



Heathlands Newsletter July 2024

Headteacher - Mr Fielder



Dear Families

The summer holidays are upon us which means that we have come to the end of another school year. This is always a fantastic time to reflect and acknowledge the wonderful achievements of our school and its amazing children. Our school vision is 'Helping Everyone Shine Their Light' and I can honestly say that each and every child at Heathlands has shone brightly over the course of this year, sharing their wonderful skills and talents, as well as striving to improve and learn more each day.

Though it is only one measure of the school's success, we have been inspected by Ofsted this year. They acknowledged the wonderful culture that we have at the school created by talented, passionate and

caring members of staff. You, as parents and carers, spoke glowingly about the school and your support has been so fundamental to the school's success this year. We have achieved our highest Year 6 SATs and Year 1 Phonic Screen results since before the COVID-19 pandemic and I am sure this upward trajectory will continue next year.

This year, more children than ever have also represented the school at a plethora of fantastic sporting, musical, pupil voice and school council events. They have been a credit to you and a credit to the school as, in every instance, adults from other schools and the general public have commented on how our children have shown our core values, particularly respect, and been a pleasure to spend time with. For our year 6 children leaving the school and moving on to new adventures at secondary school, these values will underpin how they act and the decisions they will make. We know they will continue to embody everything it means to be a member of the Heathlands community - they will shine brightly wherever they head next. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Harness, Mrs Day and Mrs Grout for all their hard work and dedication during their time at Heathlands. We wish them good luck in their future endeavours and hope they will come back to visit!

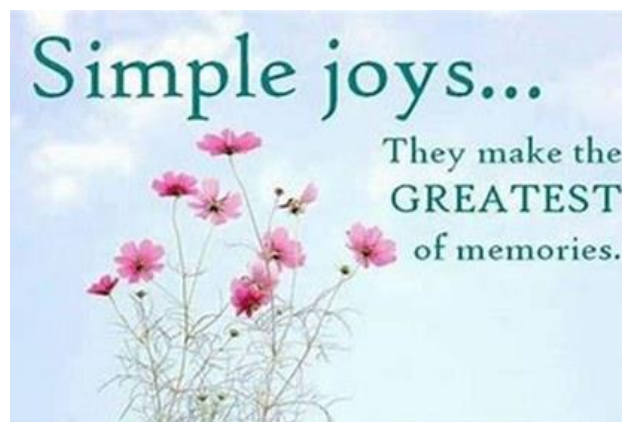
Finally, as this is my last newsletter as Headteacher at Heathlands, I would like to thank every member of the school community for helping me shine my own light during the last three years. It is sometimes a difficult job being a Headteacher and I have learned so much from you as parents, staff and especially the children in my time here at Heathlands: thank you for all the feedback. It is also a special privilege to be trusted with the role of Headteacher and, even though I am sure I have made some mistakes along the way, I have tried to always lead the school in line with our core values, and always in the best interests of the children. I feel truly blessed to have been a part of this special and unique community and I know that the school will go from strength to strength in the future.

Thank you all and I hope you have a wonderful summer,

Joseph Fielder

Headteacher

Core Values: Enjoyment



Heathland's Core Values: Enjoyment

“Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.”- St Marie Teresa

Enjoyment is a quality of being rather than just an emotion and so although it is related to being happy, it is more fundamental and can be sustained when happiness is (hopefully temporarily) diminished.

Enjoyment also comes from participating in God’s ministry in the world and seeing lives being positively changed and relationships enhanced. Enjoyment should mark the life of the our community and all relationships between us as we live and work together . It is important too that joy be a feature of the life of the wider community. Although it will never be the subject of legislation, enjoyment is an essential social value.

Enjoyment is the expression of inner happiness and contentment. At Heathlands, we believe that children and adults achieve most through praise and encouragement. We choose to be positive and encourage children to be content so that they will be a source of joy to others through Values champions, Visible learners and our many enrichment activities.

As we approach the Summer holidays, there is time to enjoy as a family, making memories, exploring new (and old) adventures. We wish you a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you in September.

Take care,

Mrs Cork

Sports Day 2024



Sports Day 2024 was an absolutely amazing event. Thank you to all the family members who came to support their children and also the PTA who gave up their time to sell refreshments. A special thank you must go to Mr Minter for all his work in preparing for this year's event.



EYFS - Sea Creatures and Pirates!



This half term we have been learning about sea creatures and all things sea related! We have also enjoyed our mini theme about pirates too! The children have been busy outside with the community play blocks building a pirate ship and dressing up as ship mates. We will round up the week with a 'Pirate Day' on the Friday.





Year 1 - Fruit and Veg!!!



In Year 1, we have been learning about fruits and vegetables. We have learnt how to identify if it is a fruit or vegetable and how to safely cut and juice them. Before the end of the year, we will have tasted some different fruits and then created our own smoothies to enjoy!





Year 2 - Jimmy's Farm Science Visit



Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic, sunny day at Jimmy's Farm in the Summer Term! They explored a variety of animals and learnt about mini beasts and their habitats as part of their Science topic. Well done for being wonderful ambassadors for the school and showing our core values, particularly enjoyment on the trip.

Year 3 - Prayer Space



Reverend Heather and Mrs Dixon joined our Year 3 and Year 4 children at our prayer space day, focusing on the theme of transition. The children took part in a range of thought provoking and inspiring activities to reflect upon the year and help focus on the positives of the year to come.

"It helped me feel excited about going into Year 4." Ellie



Year 4 - Mersea



In June, Year 4 visited Mersea Outdoor Centre for a fantastic day of activities. We worked together to build and ride Kit-Karts, challenged ourselves to climb up the climbing wall, plucked up the courage to zoom down the zipwire and pushed, pulled, crawled and crab-walked through the adventure course! We had a brilliant day and made many happy memories.

Year 5 - Sutton Hoo Trip



On Wednesday 12th June, all of Year 5 visited Sutton Hoo (in Suffolk) to enhance their learning about the contributions that the Anglo-Saxons made as part of their theme for this final term of Year 5 (Journeys). The day offered so many exciting opportunities such as viewing an array of Anglo-Saxon artefacts in the Exhibition Hall, to watching real archeologists undertaking an actual archeological dig ! Many of the children were fascinated to actually visit the royal burial mounds were huge: in fact a whole ship was even buried in one.



Year 6 - Geography Field Work



In Geography lessons this term, year 6 have been making the most of the sunshine for our fieldwork sessions. We have looked at drawing sketch maps, completed a local traffic survey and displayed and discussed our findings. We have all come to the conclusion that we would love some cycle paths to be created so that the children can safely cycle around the village.

Aladdin Trouble - Year 6 Production



Pupils in years 5 and 6 put on four incredible shows of 'Aladdin Trouble'. The year sixes worked so hard to learn their lines, dance routines and songs- showing tremendous courage and talent. They were backed-up superbly by the year 5 choir who are already looking forward to taking a lead in the acting next year!











Year 6 Retreat



The Year 6 retreat is organised by Rev. Heather and is a fantastic way for our pupils to have time to reflect about their time at primary school as well as have the opportunity to think about their transition to year 7- all whilst having a lot of fun! They have taken part in: And they even got the chance to go swimming in an outdoor pool! A big thank you to Rev. Heather and all the volunteers that helped to put on such a fantastic two days!



Heathlands Governors



Dear Parents and Carers,

Achievements

As the summer term comes to an end, we would like to take the chance to share some of the amazing achievements we have had the pleasure of witnessing as Governors. Enjoyment is one of our core values

and plays a significant part in engaging children in their learning. As a school, we have achieved our aim to improve both curriculum enjoyment and outcomes across all subject areas over the course of the year. We also aimed to get our children to be more physically active, which was embraced by the children with both hands (and black trainers!) and has been a resounding success. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who have taken time out of their diaries to support children with their reading and other activities in school. Thank you also for all you do at home to support your children's learning – it really does make all the difference.

We cannot write without acknowledging the great Ofsted inspection outcome; it is a testament to the hard work that goes in by all staff every day and something which we are very proud of. This success was reflected in the incredible SATs results the children achieved also.

Headteacher recruitment

We are pleased to share that the second recruitment campaign for our new Headteacher is underway, with interviews due to take place in September – we will be sure to provide an update on the outcome in the autumn term. We would like to wish Mr. Fielder all the very best at his new school and thank him for all he has done to lead our school during his time with us.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update and we wish you all a lovely summer.

Best wishes,

Heathlands Governors

Marvellous Music at Heathlands



News from the Music Department

Yet again we have had another busy term. The school orchestra has been working hard on a new repertoire and we have established a real unit of players.

The choir started the term with no performances but then were invited to sing at The Stanway School in The Big Sing event in which they sang with children from Stanway Fiveways, Mersea Island School and some Y7s from The Stanway School. We were the biggest choir there and, in addition to the group songs, sang one of our own. Thanks to both Mrs Hartley who was with the choir for the full event, and Mrs Skinner for joining us in the evening and helped Mrs Hartley hold the fort when Mrs White was asked to conduct the whole event.

Our next performance was at the very rainy opening of the West Bergholt Village Fayre. Despite the dreadful conditions, the choir sang really well, aided and abetted by Mrs Hartley and Mrs White. What an intrepid lot!

Finally, at the time of writing we are due to sing at Heathlands Summer Fayre where, in addition to the repertoire we have performed, we will be adding some more pieces.

A huge thank you to all those who have sung with, and supported, the choir in its endeavours this year. We already have 2 bookings for next term!

Huge thanks to Mrs Hartley, who has helped with choir over the whole year, and to Mr. Turver for allowing us use of his room to practise.

Mrs White

Super Sport at Heathlands



This year has proven to be a great success for Heathlands in PE and Sport. We have had more children than ever attending clubs at school, and more children than ever represent the school at festivals, fixtures and competitions. It has been fantastic to see so many children enjoy the opportunities they have been given, showing our school values and representing the school with pride. We have also enjoyed great success competitively, often finishing in the top three across a broad range of sports, this year winning netball, archery, ten pin bowling, cross country, football, sportshall athletics, cricket and athletics competitions.





Eco-Council and Parish Council Project: Bee Squared



As our final term comes to an end, I would like to thank all members of the Eco Council this year. They are a passionate group and have demonstrated such commitment to all things eco. Just this week, we were fortunate enough to take part in an Eco morning organised by another Colchester primary school. Here, we were able to celebrate each school's eco achievements but also take part in some exciting activities, including, making a wormery, pond-dipping, tie-dyeing and making eco pledges for the future. We are proud of our 'Save the Bees' wildflower project, which we carried out in partnership with WBPC and of course you will have seen our stall at the Summer Fayre where we recycled cans, glass and plastic, as well as did some litter picking too. Thank you if you paid us a visit!







BEE SQUARED

IN WEST BERGHOLT

During Spring 2024 the children at Heathlands Primary School will get a packet of wildflower seeds free of charge to make a "Bee Square".

Plant your wildflower seeds in your front garden either in the ground or in a pot, then let us know you are joining in by displaying our BEE SQUARED logo (back of leaflet) in your window.

QR Code

Visit our website page to join our interactive village map



Public Speaking Competition



On Tuesday 18th June, James, Pippa and Henry, in Year 5, were lucky enough to represent Heathlands as members of our Public Speaking Team. They represented our school at the Youth Speaks Public Speaking competition hosted at the prestigious Town Hall. Pippa, Henry and James competed against another thirteen schools and spoke eloquently about the benefits of, 'No Mow May'. Whilst awaiting the judges' decision, they were even lucky enough to meet Mayor Lesley Scott-Boutell and were invited into her private Mayor's Chambers to view an array of historical artefacts before waving to the crowds below from the mayor's private balcony located right above Colchester High Street. Well done to the team, you may not have won but we're extremely proud of you all.

Heathlands PTA Update



This half term our amazing PTA team have been really busy raising money to support our school and provide wonderful resources for our children. These have included:

- Headteacher for the day raffle - raised £417
- Uniform Sales - raised over £300
- Bounce Into Summer - over £3,500 raised!!!

The PTA do an absolutely fabulous job and we are incredibly grateful for all their hard work. If you are interested in helping to organise one of the PTA events next year or would like to help in any way then please contact them at:

chair.heathlandspta@gmail.com





Key Dates and Information for Autumn Term 2024



Please find below some key dates for the start of the new academic year. A more comprehensive list will be sent out in September before the start of the school year.

- **Wednesday 4th September - *First day of term for children (Year 1-6)***
- **Monday 9th September - *Meet the Teacher 3:30-4:30pm***

This is a change from previous years - we will open *all YEAR 1 to 6 (not EYFS)* classrooms from 3.30-4.30 for parents to come and meet the class teachers. Year 6 will run a session from 3.30-4.00 to run through the PGL residential trip. We will send out a 'Meet the Teacher' PowerPoint for each year group in advance of this session, the session can then be used to meet your child's new teacher and ask any questions you may have.

Catering Update

We have listened carefully to the feedback received from the children and their families and hopefully you have seen positive changes in the way children talk about their school dinners. Gareth, our Catering Manager has worked tirelessly to implement new ideas and ensure all the meals are well balanced, adhere to school food standards and where possible, ensures all meat and produce is locally sourced. We are always open to receiving feedback and if there is anything that your child would like to see included on a future menu, please do let Gareth know by sending him an e-mail to the admin address and he will always consider it if possible.

A really popular change has been the introduction of offering the children a choice of main meal or a jacket potato option. This has been very well received. Due to this change, we have taken the decision to remove termly ordering of school dinners as the ordering process is not working as intended for those on termly orders. This change will mean that all school meals for the following week must be pre-ordered by 9am on the Wednesday before. These ordered dinners will be charged for by the Friday of that same week so that dinners are paid for in advance. This is a big change for the school so our systems of how this will work are just being ironed out and further communication will follow in early September with further communication around this change.

We hope all our families have a fantastic summer and if any children are starting to learn to cook dishes over the summer, we can not wait to hear about them!

Medical Tracker

We are very excited to share with families that the way we communicate first aid incidents is changing from September. Instead of a paper slip being sent home, any medical incident will be recorded on a system called Medical Tracker which will automatically alert the relevant contacts for each child of the incident. When you receive an alert, there is no need to contact the school as the office will ensure that any parent is contacted in addition to the automated alert where needed. For any injuries relating to a bump to the head, a telephone call home will always still be made. We are looking forward to sharing this system and its functionality with our school community.

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Visit us on the web at www.heathlands.essex.sch.uk.

You can also find us on Twitter using @HeathlandsCEPri