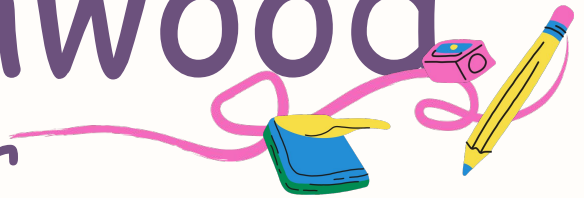




Heathwood Lower School  
Leighton Buzzard

# Heathwood Newsletter



"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."

September 2025

## Welcome



I hope that you have had a super summer break and are ready for a new school year. We have been working hard over the summer to make sure we're ready for you all!

The children have all returned to school looking super smart and I am amazed at how much they have all grown over the summer.

I would like to welcome all the children and parents who are new to our school. Starting somewhere new is both exciting and challenging as you learn new routines and make new friendships. I 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; so please do feel free to ask if you would like to know more. If you are uncertain or have any worries, please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to our lovely ladies in the office. 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 are continuously updating our website so please do make use of it as you will find lots of information about term dates, diary dates, news and class pages which contain lots of detail about what your children will be learning this year.

Heathwood is an inclusive school where 'kindness is important' and 'a strong emphasis is placed on values such as trust, cooperation and responsibility' (OFSTED 2023). As a school we strive to nurture all of our pupils in order that they become confident, caring, compassionate children, ready to make a positive contribution to the whole community when they leave our care. We work hard to ensure the school continues to flourish and maintains its welcoming, family feel. We hope that as many of you as possible will get involved in the life of the school, as by working together we can make sure your children enjoy school and develop the skills and knowledge they need to build successful, happy lives.

I have spoken to the children about remembering 'The Heathwood Way' and Mr Dicker has introduced them to our new Behaviour Curriculum and the expectations of Being Kind, Being Ready and Being Safe. We aim to ensure our children take pride in themselves, the work they produce and our environment; including smartness of school uniform, tidy work books with neat handwriting, and an organised, litter free environment. We hope you will join us in supporting and encouraging 'The Heathwood Way' at home.

We have three **positive school rules** which encompass everything we do:

Be Kind, Be Ready, Be Safe - This is the Heathwood Way.

May I take this opportunity to say a massive thank you for all of the beautiful flowers, chocolates, gifts, cards and kind messages that I received at the end of term. It was extremely thoughtful and generous!

Have a super month of September and I look forward to seeing you all at future events in school.

Jackie Wright  
Headteacher



# Diary Dates

## September

3<sup>rd</sup> School re-opens for Pre-School and Classes 1-4  
5<sup>th</sup> Class R 'Play in the Garden with parents' 2.30-3.30pm  
8<sup>th</sup> Class R in all day  
10<sup>th</sup> Class 1 Trip Higgins Museum  
18<sup>th</sup> School Photographs  
19<sup>th</sup> Jean for Genes Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> Fairtrade Fortnight begins  
24<sup>th</sup> Flu Vaccinations  
25<sup>th</sup> KS2 Football event. Boys AM, Girls PM.  
26<sup>th</sup> Macmillan and Fairtrade coffee afternoon 2pm  
26<sup>th</sup> PTA AGM 7pm at the Star Public House

## October

3<sup>rd</sup> Harvest Assembly 2.45pm  
6<sup>th</sup> Kindness Challenge Week  
9<sup>th</sup> Tag Rugby event (KS2) 1-4pm.  
10<sup>th</sup> PTA Magic Show 3.30-6pm  
17<sup>th</sup> PTA Quiz Night 6pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> KS1 & KS2 Run for Fun 1-4pm  
27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> Half Term

# Preschool News

Welcome to the start of a new school year, we are excited to welcome the children back and look forward to getting to know some new families.

Our topic this half term is 'me and my community.' This project supports children with settling into the new rules and routines of Preschool and encourages them to make new friends and feel confident in their class. It teaches children about being helpful, kind and thoughtful at home and at Preschool. This project also teaches children how they are unique and special, the importance of friendship and how people in their family, school and local community are important and can help them.

As part of our topic, we will be looking at how we change over time and parents are invited to email baby pictures of their children.

We would like all children to email in a photograph of themselves with their immediate family; the children love this and enjoy taking their friends to the display to talk about themselves and their home. I would like to say thank you to all those who have already sent in pictures.

**Reminders:** Tuesday and Thursdays are our PE days, please could children come in appropriate shoes.

**Wheelie Wednesday:** Children are invited to bring in push bikes or scooters and their helmets.

**Introducing Muddy Mondays:** Can parents please bring in wellies, and if you would prefer your child to wear a wetsuit please provide one.

# Daily Routines

School starts at 9.00am and finishes at 3.30pm.

The school gates are open in the morning between 8.55am and 9.00am, and in the afternoon between 3.25pm and 3.35pm. Please remember to let your children walk themselves into school from the school gates rather than bring them on to the school playground.

Of course children in Class R may be accompanied by an adult whilst they settle into school. You can collect your child from the school playground at the end of the day. The class teachers will look out for you and send your child when they are ready.

If you are late, please bring your child to the Office, where we will mark him/her in. Lateness after 9.05am is unauthorised.

Thank you for your support and understanding in managing these daily routines.

## National Emergency Alert test

The UK Government will send a test Emergency Alert to mobile phones across the UK at around 15:00 on 7th September 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-emergency-alert-test-to-be-held-on-7th-september>

## Council News

Elections for our new Council members are being held this week on Friday. Please support your child with writing their speech which will be read anonymously by the class teacher, and voted for by their peers.

Children will receive their wristbands for the council for which they have been elected during assembly next week.

They will be photographed and displayed on our School Council Boards. We will hold termly meetings and organise whole school assemblies and events linked to each of the councils throughout the year.

## Play

Research has shown that play is the most important developmental process in any child's life, and we aim to spend time outside every day in addition to 'playtime' and 'lunchtime'.

Children are waterproof. Lack of outdoor play can be extremely bad for children's health. Outdoor play has recently been linked to improved behaviour and mental health as well as promoting healthy eyesight. We will play outside in all weathers so please ensure your child has suitable clothing for outdoor play, even if they arrive at Preschool / school by car.

We are committed to protecting children from serious harm but we also believe that minor bumps and bruises are an important part of growing up. You only have to think back to your own childhoods to know this is true. We will sometimes play games where the occasional bump and bruise is possible because of the enormous benefits these experiences have on the development and well-being of children. Studies have shown that overprotecting children can harm their development and that experiencing controlled risk through play can better prepare them for real life risk.

We hope you will support us in making play as exciting and fun as possible at a time when many children are not getting sufficient quality play in their lives.

## Medicines

All medicines kept in school must be in date, in their original box and have the child's name on them, this includes Inhalers and Epipens. A form must be completed if your child is prescribed any medicine that needs to be administered in school and consent must be given for any non-prescribed medication such as paracetamol.

Forms can be found on the website or via the Office <https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Forparents/Usefulforms/>

Please refer to our Administering Medication Policy for further information.

# School Diaries

This year's school diary is coming home soon and contains reading records, targets and a record of merits, 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 the appropriate pages at the front of your child's diary.**

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.

## Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is an annual celebration that occurs around the time of the main harvest. In Britain, thanks have been given for successful harvests since pagan times.

Harvest festival is traditionally held on the Sunday of, or nearest to, the Harvest Moon. In British schools, people bring in produce from the garden, the allotment or farm. The food is often distributed among the poor and senior citizens of the local community, or used to raise funds for the church, or charity.

We will be celebrating the Harvest Festival in school on Friday 3rd October and then donating the gifts from our Harvest Festival to the Leighton Linlade Helpers. The charity provides food parcels to vulnerable families in Leighton Buzzard and the surrounding area. Parents are invited to attend the event from 2.45pm. Children from each class will be taking part and presenting a song, poem or prayer.

Non-perishable Harvest gifts (including personal care and cleaning items) may be brought into school any time from now onwards, to add to our collection.

## Playtime Snack

Children in Class R, 1 and 2 will receive a fresh fruit snack daily as part of the Government's 'Schools Fruit and Vegetables Scheme'. As a school, we have decided to extend this scheme and provide a fresh fruit snack for Classes 3 and 4 paid for by us. **Please do not send in any other snack.**

We encourage children to have a water bottle in school every day which can be refilled (water only please - NO squash or juice).

Please remember that we don't allow single use plastic in school.

## School Uniform

The children are all looking very smart in their Heathwood School uniform. May I remind you that we are now in the Autumn Term, so back to shirts and ties please, as per our Uniform Policy. School fleeces can be worn but not as an alternative to school jumpers, instead as an addition in the colder months.

We are proud of our uniform and I expect children to have their top button fastened or velcroed, shirt tucked in and tie correctly tied or fastened at all times. Please ensure that your child is smartly dressed as they leave home. Long hair must be tied back. Earrings must be removed or covered for P.E. (please provide your own tape).

No jewellery, other than a watch, may be worn in school - no smart watches.

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

**P.E kits will be sent home every Half Term.**

## Rewards and Celebration

At Heathwood we have a House Point system, our 'Houses' are Badgers, Foxes, Rabbits and Squirrels. Points are awarded at any time of the day and by all adults in class, in assembly, at playtimes and lunchtimes. The points are collected and counted monthly by the House Captains and celebrated on the last Friday of each month. We have a mufti day at the end of each term for the House with the most points.

Merit certificates are awarded for showing The Heathwood Way!

The two highest attaining Merit earners in each class at the end of each term, are invited to 'Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher'. Merits are awarded in assembly and recorded in your child's diary.

On Fridays at 9:15am we hold a Celebration Assembly, this is to recognise 'Good Work' and 'Star Writer' or 'Amazing Mathematician' or 'Remarkable Reader'. We continue to award a pencil to the 'Star Writer', a mathematical reward to the 'Amazing Mathematician' and a Reading Tag to the 'Remarkable Reader'

in each class over a three week programme.  
'Heathwood the Bear' is awarded in Monday Assemblies to the Class with the best weekly attendance.



Children will earn Values Stars which are collected on their own Star in each class. Stars are counted at the end of each month and The Good Conduct Cup is awarded to the class with the most Values Stars. Whilst we will still have a value of the month children can earn value stars for any of the value stars throughout the year. At the end of Term those children with the highest number of Value Stars will be invited to 'Hot Chocolate with Headteacher' In addition to these children will receive verbal positive praise, stickers and visits to the Headteacher to celebrate their learning.

## Pupil Premium

If your family is 'hard pressed' you may be eligible for a 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, school uniform or music lessons.

If you believe that you may be entitled to claim a 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 Wilkins 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)

## Tuck

The Fairtrade Council sells tuck (a cookie) on Fridays, which will start on Friday 12th September. The cost for the Autumn Term will be £6.50 and is available to pay on School Money. Please make sure payment is received before 1.30pm on a Thursday to ensure your child has their Tuck on the Friday.

## 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.

# School Dinners

School dinners for children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 are **free**, funded by the government (UIFSM-Universal Infant Free School Meals). We are very proud of our super school meals (**have a look at the menu on the school website**), We 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 children in Years 3 & 4 the price for school dinner is **£2.60** per day / **£13.00** per week / **£98.80** for the September/October half term

**Week 1** (Wc 1st, 15th & 29th Sep, 13th Oct)

### Heathwood Autumn Menu

<b>Meat Free Monday</b> Pasta Provencale (Tomato, garlic & Herbs) V Cheese & Tomato Pizza VIP Salad Pasta Fruit & Yoghurt	<b>'Around the World' Tuesday</b> Spaghetti Bolognese M/P Cheesy Pasta V/P Sweetcorn & Peas Angel Delights
<b>Roast Wednesday</b> Roast Gammon M/P Cheese Omelette V/P Carrots & Broccoli Gravy Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes Ice Cream	<b>School Favourites Thursday</b> Meat Pie M/P Cheese Slice V/P Mixed Vegetable Selection New Potatoes or Mashed Potato Crispy Cakes
<b>Just Because it's Friday</b> Fish Fingers M/P Hamburger (Vegetarian option available) M/VIP Baked Beans P & Sweetcorn Chips or Pasta Cookies	<b>Key</b> Meat Option - M    Vegetarian - V Protein - P Carbohydrates - In Orange Vegetables - In Green Dessert - In Blue Jacket Potatoes available Monday, Tuesday & Thursday with beans, tuna & mayo (not on Monday) or cheese.

We will endeavour to cater for all dietary needs

Fruit Salad & Yoghurt available every day.

Payment for school meals are on School Money. This will be updated weekly to record the meals that your child has had. You can make payments weekly or you can add money to your account and check your balance. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

**Week 2** (Wc 8th, 22nd Sep, 6th & 20th Oct)

### Heathwood Autumn Menu

<b>Meat Free Monday</b> Cheese topped tomato & pasta bake V/P Filled Wraps (Tuna mayo or Cheese) V/P Salad Sticks Pasta Brownie	<b>'All Day Brunch' Tuesday</b> Sausage / Vegetarian Sausage, oven cooked tomatoes, beans, hash brown, bread & butter, M/VIP Fruit and Yoghurt
<b>Roast Wednesday</b> Roast Turkey M/P Spanish Omelette V/P Carrots & Broccoli Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes Gravy Ice Cream	<b>School Favourites Thursday</b> Meat Pie M/P Cheese puffs V/P Vegetable Selection Batty Potatoes & Mashed Potato Gravy Blueberry Muffin
<b>Just Because it's Friday</b> Fish Fingers M/P Cheese & Tomato Pizza V/P Sweetcorn Baked Beans P & Spaghetti Hoops, Chips or Pasta Biscuit	<b>Key</b> Meat Option - M    Vegetarian - V Protein - P Carbohydrates - In Orange Vegetables - In Green Dessert - In Blue Jacket Potatoes available Monday, Tuesday & Thursday with beans, tuna & mayo (not on Monday) or cheese.

We will endeavour to cater for all dietary needs

Fruit Salad & Yoghurt available every day.

## Jeans for Genes Day

We are again supporting Jeans for Genes (Friday 19th Sept) which helps us to raise funds to support children affected by genetic disorders.

The CGD Society created this impactful campaign almost 30 years ago. It's about us all coming together to show support and to fundraise which will help 1 in 10 families affected by genetic disorders across the UK.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to spread kindness, understanding, and compassion while joyfully making a difference.

Wear jeans/denim skirt with normal school uniform on top (i.e. jumper/cardi, shirt and tie).

Bring in a £1 donation please or donate via the link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/heathwo-od-j4g?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/heathwo-od-j4g?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

## Homework

Children will continue to bring home weekly homework as detailed in their Homework Learning Log. We hope to continue to use this to build relationships between home and school and supporting parents with understanding a little more about what their child is learning in school. If your child needs support with completing their homework please ask that they speak to their class teacher. House Points and Merits are awarded to children for their effort.

Please follow the link to our Homework Policy:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IPiMxyWkl6y6x-AF1K71f05xniYc1eQxzHHzg8Jj-E/edit>

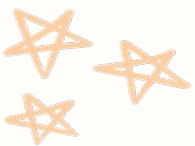
# Our Value in September is PRIDE

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.



# WOW



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

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## Happenings in the Parishes in September 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](mailto:stleonardheath@gmail.com)

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Elevenes in the Church	Wednesday 3 September	11.00am to Noon	St. Michael's Church, Eggington
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 4 September	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Cream Teas	Sunday 7 September	2.00pm to 4.00pm	St. Nicholas's Church, Hockliffe
Coffee Morning	Thursday 11 September	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Licensing of Rev. David MacGeoch	Sunday 14 September	3.00pm	All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 18 September	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Children's Service	Sunday 21 September	3.00pm to 4.00pm	St. Nicholas's Church, Hockliffe
Tea and Cake Afternoon	Wednesday 24 September	2.30pm to 4.30pm	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Little Fishes Group	Thursday 25 September	10.00am to Noon	St. Leonard's Church Hall
Holiday Club Animal Blessing Service	Sunday 28 September	3.00pm to 4.00pm	St. Leonard's Church



We are all part of the PINS Community

# Welcome



## PINS

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools



### Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

PINS is a national project that brings health professionals, educators, and experienced parent carers together to support primary schools.

# GOAL!

### The Goal



To help every child feel included, understood, and supported—especially those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

**Welcome to the PINS Community**

**MORE INFORMATION** >>

For more information please email [PINS@snappcf.org.uk](mailto:PINS@snappcf.org.uk) and see our PINS webpage