



## HELPING EVERYONE SHINE THEIR LIGHT

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful month at Heathlands, with the children quickly settling back into their learning routines.

The spring term is always busy; it's brief, and our curriculum is packed for every year group. I can see that trips, experiences, and opportunities are already in the works.

I was delighted to have some parents attend my recent parent forum, and I want to express my gratitude for sharing your thoughts about the school. I have shared a parent survey that I encourage all parents to fill out. One of my goals is to establish stability in the role of headteacher and to ensure the best outcomes for this incredible school. I am eager to learn about what you believe are the school's strengths, as well as the areas where you see potential for growth. Once I gather the feedback from all stakeholders I will share my long-term vision for the school with everyone.

I am available at the school gate both at the start and end of the day, should you want to say hello. Thank you for your ongoing support and warm welcome.

Mr D. Crawley  
Headteacher

### SPRING TERM KEY DATES

04.02.25 - Y3 Stone Age experience  
13.02.25 - PTA Spring Disco  
14.02.25 - INSET Day

#### HALF-TERM

24.2.25 - Return to school  
25.2.25 - Y6 Mayan Enrichment Workshop  
28.02.25 - Parent Workshop: Maths  
04.03.25 - Parent Consultations  
06.03.25 - Parent Consultations  
06.03.25 - World Book Day  
12.03.25 - Science Event (BT Ipswich)  
15.03.25 - Red Nose Day  
20.03.25 - Parent Forum (morning)  
20.03.25 - Virtual Parent Forum (evening)  
25.03.25 - Y1 Zoo trip  
01.04.25 - Easter Services



### FIRE ALARM - UPDATE

I would like to thank you for the messages of support received yesterday. As stated yesterday closing the school is not something I would do lightly, but we can not compromise the safety of our children.

I am aware of the ongoing issues with the fire alarm, which pre-date my starting at Heathlands. We have been proactive in seeking a solution to the fire alarm and we continue to work with the companies responsible for maintaining the system. I am in the process of seeking a long-term solution to this problem and will update you when there is any meaningful update.

In the meantime, I would like to thank you for your on-going support and understanding

### FIRE ALARM - HOME LEARNING

I was proud of the efforts of our fantastic staff team to rally together and support our children with some excellent home learning tasks.

I would like to make clear that when we provide these tasks there is no expectation that they will be completed - we understand how difficult it is to make last minute plans and we do not intend to add any extra pressure. Providing home learning is something we have to do and hope it is of use to some of you.

# AROUND THE SCHOOL



In science, Year 2 have had lots of fun conducting experiments with ice. The children explored different properties of materials and found out which material made ice cubes melt the quickest.



Year 4 have been undertaking some exciting outdoor learning opportunities



As part of history learning, the children in Year 3 dissected 'Stone Age Poo' to try and learn what people may have eaten back then. They were thoroughly disgusted but secretly loved it. Learning that people were hunter gatherers who ate fruit, veg and seeds as part of their diet!



The recent weather has matched EYFS 'Winter Wonderland' theme perfectly. The children have had lots of ice play, including going 'ice fishing' and making these beautiful ice sculptures with natural resources foraged in our school grounds.

# EXCITING EVENTS



We are running a Times Table Rockstars 'Battle of the Bands' tournament for pupils in Years 2 to 6 until Friday 31st January.

The idea of the competition is for pupils to improve their times table fluency whilst having a bit of fun competing against the other class in their year group. Every correct answer earns a point for their class. It would be fantastic if pupils could log on at home: spending some time each day on the app. If you are unsure of your child's login then please contact their class teacher.

When playing, **GARAGE** mode is the best one for them to access as it has a clever algorithm that works out which times tables they should practise. **STUDIO** mode is also great for children that are confident: challenging them to see what 'rock status' they can reach.

Pupils in Year 1 will be using Numbots- logins will be sent home tomorrow.

If you love Art and Reading, then this is the competition for you!

Miss Wiggins is looking for an exciting design for a painting, that merges a love of reading with a love of art.

#### MUST BE:

- A4 in size
- 2D (so, nothing stuck onto it and sadly, no glitter)
- Creative!

#### COULD BE:

- A representation of your favourite book
- A representation of lots of your favourite books/characters/plots in one
- Colourful
- Black & white
- Have an inspirational quote from a famous author
- Have an inspirational /phrase from a book



Entries must be handed in to Miss Wiggins by Wednesday 12th February at the latest. The winner will be announced on Thursday 13th February.



COLCHESTER  
PREP AND HIGH SCHOOL

Wellesley Road  
Colchester  
CO3 3HD



Year 3 & 4 pupils,  
you're invited to a  
morning of  
**Kitchen Science**

Saturday 8 February  
9.30am - 11.30am  
Registration 9.15am

Uncover the world of science  
through experiments with  
everyday kitchen items!



Please find the **Spelling Bee** words for this term, on your child's Seesaw account.

Your children's teacher will be running heats in their classroom, on the week beginning 17th March. This will determine who will go on to represent their class in a whole school assembly on Thursday 27th March.

Good luck to everyone entering!

# PARENT WORKSHOP

## Multiply Maths



for parents of children 5 to 11 years  
(Key Stages 1 and 2)

Want to support your child with their maths homework and increase your confidence in maths?

Learn how to quickly and easily help your child with their maths homework. Increase your confidence in maths. Lots of tips, activity ideas and resources!

Claim a **£10 celebration voucher** on completion of the course!

**Heathlands Primary School**

**New Church Road, Colchester, CO6 3JF**

The course consists of three sessions:

28th February, 7th & 14th March - 9am to 11am



**Book your FREE place today!** [Click here](#) to book online

Contact the school office or email: [info@tiegr.org](mailto:info@tiegr.org)