is the happiness that comes back to you.'

At home you can ask yourselves these questions: 'What makes you truly happy?' and 'How can we help to make those around us feel happier?' These questions should lead to some interesting family discussions.



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



ST LEONARD'S AMATEUR PLAYERS
present

**AN EVENING OF
MUSIC AND
LAUGHTER**

An evening of
music and sketches
to suit all tastes
from SLAP
and friends



Saturday 8 February 2025 at 7.30pm

St. Leonard's Church Hall, Heath and Reach

Tickets £7 **Bar Open**
before, during and after the show

BOX OFFICE: 01525 377047

Volunteers:

What do you do on a Saturday morning? We always need helpers so why not come and join us? You need to be 14 or over, not necessarily a good swimmer but confident in the water and enjoy a challenge. It is a popular volunteer choice for Scouts, Guides and Duke of Edinburgh students.



Our volunteer helpers are requested to become club members but weekly attendance is free. On starting, we will provide you with an induction pack outlining the type of assistance required and in some cases our helpers have gone on to be qualified teachers.



The Leighton Buzzard OTTERS was founded in 1993 by Christine Munford. It is a small, friendly club which welcomes members of any age whatever their disability.

Our main aim is to provide a wide range of swimming and other water based activities. With our core of qualified teachers and young helpers, all volunteers, we are able to encourage our members to achieve a variety of skills suited to their individual needs.



The club is affiliated to Swim England and is also able to offer access to their National Award Schemes where suitable.



Contacts:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President: | Christine Munford | 01525 370432 |
| Chair: | Dick Johnson | 07903 015793 |
| Instructor: | Ross King | 07971 049047 |
| Welfare: | Sarah Robbie | 07779 667379 |
| Treasurer: | Abdalla Khan | 07846 373926 |

The Leighton Buzzard Otters meet every Saturday morning through school term time.

For the taller participants (1.2m and above) the main pool sessions start at 09.45 until 10.45. The lesson element commences at 10am and lasts 20 to 30 minutes (time depending on how well engaged the swimmers are).

2 lanes are available for those for the entire session that do not want or need to partake in the lessons. There is also a deep end available when the lesson takes place for those that just want to play and are capable.

Membership is £5 per year for individuals and £20 for family membership. There is also a weekly £3 swimming fee payable for each swimmer. (Carers are exempt from this weekly

Directions:

Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre, Mentmore Road, Leighton Buzzard. LU7 2AF
What 3 Words: /// plausible.vandalism.quilt
Telephone: 01525 375765

It is easily accessible from the Leighton Buzzard Bypass (A4146) and Wing Road (A418)



Our general Saturday mornings include a half-hour group lesson, individual help, work towards certificates and free choice swimming time. We also have term end 'Fun Swims' plus a Christmas and Summer 'Fun Gala' which are always popular.



We are fortunate to have the use of the Variable base pool which not only provides flexible depths but is much warmer than the main pool. We also have access to the main pool from 09:45—10:45 for our more able swimmers. Apart from the purpose built pool we have an excellent range of mobility equipment. This includes a hoist which can be used in either pool. We also have an extensive range of flotation and swimming aids suitable for all ages and disabilities.



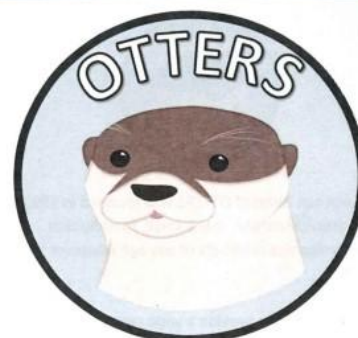
Family Fun:

The 'Otters' is not just a swimming club, we also provide a friendly, social hub where parents, carers, and swimmers can both seek advice from other members and/or discuss matters of mutual interest in a relaxed atmosphere.



At Christmas we have a fun session followed by a party with various entertainments for all the family

Summer term ends with a fun gala followed by a BBQ which is always an enjoyable occasion.



Leighton Buzzard
OTTERS
Swimming Club
for the Disabled



Part of the Yes We Can
Inclusive Sports Program

Rotary
Club of Leighton Linslade



UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

| | |
|---|--|
| Chickenpox | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over |
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting | 48 hours after their last episode |
| Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19. |
| Impetigo | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics |
| Measles | 4 days after the rash first appeared |
| Mumps | 5 days after the swelling started |
| Scabies | they've had their first treatment |
| Scarlet Fever | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics |
| Whooping Cough | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics |

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
| Head lice | Tonsillitis |
| Threadworms | Slapped cheek |



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Your Voice Matters

We want to hear from you. There are lots of ways to get involved.

“Your voice matters”



We invite you to engage with the Children and Young People's Plan for 2025 to 2028. The consultation is running between 18th December and 17th February.

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out a clear plan for providing services for children and young people to make sure they get the help, opportunities, and resources they need to do well. The plan contains 12 wishes, that reflect four main themes that continuously were raised as being important for young people, including safety, the importance of friends and family, having things to do and places to go, and being successful.

The plan was developed following a series of activity between July and September, where the Council engaged with children and young people, parents, carers, and professionals who work with them. Data from existing surveys further informed the plan's priorities.

While led by Central Bedfordshire Council, the plan is a shared vision and was developed in partnership with organisations including the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB), Public Health, Bedfordshire Police, and local voluntary organisations.

To take part visit: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations. The consultation is open from 18 December 2024 and will close on 17 February 2025.

Play Streets: Bring your street to life!

Imagine your children playing safely outside, making memories on your street. Picture neighbours coming together, turning your road into a thriving, connected community.

Why not start a Play Street in your area?

Play Streets are simple, fun and impactful:

- **Fun for kids:** Streets are closed to through traffic for a few hours every other week or month, giving kids the chance to play safely.
- **Community spirit:** Residents can still drive at walking speed, ensuring everyone's convenience.
- **By the community, for the community:** Residents take the lead, and we're here to help every step of the way.



Don't miss out! Be part of the Play Streets movement for 2025.

- Sign up for updates and support.
- Check application deadlines and register your interest now!

Get started today! Scan the QR code or visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/playstreets

Let's make your street a place where everyone can come together and have fun!



#BeGreen

Free Online Education Sessions around the Cyber World

Please note there are two parts to the parent events, and attendees would need to register for each independently.

Parents Event - Pt1 - Introduction to Cyber Choices and Online Risks

This is an opportunity for parents/carers to learn and ask questions regarding their children in the online world.

They will receive an overview of:

- Some of the potential risks that children and young people may experience online.
- Advice to support parents to make informed decisions and keep their children safer online.

This session will also introduce attendees to the Cyber Choices programme and will provide:

- An overview to parents and carers on what cybercrime is.
- What the risks to young people are.
- How the Cyber Choices programme supports at-risk individuals.
- How you can refer a young person into Cyber Choices.

Wednesday 12th March 2025 10:00 - 11:00 - [Link](#)

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 13:00 - 14:00 - [Link](#)

Thursday 15th May 2025 16:00 - 17:00 - [Link](#)

Tuesday 10th June 2025 10:00 - 11:00 - [Link](#)

Wednesday 9th July 2025 19:00 - 20:00 - [Link](#)

Monday 8th September 2025 14:00 - 15:00 - [Link](#)

Thursday 16th October 2025 16:00 - 17:00 - [Link](#)

Tuesday 25th November 2025 10:00 - 11:00 - [Link](#)

Parents Event - Pt2 - Tools and techniques to improve the cyber security of your family

This session is suitable for parents/carers and is an opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding your child's online world.

This session will:

- Provide advice on how to improve personal cyber security.
- Help you to identify and protect your (and your children's) key accounts.
- Identify threats and techniques that cyber criminals may use to target you / your family.
- Highlight the benefits of family accounts.
- Identify parental controls on your router.
- Signposting to useful resources.

Advice and guidance from the session will be in line with the Government's Stop! Think Fraud and the National Cyber Security Centres CyberAware campaign.

Wednesday 19th March 2025 10:00 - 11:00 - [Link](#)

Monday 28th April 2025 13:00 - 14:00 - [Link](#)

Thursday 22nd May 2025 16:00 - 17:00 - [Link](#)

Tuesday 17th June 2025 10:00 - 11:00 - [Link](#)

Wednesday 16th July 2025 19:00 - 20:00 - [Link](#)

Monday 15th September 2025 14:00 - 15:00 - [Link](#)

Thursday 23rd October 2025 16:00 - 17:00 - [Link](#)

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 1 0:00 - 11:00 - [Link](#)



Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

bedsfire.gov.uk

Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR

bedsfirealert.co.uk

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [@bedsfire](#)

Parking

Dear Parents and Guardians

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service would like to remind you to park considerately during school pick up and drop off times. Schools have reported concerns that emergency service vehicle access could be hindered when attending an emergency call. Fire engines require a gap of almost 3m (around 10ft) to get through.

When attending a fire or road collision, every second is precious.



Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Kind Regards

Lauren McEvoy

Community Safety Officer

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Happenings in the Parishes in February 2025

Parish Office Opening Hours

The Office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am to noon.

For further information, please call 07502 320025 or email stleonardheath@gmail.com

| Event | Date | Time | Venue |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Seasonal Lunch | Saturday 1 February | 12.30pm to 2.30pm | St. Leonard's Church Hall |
| Elevenses in the Church | Wednesday 5 February | 11.00am to Noon | St. Michael's Church, Eggington |
| Little Fishes Group | Thursday 6 February | 10.00am to Noon | St. Leonard's Church Hall |
| SLAP Evening | Saturday 8 February | 7.30pm to 10.00pm | St. Leonard's Church Hall |
| Coffee Morning | Thursday 13 February | 10.00am to Noon | St. Leonard's Church Hall |
| Holiday Club Activity Morning | Thursday 20 February | 10.00am to Noon | St. Leonard's Church Hall |
| Men's Breakfast | Saturday 22 February | 8.30am to 10.00am | St. Leonard's Church Hall |
| Tea and Cake Afternoon | Wednesday 26 February | 2.30pm to 4.30pm | St. Leonard's Church Hall |
| Little Fishes Group | Thursday 27 February | 10.00am to Noon | St. Leonard's Church Hall |