

Heathwood

Newsletter

March 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

March

- 3rd Yr 2 Firefighter Visit
- 4th Yr 3 Parent Lunch 12.15pm
- 4th Mid Year Reports sent home
- 4th Start of Book Fayre Week
- 5th World Book Day
- 6th PTA School Disco (see poster)
- 9th Class R Parents Evening
- 9th Yr 3 Trip to Discover Bucks Museum
- 9th Class R Hearing, Heights & Weights
- 10th Yr 4 Hazard Alley Trip
- 10th Parents Evening 3.45-6pm (all years)
- 11th Yr 2 Parent Lunch 12pm
- 11th Last day of Book Fayre Week
- 12th Let Girls Play Day 2-4pm
- 12th Parents Evening 3.45-6pm (yrs 1-4)
- 13th Mothers Day Enrichment morning 9.15- 10.15am
- 13th PTA 'Pick a Primrose' Mothers Day Gift Shop. (see poster)
- 18th Yr 1 Parent Lunch 12pm
- 20th Outside Achievement Assembly
- 20th PTA Meeting @ The Star 8pm
- 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
- 14th Children back to school

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term!

Spring is almost here and as always it is a very busy time of the school year. I am delighted to see every classroom buzzing with super learning and lots of fantastic progress being made.

We will be sending home your child's Interim Report on Wednesday 4th March and hope you will be as pleased as we are with the progress your child has made. We are looking forward to meeting with you face to face at Parents' Evening during the week commencing 9th March. Please remember, if you have had an IAP meeting you do not need to make a further appointment.

Attendance in February remains really good, so a massive well done to everyone. Current school attendance is 96.08% compared to the National Average which stands at 93.36%. A very big well done to those children who still have 100% attendance.

We are delighted to have purchased a class set of Beebots and some for Preschool and Reception Class, along with some road maps. A massive thank you to the PTA for being successful in the grant application process and enabling us to purchase this resource to support our Computing curriculum.

Spring is definitely on its way! Have a super month!

Jackie Wright

Headteacher

Preschool News



We have had a roarsome start to this half term.

Our topic this half term is 'Dangerous Dinosaurs' This exciting project teaches children about the different animals that roamed Earth millions of years ago and how they are related to animals that live on Earth today. Our sub topic is 'Puddles and Rainbows' This mini project

teaches children about the weather and what happens during spring, allowing them to explore natural phenomena, including rainbows. This also helps support them in exploring colour in the natural world. To introduce the children to this topic we made a volcano together using paper mache. Over the next few weeks we will be experimenting with different explosive substances, in order to establish which make the best eruption.

With the weather getting warmer, we will be having the water play out more. We encourage children to wear wellies whilst playing in the water area. Please feel free to leave a spare pair of wellies at preschool and please pack spare clothes in their bags.

We have started sending out invitations to our spring open classroom, please RSVP. Please label your children's clothes and water bottles to avoid any going missing. Wanted: old ICT equipment eg. calculators, torches, walkie talkies, binoculars and computers/keypads.



Welcome back to school!

Governors News

The Governors hope you enjoyed a wonderful half-term holiday.

During our last meeting on February 11th we reviewed the school data and were delighted to see that children are making significant progress across all areas. We also discussed the wellbeing questionnaire from both staff and parents which was very positive on both counts.

We also discussed and approved the capital cost of electrifying access with the school gates, which is now up and running.

Several policies were ratified and necessary risk assessments from these were carried out. The school meals survey was discussed in depth and the school will inform parents of the results.

The school budget appears robust and the Safeguarding Audit has been completed. Some Governors participated in training on the Inset day in January and our next meeting is scheduled for March.

Happy Learning!

Parents Evening

I would like to thank everyone who responded to my survey regarding parents evenings. Having listened to your feedback and collated the results we are going to be making some changes to parents evenings moving forward.

Autumn Term - 10 Minute online parents evening and a separate Open Classroom session.

Spring Term - 10 minute face to face parents evening followed by an opportunity to visit the classroom and look at your child's learning. Prior to the meetings parents will receive an Interim Report for their child.

Summer Term - Parents will receive a full report and there will be an open classroom session towards the end of term.

Please note the dates for the Spring In Person Event are as follows: Classes 1,2,3 & 4 - Tuesday 10th March and Thursday 12th March, Class R Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th March.

To book you child's face to face parents evening for this Spring Term please use the link : <https://heathwoodlower.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please note: If you child has had an IAP meeting you DO NOT need to book an appointment

Council News



Eco Council

The Eco Council invites you to the **Great British Spring Clean!**

It runs from 13th-29th March and we will be seeing how much litter we can collect!



The Big Walk and Wheel

We will be encouraging walking, scooting or cycling to school from 16th to 27th March as part of The Big Walk and Wheel. This is a great opportunity to get active on the school run.



Outside Achievement

We love to celebrate the achievements your children have made outside of the school curriculum.

We will be holding an assembly on Friday 20th March for all the children where we share with the whole school any achievements that have been made.

This can be a sporting event or competition they have won. We look forward to seeing what they do outside of the school.

Please bring in any certificates, medals etc. named and into school by **Wednesday 18th March** .



Bikes and Scooters

We love that some of our children enjoy riding their bikes or scooters to school. This is a great way to start the day with lots of fresh air and exercise.



However please can we make sure that we do not ride them on school premises. Please get off and walk your bike or scooter as soon as you come on to the school site and park your bike or scooter at one of our racks.

No bikes or scooters are to be ridden in the playground at anytime.

It's everyone's job to help keep the site safe for all.

Thank you



Trips and Visits

Thank you to everyone for supporting the school with the numerous trips and visits which the children participate in throughout the year. Trips and visits are an excellent way to further enhance our curriculum and provide exciting learning experiences.

Prior to any school trip we will advise you of what your child will need for the day, including lunch and clothing requirements. Timings and a brief itinerary for the day will also be provided. Prior to any visit a full risk assessment is carried out and approved by Mrs Wright or Mr Dicker, who are both trained accordingly.

Please can I remind parents/carers that it is the school's responsibility to keep you informed of any changes to the day or the itinerary. Any changes and updates that occur on the day will be reported to you following the correct procedures, this would normally be via a text message. Therefore, I ask that you please refrain from sending any messages to year group chat forums, this will ensure that any information you receive is correct and accurate and avoid any unnecessary concerns or miscommunications.

Please be assured that if there is anything you need to know we will inform you as soon as possible. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Congratulations

Well done to the Kitchen Manager and Kitchen Assistant, Mrs Collins and Mrs Mitchell for the fantastic result from the recent visit from the Food Hygiene & Standards inspection.

"On the basis of the standards found at the inspection, I am pleased to be able to tell you that you have achieved the top rating of '5'."



Penalty Notice Fine Information

Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school
- For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid **within 21 days**
- If **not paid within 21 days**, the fine will increase to **£160 per parent, per child**, payable between the 22nd and 28th day

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented **straight to the Magistrate's Court**

- **Prosecution** can result in **criminal records** and **fines of up to £2,500**
- Cases found **guilty** in a **Magistrates Court** can show on the parent's future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **'failure to safeguard a child's education'**

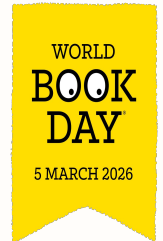
Travelling Book Fayre

The Travelling Books fayre will also be in school from Wednesday 4th March until 10th March. There will be opportunities for the children to browse the fayre during the school day and then come along after school with their adult, between 3:30 - 4pm to purchase their books should they wish to.

There are also opportunities to purchase vouchers and books online. Further details to follow.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. The School Council would like to celebrate World Book Day by inviting all of the children and staff to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.



If the children have their favourite book we would like to invite them to bring it into school to share the blurb and to partake in 'hot seating' activities, where they are asked questions by their peers about the character they are dressed as.

Wear a Hat Day



Wear a Hat Day is taking place on Friday 27th March!

16,000 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour every year - brain tumours are indiscriminate and can affect anyone at any age.

Wear a Hat Day raises vital funds for Brain Tumour Research.

Children are invited to wear a hat and donate using the Just Giving link.

<https://tinyurl.com/28xuvtdn>



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!



Red Nose Day



Comic Relief Day (Red Nose Day) is Friday 20th March and we are asking children to come to school wearing something RED with their school uniform.

This year we will not be selling red noses in school, however you can donate online by following the Just Giving page link:

<https://tinyurl.com/4v2j5y7j>



Our Value in March is Trust

What does trust mean?

If you trust someone you believe that they will do what they said they would do. If you trust in something, you believe it to be true or right.

Trust is really important. It can take a long time to trust someone but it can take only a moment for that trust to be broken. That's why it's important to take very good care of trust.

Who do you trust?

In school we will talk about 'Handy People'; the people who each child knows they can trust and talk to about anything.

In the Bible there are lots of stories about trust. In some of the stories people trust in God; in other stories people break other people's trust.

Joseph was very good at trusting. How did he show trust?

Look at the story of Daniel (Book of Daniel). Who did he trust? What happened to him because he showed trust?

Look at the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19) who was not a very trustworthy person at all at the beginning of his story. How did he change?

Can you think of something which shows that people are really trustworthy?

Let's talk about Trust at home....

Trust is a really important value. It must be earned.

If we do not trust someone it is very hard to build a good friendship with them.

Talk together about:

- people who you know that are trustworthy
- practical ways that we can show others that we are trustworthy
- why it is important to be able to trust others when working together as a team.



WOW

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



PTA News

There are lots of exciting dates in the diary.

2nd March - World Book Day sponsored read launch.

6th March - School disco.

13th March - Pick a Primrose, Mother's Day gift.

20th March - PTA meeting at the Star 8pm.

27th March - PTA Easter egg hunt.



SPRING



DISCO

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

TWO TIME SLOTS
4.30 - 5.30PM AND 6.00 - 7.00PM

£4 ENTRY
PRICE INCLUDES A SNACK AND DRINK

BUY YOUR TICKET VIA CHARITY HIVE

PLEASE NOTE CHILDREN 7 AND UNDER WILL NEED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT FOR THE ENTIRE SESSION.

INVITATION FOR CLASSES
PRESCHOOL - YEAR 4.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CHAT TO ANYONE ON THE PTA OR EMAIL US AT HEATHWOODPTA@GMAIL.COM



The poster features a large, colorful disco ball flower hanging from the top. The background is a light, textured green. There are small logos in the top left and bottom right corners.



*Pick a
Primrose
for
Mother's Day*

£4 a gift

Link to purchase:
<https://heathwoodpta.charityhive.co.uk/tickets/30/pick-a-primrose-mothers-day>

The poster is framed by a border of colorful flowers in shades of pink, yellow, and white. A small PTA logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the floral border.



LEIGHTON BUZZARD MARTIAL ARTS



CLASSES



- All ages 5 - 60+
- Beginners - adv
- Supportive coaching
- Small groups
- Ladies only classes
- Fitness, discipline & confidence
- 1 to 1 Training available



JOIN US


5 DAYS A WEEK FOR

- Effective Striking
- Defence & movement
- Strength & conditioning
- Focus & Awareness
- Padwork, partner & solo training
- Stress management & mental wellbeing

FIRST CLASS FREE
REGISTER NOW!



  Leighton Buzzard martial arts

 Email: leightonmartialarts@gmail.com

 www.leightonbuzzardmartialarts.bmaba.com

Happenings in the Parishes in March 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 March	11.00am to Noon	St. Michael's, Eggington
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 5 March	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
St. Michael's Quiz Evening	Saturday 7 March	7.00pm	Eggington Village Hall
Coffee Morning	Thursday 12 March	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 19 March	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Children's Service	Sunday 22 March	3.00pm to 4.00pm	St, Nicholas' Church, Hockliffe
Tea and Cake Afternoon	Wednesday 25 March	2.30pm to 4.30pm	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 26 March	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall