



Head teachers Message - October 2023



Dear Families,

What a fantastic start to the new academic year we have had this half term. There has already been so much to enjoy and celebrate, with children and staff across the school Shining their Lights brightly and embodying our core values of Trust, Respect, Enjoyment, Courage and Kindness. Your children have truly shone in their learning in class and around the school, but also during a variety of enrichment experiences and new extra-curricular clubs which they have really enjoyed. At the start of September, all children in years 1 to 6 learned how to keep themselves and others safe as part of our First Aid Friends workshops. I was even used as an assistant to show children how to put someone in the recovery position which was a new experience for me! We also now have our thirteen pupil voice groups up and running which means every child in years 1 to 6 can share their ideas and make a difference to an area of school life which they are passionate about. Thank you to all our family members who came to support our Harvest Festival celebrations at St. Mary's Church; I know your children loved having you there and you helped to make this community event even more special. With so much to look forward to next half term including: the Heathlands Fireworks Extravaganza, Anti-Bullying Week, the Hollyberry Fayre,

Christingle Services at St. Mary's and the EYFS and KS1 Nativity performances, make sure you and your children get some well-earned rest over the half term break. You will definitely need it!

Take care and stay safe,

Joseph Fielder

Headteacher

What have we been learning about?





We have been learning all about 'People who help us' in EYFS. This half term, we were lucky enough to have a visit from one of the mummy's who is a Paediatric Nurse. She told us about some of the jobs she has to do and then showed us how she would put a plaster cast onto a broken limb!



Year 1 Science and RE

During Science lessons in year 1 , we have been looking at naming a variety of different materials and beginning to describe their properties. This week we were investigating the waterproofing properties of some everyday materials. We built shelters for our bear and made it rain on them to see if Bear could stay dry which was a lot of fun. We found out that slippery, shiny materials were more waterproof and that if we had holes in our shelter our bear got wet even if the material was waterproof. Next, we experimented with more materials, we stretched them over cups and fixed with fiddly elastic bands, then the fun bit making it rain on our cups and closely looking to see how long the water drops stayed on the surface before soaking through into the cup. Next week we will be looking at keeping Bear warm using the properties of materials, we think he will prefer getting cosy to getting soaked!

On Friday 13th October , Year 1 had a special visit from Reverend Heather to link to our learning in RE. She came to talk to us about her faith and why she became a vicar. The children were given some time to ask some questions. They were all very thoughtful questions! Well done year 1!



Year Two - RE

The Big Question in RE this term is **'Why is light an important symbol for Christians, Jews and Hindus?'**. This week, the children learnt about Diwali and explored Rangoli patterns, diva lamps and firework art, which is displayed in the picture below. The children had so much fun being creative and learning about why light is important for Hindu's.



Year Three - Pneumatics

We have been learning all about pneumatics, and have used air to move objects. In these photos you can see how we opened a box by using air through a tube and into a balloon. This is similar to how the fire brigade use pneumatics to save people when they are trapped by a heavy object.

Year Four - Romans!

Year 4 have **enjoyed** learning about the Romans this half term. Our Roman army experience turned us into true Centurians and inspired the children to want to learn more about Roman life and how the Roman empire expanded. We have used atlases to locate countries within the Roman empire and were fascinated by how vast it was. The children have discussed how we know about things from the past through primary and secondary historical sources and debated how reliable these are. To develop the children's comparison skills, we have been learning about the Celts who were living in Britain before the Romans invaded. Next half term, this will help us to evaluate the impact that the Romans had on Britain.

Year Five - Royal Gunpowder Mills Visit

Year five went on a trip to The Royal Gunpowder Mills, they had an amazing time experiencing WW2. In my opinion, the most interesting bit was when we were in an air raid and we all scrambled into the Anderson shelter. It was quite scary but fun, in my opinion. Overall, I enjoyed the trip so much! I absolutely loved it!

Pippa 5GR.



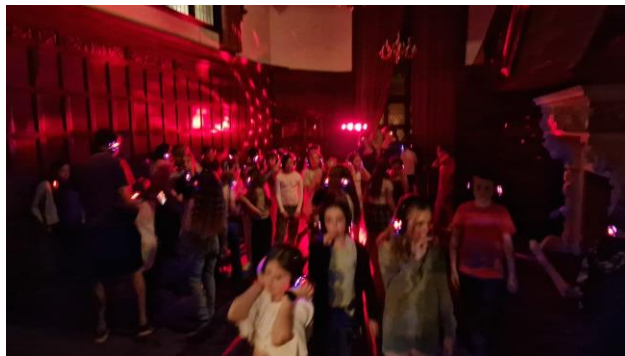


Year Six - Bawdsey Manor Residential

In Year 6 you go on a residential for the week and this year the year sixes went to Bawdsey Manor. It is a PGL site so we had lots of fun activities every day, some of our favourites were the giant swing, Jacob's ladder, archery, zip wire, canoeing and raft building. We had evening activities every night. They were all so fun, especially the silent disco! Our dormitories were inside the manor house and they had bunk beds for us to sleep on. The food was delicious for every meal and we had plenty of choice. The staff were amazing; we had two leaders called Toby and Rian who stayed with us through our meals and evening activities.

Belle (6H)









Secondary School Applications for September 2024 – Reminder for Year 6 Parents

As you may be aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2023) is **31 October 2023**.

Any applications made late are dealt with after those made on time and so applying late reduces the chances of being offered a preferred school.

Applications can be made via our website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Important Attendance Information

A reminder that our school hours are 8.45am-3.15pm.

We are **unable to authorise** children leaving school before 3.15pm as a regular occurrence.

Sports News



Heathlands win CBSSP Year 5/6 Archery Competition!

Before the competition we had a chance to practice at school. Two of us even managed to score a bullseye! We all did our best and learnt more about how to shoot an arrow, we wanted to improve our aiming though!

At the competition we were split into two teams. It started well but we were keen to do better. The other schools we played did really well. At the end we found out the results. Heathlands 2 didn't quite make it into the top three despite doing really well. Unexpectedly, Heathlands 1 took 1st place!

The morning was really fun and we would all like to go again!

By Genevieve and Harriet.



Heathlands finish 2nd at the CBSSP Year 5/6 Girls Football Competition!

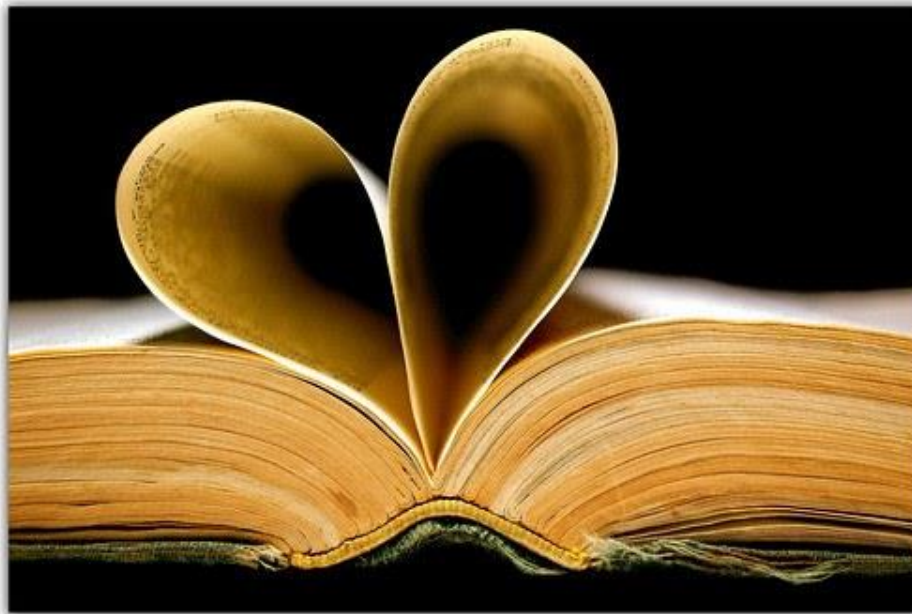
On 5th October, a team of Heathlands children took part in a Year 5/6 Football Competition. The Heathlands team played superbly throughout with everyone involved in each game trying their best. It was clear to see the team were enjoying themselves throughout the morning (as much on the side lines waiting to play as in the games) and their great play meant they finished 2nd, with their only loss and goal conceded coming at the hands of the eventual winners. The standard of girls football at the event was the highest it has ever been, and with more teams taking part then ever before it is great to see so many girls across Colchester enjoying football. Well done to the Heathlands team, it promises to be an exciting year ahead!

Inter House Dodgeball Competition

On 29th September, children across Year 5 and 6 took part in an inter house dodgeball competition. Some fantastic dodgeball was played throughout the morning, with children demonstrating an excellent ability to throw accurately, dodge and catch. All games were played in a fantastic spirit, with children showing excellent honesty and integrity by acknowledging when they had been hit by the ball and bringing themselves out of the game without a teacher needing to do so. It was a great morning to be a part of. With a game to go any one of four houses could still win the competition, but it was Orpen who were the winners this year, congratulations Orpen!

On 12th October, it was Year 3 and 4's turn to take part in a Dodgeball Competition. The weather was against us so the competition was moved inside, leading to smaller courts and a lot more noise! The children were superb, learning how to apply the skills they have been learning in class within games to great effect. We were impressed with every example of honesty shown, as children would regularly tell us they had been hit by the ball without needing to be called out of the game. It was great to see children taking enjoyment from playing the game itself, not just from the result they could achieve. When we came to reveal the results the children were pleased for each other, wherever their house placed, and it was exciting to have joint winners (they couldn't be separated at all). Congratulations to Sackville and Firmins!

Happy Reading!



What shall I read?

Sometimes knowing what book to read next can be a challenge so here are some links to support you in making that decision. There are many websites which offer this, but these are a few that we like to use:

[BooksForTopics | Search Children's Books by Age or Topic](#) – This website allows you to search for books that are categorised by age, by year group and by topic. It also has ‘branching trees’ to help you find books by other authors who are similar to authors that you already love.

[booktrust.org.uk](#) – This website is a UK children’s charity dedicated to getting children reading and provides a ‘bookfinder’ option to support you in finding the next read!

[Buy a Book. Support a School. Make a Difference | LoveReading4Kids UK](#) – This website provides book lists broken down into age groups as well as a section for books which are recommended by others.

In addition to these, Heathlands also have our very own Padlet so please remember to check that out for recommendations and don’t forget you can add your own recommendations too!

<https://padlet.com/josephfielder/reading-rocks-at-heathlands-scxnlj2udfkrts65>

Safeguarding



The 2 Johns' are coming back to Heathlands Monday 6th November- 8-9:30pm (Online via Zoom)

The 2 Johns are two ex-police detectives that now specialise in online safety. They have visited Heathlands numerous times and have always proved popular with due to their expert knowledge and advice. Please do save this date and make it a priority to attend as their presentation always reflects the most up-to-date information and tools to ensure children can be kept safe when online. Both children and staff will be taking part in workshops during the day.

MRS M CORK
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

MR J FIELDER
Headteacher

MRS HOWELLS

MRS LLOYD

What could you do if you are worried about something?

MR HASSARD

MR TURVER

Do you want to talk to someone who could help?

MRS GIBSON

MRS BRENNEN

MRS HARTLEY

ChildLine
0800 1111

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN MDA?

GET TO HAVE FUN WITH THE CHILDREN AT LUNCH TIME!



COMMUNICATION SKILLS



Be safe

LOTS OF OUR LSAS STARTED AS MDAS



Be kind

INITIATIVE



Be respectful



CARING, FRIENDLY AND HARD-WORKING STAFF TEAM

HOUR AND A QUARTER DAILY FLEXIBILITY ON DAYS TERM TIME ONLY

01206 240288



This year Heathlands will be supporting the Poppy Appeal once again. We have a range of items that have arrived (poppies, wristbands, keyrings, coloured bands). These will be available for donations after the half term.

Contact Us

Heathlands Church of England Primary School

New Church Road

West Bergholt

01206 240288

admin@heathlands.essex.sch.uk

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

You can also find us on Twitter using @HeathlandsCEPri