

Heathwood

Newsletter

February 2026



Heathwood Lower School
Leighton Buzzard

"Our vision is for every child to develop a love of learning, to be curious about the world around them, and to feel a true sense of belonging. We nurture kindness, encourage children to be courteous and respectful, and celebrate the differences that make each individual unique. Through the development of essential life skills, we prepare our children to be confident, successful learners, ready for the next steps in their lives."

Designated Safeguarding Information

If you have any concerns or worries, speak to one of the following:

Designated Safeguarding Officer is Jackie Wright
Deputy Safeguarding Officers are Paul Dicker and Talia Romaine

Preschool Safeguarding Officer is Tasmin Morrell
Designated Safeguarding Governor is Paul Bangs
Local Authority Designated Officer 0300 300 4825
Local Authority Centre: The Hub 0300 300 8585
Emergency Duty Team: 0300 300 8123

Diary Dates

February

3rd Gymnastics Competition

10th Safer Internet Day

10th Yr 4 Bikeability bookable by link:

<https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/opt-ray-lane>

13th PTA Krispy Kreme's Stall after school

16th - 20th Half Term

25th Yr4 Parent Lunch 12.15pm

28th PTA Lilypots Pottery Painting event
AM & PM (See poster to book)

March

2nd Yr2 Firefighter Visit

4th Yr3 Parent Lunch 12.15pm

4th Mid Year Reports sent home

4th Start of Book Fayre Week

5th Let Girls Play Day 2-4pm

5th World Book Day

6th PTA School Disco

9th Class 3 Trip to Discover Bucks Museum

9th Class R Hearing, Heights & Weights

10th Yr4 Hazard Alley Trip

10th Parents Evening 3.45-6pm

11th Yr2 Parent Lunch 12pm

12th Parents Evening 3.45-6pm

13th Mothers Day Enrichment morning
9-10am

18th Yr1 Parent Lunch 12pm

20th Outside Achievement Assembly

23rd Yr 3/4 Joy of Movement Festival
1-4pm

25th Yr R Parent Lunch 11.45am

25th Yr 3/4 Netball 2-4pm

27th Wear a Hat Day

27th PTA Easter Egg Hunt

27th Last Day of Term

April

13th Inset Day



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 4th March. Parents Evenings will take place on the 10th and 12th March but we will be revising how this will be taking place based upon your feedback to our short survey. More information to follow.

Despite having our fair share of bugs and viruses so far this half term, attendance was 96.11 % in January. The National average is currently 93.36%. Well done to everyone for achieving this super attendance percentage! Let's ensure we continue to have this high attendance level.

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.

As part of our 'Starry night' topic we have sent home bedtime routine checklists. We will be giving out prizes to the children who return the completed checklist. To celebrate the end of our topic we will be having a PJ party. Please look out for the invitations.

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 new phonics program

Reminder: We have limited spare clothes. If your child goes home in spare clothes please can you return them. We need to order the children's lunches by 9:15, if you are running late please call or email, so we can order your child a meal.



Governors News

The first meeting of the Governors for 2026 is scheduled for February 11th. 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 be reviewing and agreeing several policies that are due and ratifying any new policies that have been worked on in the last few weeks.

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.

It has been agreed that during half term an electronic access system is being fitted on the Chiltern Gardens Pedestrian gate.

Wishing everyone happy learning!



Council News

Is your New Year's resolution to live in a 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 will be meeting shortly to discuss the results of the recently completed Children's Questionnaire. They will look 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.

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 Mr Jim Whitaker, 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 to 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

Thank you to those of you who completed the parent questionnaires sent out last month. We value your thoughts and feelings on how our school cares for your child and their surroundings. We will feedback on the responses shortly.

Homework at Heathwood

We set one piece of weekly homework for every child at Heathwood. Whilst this is not compulsory we feel strongly about the importance of homework and how this provides an opportunity for your child to consolidate learning and for you to gain a greater insight into what your child is learning. Please try to make the time to support your child with this whenever possible.

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. Your child will be awarded House Points for reading at home - let's ensure they don't miss out!

Weekly spellings are also sent home for children and we would like you to support and encourage your child to practise them at least three times a week. It really does make all the difference to the cognitive load when a child is writing. Finally, encouraging your child to practise number facts and times tables is invaluable. Numbots and TTRockstars are a fun and enjoyable to secure these facts for instant recall. You can find your child's login details in the school diary.



Safer Internet Day 2026

We will be having a focussed day for Safer Internet use on Tuesday 10th 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.

[How to Ensure Your Children Stay Safe While Playing Online Games | NSPCC](#)

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.

[Heathwood Lower School - Online Safety](#)

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



[Is WhatsApp safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

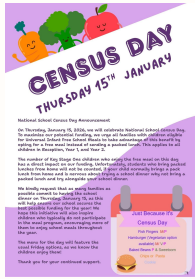
Mother's Day Enrichment

Invitations will be sent out soon for our Mother's Day enrichment morning. We hope you can join your child for this delightful occasion!



Thank You!

Thank you for helping us secure extra funding by having a school dinner on Census Day!



World Book Day



This year World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March.

Once again we will be planning activities for World Book and I will be meeting with the School Council this week to discuss their ideas and share their thoughts.

We will send out more information once the plans have been confirmed.

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

To coincide with World Book Day and the National Year of Reading we will be running a book fayre, starting Wednesday 4th March. This will be held in the library but parents will be able to view and order online if unable to attend. Details to follow.

Parent Lunch

All Parent Lunch dates can now be found on the diary dates. Due to space in the hall we can unfortunately only accommodate one parent per child. Please book your spot by paying on School Money by the deadlines below. We unfortunately we cannot accept any responses after these dates. Letters detailing the menu can be found by following the link to our letters page on the website:

<https://heathwoodlower.com/Letters-to-Parents/>

Please let the office know of any dietary requirements.

Class 4 payment by Monday 9th February
Class 3 payment by Monday 23rd February
Class 2 payment by Monday 2nd March
Class 1 payment by Monday 9th March
Class R payment by Monday 16th March

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.



WOW



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



PTA News

There are lots of exciting dates in the diary.

February 13th PTA Krispy Kreme's Stall after school.

February 28th PTA Lily Pots Pottery Painting event AM & PM (See poster below to book)

March 6th PTA School Disco, look out for further details soon!

March 27th PTA Easter Egg Hunt for the children in school time sponsored by the PTA!



LILY POTS
Mobile Pottery

POTTERY PAINTING

Join us on Saturday 28th February at Heathwood Lower School for children's pottery painting with Lily Pots Mobile Pottery.

Included with your ticket is one piece of pottery to paint, a child's drink and cake.

Family sessions;
12.30-13.30
&
14.30-15.30

£13 PER TICKET

Please arrive promptly to ensure you have enough time to paint

Heathwood Lower School, Heath Road, LU7 3AU

Entry via main gates on Chiltern Gardens

Tickets available online at
<https://heathwoodpta.charityhive.co.uk/tickets/25/childrens-pottery-painting>



ADULTS POTTERY PAINTING

Join us from 6:30pm until 8pm on Saturday 28th February at Heathwood Lower School for drinks, food and pottery painting.

Tickets are £5 and include a drink and nibbles.

Pay on the night for the pottery you paint, pottery prices start from £12.

Please note pottery will be kiln dried and returned to school to collect from the office.



Book your space using the link below

<https://heathwoodpta.charityhive.co.uk/tickets/26/adults-pottery-painting>






**Many parents don't realise
they are Carers too**



**If your child has additional needs,
we offer free support.**

**Get benefits advice, one-to-one
guidance, fun groups and events,
Carers grants and more**

An orange character with a face is shown next to a purple speech bubble. The speech bubble contains the text: "You've helped me so much, I wish I had called you sooner."

**You've helped
me so much,
I wish I had called
you sooner.**



**0300 111 1919
www.carersinbeds.org.uk**

Be the *inspiration*

For **YOU.**

For **THEM.**

For **US.**



Register **YOUR**
interest now.



Bedfordshire
Fire & Rescue Service



St Leonard's Holiday Club

FUN ACTIVITY MORNING

in St Leonard's Church Hall followed by a Picnic

**Bring a packed lunch for children,
cold drinks provided. Hot meal for adults**

Thursday 19th February



10-12noon

Theme: Spring - New Beginnings

Activities for 3-11 year olds

3-6 year olds with accompanying adult



COME AND ENJOY THE FUN

Booking Essential – phone:

Rosemary Young 01525 237345,

or Vera Paul 01525 375095

Happenings in the Parishes in February 2026

Parish Office Opening Hours

The Office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. For further information, please contact: 07502 320025 or stleonardheath@gmail.com

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Elevenes in the church	Wednesday 4 February	11.00am to Noon	St. Michael's, Eggington
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 5 February	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Coffee Morning	Thursday 12 February	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Holiday Club Morning	Thursday 19 February	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
SLAP Evening	Saturday 21 February	7.30pm to 10.00pm	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Children's Service	Sunday 22 February	3.00pm to 4.00pm	St, Nicholas' Church, Hockliffe
Tea and Cake Afternoon	Wednesday 25 February	2.30pm to 4.30pm	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 26 February	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Men's Breakfast	Saturday 28 February	8.30am to 10.00am	St. Leonard's Church Hall