



Heathlands C of E Primary School

New Church Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, CO6 3JF

☎ 01206 240288 ✉ admin@heathlands.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Darryl Crawley FCCT

Dear families,

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer and are feeling ready for the start of another exciting school year. Over the past two days, staff have been busy preparing classrooms and planning an engaging Autumn Term, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back tomorrow.

This letter includes some key information and reminders to help with a smooth start. If you have any questions, please check our school website, speak to your class teacher at the gate, or contact the school office. The updated Parent Guide will be available in the coming weeks.

School Dinners – increase in cost

At our most recent Governors' meeting, it was agreed that, due to rising operational costs, the price of school dinners will increase from £2.50 to **£2.70 per meal**. We appreciate that any increase can be challenging and have worked hard to keep this change as small as possible.

If you have any questions about the new price, or would like to discuss any support that may be available, please contact the school office.

This new price will take effect from **Monday 8th September 2025**.

Rewards – new system

We are making a change to the way children are rewarded at Heathlands. Instead of awarding house points and selecting two children per class to receive a certificate during Friday's collective worship, we will now celebrate pupils in a more immediate and personalised way.

Any child who goes above and beyond in demonstrating our Core Values, embracing our Visible Learning ethos, or consistently making the right choices can be awarded a **Celebration Certificate** by any adult in school, at any time. These certificates will be displayed in classrooms and sent home at the end of each week.

We believe this new approach will be fairer and ensure that more children are recognised more often for their hard work, commitment to our values, and exceptional efforts.

Helping Everyone Shine Their Light





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School Start & Finish Times

- Gates open: **8:45am** and close promptly at **8:55am**.
- Registration: **9:00am**.
- If arriving after the gates close, please come to the main office where a family member will sign your child in via our Inventory system.
- Home time: **3:15pm**. Children will be dismissed from the front of school by a member of staff.

We will be reissuing data collection forms shortly. Only adults named on your child's record will be allowed to collect them unless we have confirmed otherwise by phone.

Attendance

Absences must be reported **before 9:20am** on each day of absence, either via the absence line or by speaking to the office. Please ensure children return to school as soon as possible and provide medical evidence if requested.

Please note: Schools must consider a Penalty Notice when there are **10 unauthorised sessions** (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10-week period. The fine is up to £160 per pupil, per parent (£80 if paid within 21 days).

Hall Roof

We are delighted to share that extensive works to repair the hall roof have been completed over the summer, meaning the hall is now fully back in use. We have been assured that the remaining scaffolding will be removed over the upcoming weekend.

Uniform

We strongly encourage full school uniform, including plain black shoes/trainers. All items should be clearly named. Jewellery should not be worn, except for small stud earrings (one piercing only).

New for this year: we now have one consistent PE kit for all pupils – please see our website uniform page for full details.

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PE

Teachers will share PE days on Class Dojo. On these days, children should arrive in their PE kit.

Class Dojo

Thank you for your positive feedback on Class Dojo – we will continue to use it for communication. Teachers will check and reply to messages between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm only. However, as teachers are teaching during the day they may not see messages immediately. Please can I remind that you that absences, changes to going home arrangements, medical, etc still need to go via the school office.

Important Dates

We are finalising key dates for the year and will share them via the school calendar as soon as possible. While some may change, we will always give as much notice as we can.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Heathlands tomorrow for another fantastic year.

Warm regards,

Darryl Crawley

Headteacher

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We're working towards Artsmark Awarded by Arts Council England



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