



# Heathlands Newsletter Christmas 2023

Headteacher - Mr Fielder



Dear Families,

What a wonderful term we have had here at Heathlands! The last three weeks during Advent in particular have been a period of preparation and excitement, getting ready for the most important birthday we celebrate each year! Jesus Christ was the light of the world and at Heathlands we want to help all our staff and children shine their own lights. Everything that is included in this edition shows just that:

- **Vision and Values**
- **Trips, Experiences and Visitors**
- **PTA - Hollyberry Fayre**
- **Sporting Achievements**
- **Winter Reading Challenge**
- **Key Reminders for January 2024**

I would like to thank all our parents and families for their feedback and ongoing support this term. I really appreciate everything you do for the school, its staff and of course your wonderful children.

Have an amazing Christmas and a peaceful New Year, and remember to keep shining your lights wherever you go and with whoever you see.

Mr Fielder

Headteacher

## Vision and Values - Kindness



What is kindness? Being friendly, generous and considerate of others, showing good will to those around you, being concerned when others are upset or worried, helping people when they need you and sometimes without being asked, or doing something nice for someone else without expecting anything in return.

Kindness is often appreciated most when it is offered at unexpected times. Choose a time for your family or friends to have “a random acts of kindness” week, and do something kind for someone each day. Try to do it without telling people it was you!

As well as being kind and showing compassion in what we say, it is often what we do that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person’s hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown.

Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.



1 - *"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."*

*Aesop*

## Trips, Experiences and Visitors



## Reception - Nativity



A massive congratulations to our youngest children who performed on stage for the first time at Heathlands! They all Shone Their Lights with amazing acting and beautiful singing! Well done Maple and Willow classes.



## Reception - Visit to St. Mary's



The build-up to Christmas is always special in EYFS; in December we demonstrated our core-value of Kindness by performing our Christmas production songs to the local group, 5Ts, at St. Mary's Church. This was followed by a fantastic performance of Wiggly Nativity to families last week. We are so proud of the progress the children have made this term. Thank you to those families who were able to join us for Family Fun Phonics earlier in the term.



## Year 1 - A History of Toys Day



Wow! What an amazing half term Year 1 have had. It began with us enjoying a 'History of Toys' day learning all about toys from the past and ended with us supporting the Year 2 children in their Christmas production of 'It's Gonna Shine' where we sung our hearts out. Finally, we enjoyed welcoming our families in to share some of our learning about toys with them.





## Year 2 - Nativity!



Year 2 did an amazing job Shining Their Light on stage performing our play 'I'm Gonna Shine'. Well done for working so hard. You're going to Shine Shine Shine forever!



## Year 3 - Fantastic Food



Class 3T have explored different foods this term, learning about seasonality and importing and exporting fruits. Using their knowledge they have planned, created and evaluated a tart following a clear design brief. They even tried some new flavours!



## Year 4 - Roman Mosaics



This term Year 4 have been learning all about the Romans and their impact on Britain. We had a fantastic trip to Colchester Castle and saw real life mosaics! This inspired us to create our own mosaics in school - as you can see the results were very impressive.



## Year 5



As part of Maths week, Year 5 children worked on an exciting maths investigation based around the concept of an escape room. They worked really well as Teamwork Turtles, in pairs, on iPads to answer a range of questions to crack a code and save the children in the game.





## Year 6 - Natural Disasters Oscars



This term our pupils have been learning about 'Natural Disasters', which has been the focus of our thematic learning. For our showcase event ('The Oscars') they were set the challenge of writing, creating and editing a short news report on a natural disaster they had learnt about. They used the school's green screen and iPads to create the film. On Monday afternoon, pupils put on their smart clothes and went to the hall to watch their films on the big screen- whilst tucking into some popcorn and having a fizzy drink! Well done Year 6!



## Eco Council



The Eco Council worked hard to craft some plastic free, natural Christmas decorations. Hopefully some of you would have seen these for sale at the Hollyberry Fayre. They raised a total of £34 which they are going to put towards buying a hedgehog home.



## School Council - Anti-Bullying March



During Anti-Bullying week our school council made a banner and placards and went on a march around West Bergholt to raise awareness and share their views on bullying. The community was really

supportive, beeping their car horns and cheering from their houses. We also visited Bluebells nursery to share our message with them also.



## Choir



Goodness the choir have had a busy term. First we had the Rotary club choir competition in which we had to perform two set songs and a solo item. We did so well in the heats that we also had to attend the final. Sadly, we didn't win, but every other choir wanted to know what our solo choice was so that they could learn it! Next on the list was a performance at Charter Hall with the Essex Youth Chamber orchestra. The orchestra played *Peter and the Wolf* to accompany the film and then we were one of just a few choirs performing a medley of film songs followed by *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Just ten days later saw us at St. Botolph's in town on a Saturday evening. We sang songs from Broadway, White

Christmas, and a medley of carols; all accompanied by the West Bergholt Concert Band, and then 6 songs of our own choice which ended with an audience participation song. We ended our performances with a jazzy version of *We wish you a Merry Christmas*. There were some very tired singers but what a super job they did. Thank you to all the choir and all the parents for being game enough to chauffeur their children to all these different events. I think Christmas will be a restful one this year!!



PTA - Hollyberry Fayre

HEATHLANDS PTA

# AMAZING!

WITH YOUR HELP WE RAISED

# £4,068.32

## HOLLYBERRY FAYRE 2023

Thank you again for  
your help and support!

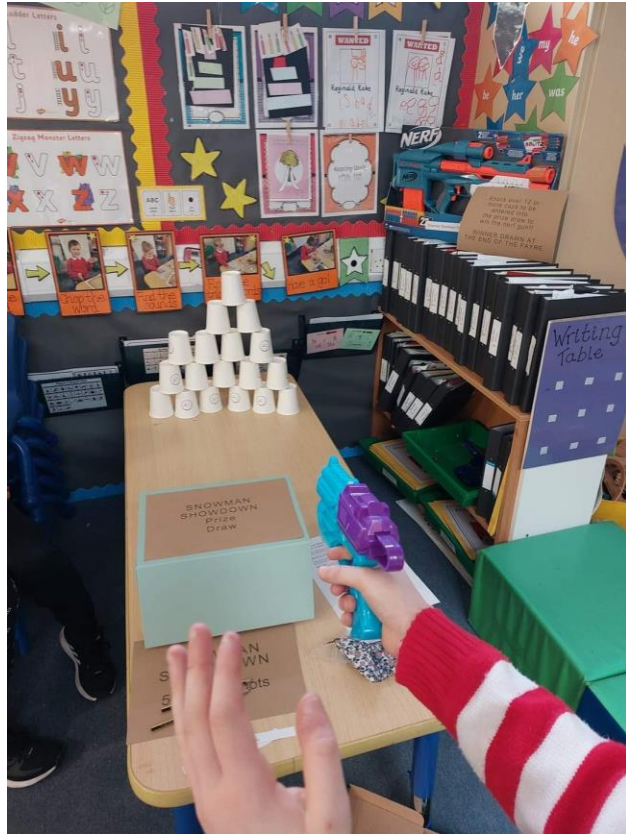
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE PTA THEN  
PLEASE COME ALONG TO OUR AGM ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup>  
JANUARY 2024 OR CONTACT KIELYE, SAMMY OR RACHEL

**Parentkind**  
Member Association

On Saturday 2nd December we celebrated our Hollyberry Fayre. It was a fantastic event run by our amazing PTA and all those who attended really enjoyed themselves. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who supported the event. The final amount raised was an incredible £4,068.32! This money will support the redevelopment of our library next summer.











## Sporting Achievements



This has been a fantastic term of sporting achievements at Heathlands. We have sent teams to compete in 18 different events, winning an incredible 7 events with 5 second and 4 third place finishes. Most importantly, all the children who have represented our school have shown our core values and been great ambassadors of Heathlands!

### Clubs

Last year, we were able to offer 6 school run clubs in the Autumn term with 146 places being taken.

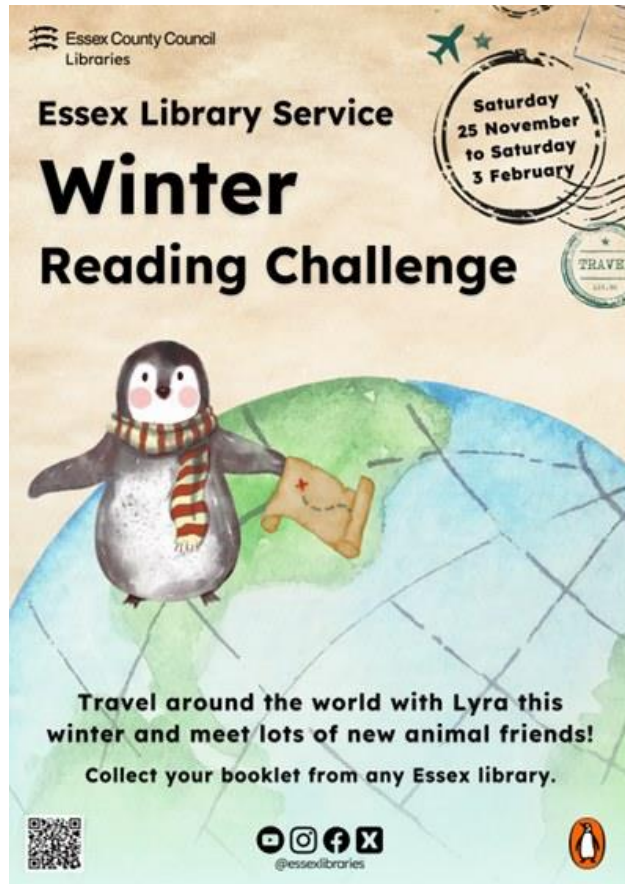
In the Autumn term this year, we have offered 13 school run clubs with 163 children attending across the week. This term we have decided to limit numbers across clubs to offer a better experience when attending, and have almost doubled the number of places taken compared with last year.

Event	Place	Winner
CBSSP Girls Football	2nd	Kelvedon
CBSSP Football	3rd	Highwoods
CBSSP Archery	1st	Heathlands
CBSSP Dodgeball	3rd	Mersea
Panathlon Ten Pin	1st	Heathlands
New Age Kurling	4th	Mildene
Boccia	3rd	???
CBSSP Cross Country		
Year 3 girls	1st	Heathlands
Year 3 boys	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mersea
Year 4 girls	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Prettygate
Year 4 boys	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hamilton
Year 5 girls	2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Teresa's
Year 5 boys	1 <sup>st</sup>	Heathlands
Year 6 girls	1st	Heathlands
Year 6 boys	5th	Prettygate
Littlegarth 3 & 4 Football A	1st	Heathlands
CBSSP Basketball	2nd	Oxford House
Littlegarth 3 & 4 Football B		Cancelled
CBSSP 3 & 4 Sportshall Athletics	1st	Heathlands





## Winter Reading Challenge



Essex County Council  
Libraries

Essex Library Service

**Winter  
Reading Challenge**

Saturday  
25 November  
to Saturday  
3 February

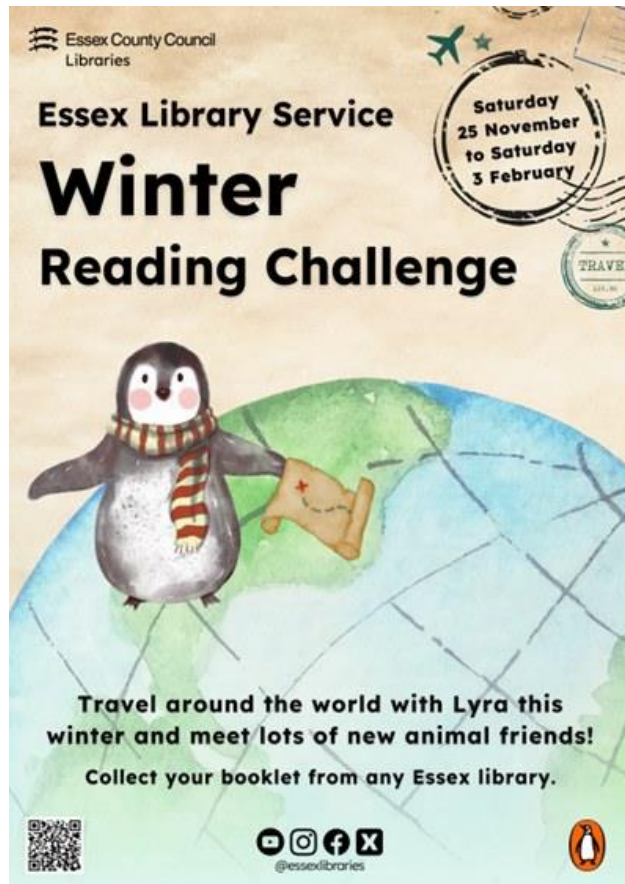
TRAVEL

Travel around the world with Lyra this winter and meet lots of new animal friends!  
Collect your booklet from any Essex library.

QR code

YouTube Instagram Facebook Twitter @essexlibraries

Penguin logo



This year's Winter Reading Challenge has begun at our local libraries!

### **What is the Winter Reading Challenge?**

The Winter Reading Challenge is a fun activity put together by Essex Library Service for children aged 0 - 11 designed to encourage children and families to keep reading over the winter and to visit their local library. By taking part, you will join Lyra the penguin as she travels around the world with her magic book to find out more about endangered animals. There are 6 challenges to complete (from a list of 12), and it's FREE to take part.

### **How can my child take part?**

Visit your local library to sign up. Each child will:

- Receive their Challenge folder
- Choose 6 challenges to complete (from a list of 12)
- Earn a sticker for each challenge they complete

· When they've complete 6 challenges they will receive a certificate and, whilst stocks last, they will also receive a packet of seeds and a free book from Penguin Books.

· Over the winter Essex Library Service will also be releasing videos about Lyra's journey so keep an eye on their YouTube Channel ([Youtube.com/essexlibraries](https://www.youtube.com/essexlibraries)) and social media channels (@EssexLibraries).

### **When?**

The Winter Reading Challenge is taking place throughout the winter from 25 November to 3 February.

Happy Reading!

## Key Reminders for January 2024



**Please be reminded of the following key information:**

- **School will reopen for children on Monday 8th January**
- **School gates will be open from 8:45am and will close at 8:55am as normal**
- **School will finish at 3:15pm as normal**

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You can also find us on Twitter using @HeathlandsCEPri