



Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

January 2022

Welcome back to the Spring Term 2022! I do hope you all had a fabulous Christmas break and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and friends a very Happy New Year and to thank you all for the kind Christmas gifts and cards ☺

We have a very busy term ahead of us and are looking forward to lots of exciting learning. Stunning Starts to new topics are underway, Curriculum leaflets are on the website, please check for up to date information about your child's class and what they will be learning this term. We will start the new year with a reminder of 'The Heathwood Way', a 'non-negotiable approach' to learning (an 'I can do it' attitude), and a pride in ourselves and our environment. This includes smartness of school uniform, tidy work books with neat handwriting and an organised, litter-free environment. I hope you will join us in encouraging 'The Heathwood Way' at home.

We look forward to sharing this term with you all.

Jackie Wright
Acting Headteacher

Pre-School News

Hello everyone and welcome back to a New Year. We do hope you have all enjoyed the break and had a lovely time over Christmas. We would like to say a big 'Thank you' for the lovely Christmas gifts you shared with us. Just to finish off and say goodbye to 2021, here are a couple of photos of our children who are a little amazed at what our Pre-School Elf has been up to!



As you know, at the end of last term, we wished Davina very good luck for her new job in a private nursery. I have been in touch with her and know she is looking forward to the new challenges it may bring.

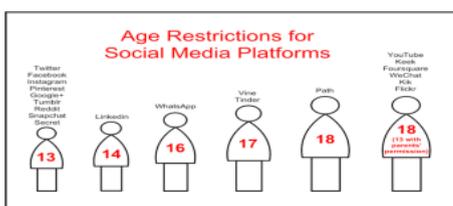
We are very busy seeking out a replacement for her and will let you know as soon as possible who we have appointed. In the meantime, we are very pleased to let you know that we will be seeing a lot more of Mrs Stacey Posner and/or Mrs Wendy White who will be helping us out.

We also have some new children starting in Pre-School in January so will be relying on our established children to welcome them and show them the Heathwood Way.

As Christmas is a good time for family photos, please remember we are wanting to update our family board in Pre-School. The children do like to talk about their families and what they do at home and this does promote good language and communication, so please feel free to update or send in a family photo for us.

So on to a new term at Pre-School. We have been busy planning some super activities for the children linked to our theme of 'Wild and Wonderful'. We hope that the children have got their models or soft toys of animals from cold countries to bring in for our super start days. Over the next week please send them in, on their day in Pre-School, with their chosen figure or soft toy and we will take a photograph of them with their animal. We will then be talking about which is most popular, where they might live and finding out more about them.

Online Safety and Gaming



• Is your child on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat or YouTube?

- What games or online games are they playing?
- What are they commenting on? How do you know?

We know that many children are using social media, games and online gaming when 'officially' they are too young. **Please keep in mind If an adult tries to groom them via social media or**

online gaming they could argue that they thought they were talking to another adult. Make sure your child knows what personal information is and that they're [share aware](#).

What are the risks of online games?

- Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.
- Some players can be abusive towards others or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.
- Children may play with adults they don't know. People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of [grooming](#).
- Some children may find it hard to stop playing games or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.

Finding appropriate games for children can seem confusing. But there are lots of games that have been created for children and families. Looking at games' age ratings can help you to work out what's suitable.



All boxed games for consoles and computers within the UK are given a PEGI ([Pan-European Game Information](#)) rating of age 3, 7, 12, 16, or 18. These age ratings tell you who the game is suitable for based on the type of content you'll see when playing. Indicators on the game's packaging explain why it's been given its rating. For example, it'll say if the game shows violence, sex, or horror.

Games on app stores also have age ratings. Google Play, Windows Store, Nintendo eShop and Oculus use the PEGI system. But the Apple App Store and Amazon Apps have their own age ratings. Most games distributors will provide information about the game's content so make sure you read before downloading.

Age ratings are a helpful guide, but each child is different. So it's also useful to think about how mature your child is for their age and the kinds of content they'd feel comfortable with.

Ensure you understand the social media and Games that your child is using. If you don't know your *Roblox* from your *Snapchat* or are getting in a *Twitch* trying to keep on top of the social media networks your child is using, visit the [Net Aware website](#)

Dates for your Diary

January

3rd Bank Holiday
4th INSET Day
5th Children back in School

February

7th-13th Sign2sing week
14th - 18th Half Term
22nd World Thinking Day

Term Dates 2021/22

Spring

Wednesday 5th January 2022 - Friday 11th February 2022
Monday 21st February 2022 - Friday 1st April 2022

Summer

Wednesday 20th April 2022 - Friday 27th May 2022
Monday 6th June 2022 - Friday 22nd July 2022

INSET Days

Tuesday 4th January 2022
Tuesday 19th April 2022

Monday 2nd May 2022 - May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 8th July 2022 - Queen's Jubilee Additional Holiday for Schools

Community Policing Team Visits

We are pleased to be welcoming Sally Simmons from Bedfordshire Police into School throughout January. She will be delivering sessions on How the Police Help Us to Classes R, 1 and 2, Classes 3 and 4 will have some Digital Safety input and guidance, and the whole school will attend an assembly, appropriate to their age range, on Personal Safety.

Vacancies

We are currently looking to recruit the following vacancies to join our friendly team:

An EYFS Practitioner to work across the Early Years Foundation Stage (Pre-School and/or Reception Class).

You will work with an experienced team to support all children in EYFS to maximise their full potential and ensure all children receive the very best start to their education.

The role will be full time (term time only) and we are seeking a candidate with experience and qualification to NVQ level 3 or equivalent, and competency in English.

A Midday Supervisor to join our friendly team. 5 hours a week (term time only)

A friendly **Playworker** to join our after school team from 3.30-5.30pm every day, 10 hours per week (term time only).

If you would like an application pack or more information please contact office@heathwood.beds.sch.uk

Heathwood Lower School is committed to safeguarding and all roles will be subject to a DBS check.

Closing Dates: Monday 17th January 12 noon

TT Rockstars and Numbots

We are pleased to announce that following the purchase of 40 new tablets, we are now in a position to re-launch TT Rockstars and Numbots! The subscription has been renewed and all children have passwords in their diaries for them to access these fun and educational maths games in school and at home. They are a great way to practice times tables and number facts. I hope your child enjoys being a rockstar and creating their robots.

Pupil Premium

If you believe that you may be entitled to claim Pupil Premium grant for your child and you do not already do so, or if you are not sure, please contact Central Beds Council to lodge an application.

Tel: 0300 300 8306 or

customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

If your family is 'hard pressed' you may be eligible for this grant; the school uses this funding to support your child's learning in a variety of ways, it can also cover some of the cost of trips, school clubs and music lessons. Do please come and speak to Mrs Wilkins in the Office.

PTA News

Last half term the PTA ran a few successful events including cake sales and movie nights. Our biggest event was the Christmas Fayre where Santa joined us and we had some fun with games, our raffle and tombolas. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and those parents that helped out with the Fayre, we really appreciate this help as these events cannot happen without it.

The Fayre raised approximately £1200 which we will be putting towards the development of the school garden in the spring.

A few days before Christmas, the PTA were also given the opportunity to help out with the Rotary Club Santa float whilst Santa visited Heath and Reach. We had a fabulously festive evening and the Rotary Club will make a donation to the PTA as a thank you for our help.

Keep an eye on our new PTA notice board on the playground for

details of upcoming PTA events and how you can help support us.



Parking

As we begin a New Year, I ask that you consider the need to drive to school, and maybe instead make the most of the opportunity to walk to and from school. Parking can be a problem around the school area and we often receive complaints about inconsiderate parking in Cotefield Drive, Chiltern Gardens and Heath Road which causes difficulty for the residents and is potentially dangerous for you and your children. We would also ask that you turn off your car engine while waiting outside school. Thank you.

School Meals

School dinners for children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 are **free**, funded by the government (UFMS - Universal Free School Meals).

For Years 3 and 4 School dinners will be
£2.30 per day/£11.50 per week/£64.40 for the January/February Half Term.

All dinner money should be sent in a sealed envelope via the class teacher on a Monday morning and cheques made payable to

'Heathwood Lower School'.

Alternatively payments for school meals can be paid online to NatWest account name Heathwood Lower School, sort code 60-02-13 account number 62411632 please reference with your child's name prefixed with SM.

Copy and paste the link below to see our new Spring menu

<https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Forparents/SchoolDinners/>



Hello again and welcome to the start of our 2022 challenges. I hope you enjoy them and please let me know if you or your child/ren have any ideas for challenges. Before we move on I need to mention Violet B in Year 1 for her November challenge which was delayed in being received.

We had some lovely Lego penguins (Samuel L and Lily-Mai, Tom M, Carina, Freddie N, Ethan and Massimo); the children really seemed to enjoy this.

We also had some super Christmas card designs (Emily G and Nico), so well done to all the children who took part! A special mention to Amy J in Reception Class for completing both challenges in December.

On to the new January challenges:

- **Science Challenge:** For all you scientists out there; can you make some rice dance? Using just some items from your kitchen, have a go at this and then take a photograph or video to send in to me in the normal way (via Pre-School or office @heathwood.beds.sch.uk).
- **Creative challenge:** Make a sock animal ... there are lots of ideas that don't need any sewing; let's see what you can create out of a sock. You can use any stuffing material; perhaps rice, cotton wool or old material.

I don't know about you and your parents, but I am quite keen to try these ones! Let's see how creative and scientific we can all be.

Have a super time challenging yourself and enjoy this first month of the New Year.

Mrs Elaine Dicocco

Application for Schools

Lower School applications and Middle School transfer

Deadline is Saturday 15th January 2022

School admissions for 2022 are now open, and Central Bedfordshire have been publicising the message widely over the last few months, including making parents aware of all open evenings for prospective pupils.

There is NO automatic transfer - parents must apply for all school places to their local authority.

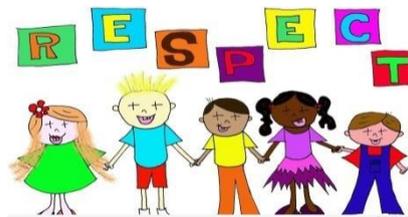
If you have a child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 and you are interested in a place at Heathwood in September 2020, please call 01525 377096 to make an appointment to visit our school.

Our Value for January is **RESPECT**

- A feeling of regard for the qualities and achievements of oneself and others
- A caring and appreciative attitude towards the world in general

In school we will begin by admiring and enjoying the wonderful learning environment that we are so fortunate to have. We will discuss the importance of respecting and caring for our school and everyone in it. Emphasis will be placed upon the need to think before we speak and treat others as we would wish to be treated. It all starts with self-respect so we will always try to build our pupils' self-esteem and encourage them to look after themselves by getting plenty of sleep, exercise and healthy food as well as taking care of their own property and respecting possessions belonging to others.

Quote for the month: "I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university." – [Albert Einstein](#)



At home you could remind each other of the need to show respect in order to live a calmer, happier life. It would be a good idea to make a family list of all people and things which should be cared for and respected every day, eg. each other, pets, toys, furniture, the garden etc.. Encourage the children to respect their own property by looking after it at home and at school (it helps if it's all named).
Make sure that toys are put away, pets are fed and responsibilities undertaken willingly.

Clothing Bin

As part of our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, and to raise some money for school, we have a Clothes and Shoes bin on the school site. The bin is sited on a concrete block behind the school bins to the left of the main school entrance. You can fill the bin with any of the following items:

Clean wearable Clothing, Paired Shoes, Handbags, Belts, Blankets, Towels, CDs, DVDs, Video games, Books and Bric-a-Brac

(NO pillows, duvets, glass, metal, paper, carpets, soiled rags or rubbish)

Just drop your items in the bin and when it is emptied the school will receive money for the number of kilograms collected.

Please support the school by filling the bin when you Spring clean!





**Worried about your child's talking,
listening, interaction or
stammering?**

**Book a video call or face to face
consultation with the Speech and
Language Therapist from
Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre**

Wed 26th Jan 2022 9.00-3.00

Wed 23rd Feb 2022 9.00-3.00

Wed 23rd Mar 2022 9.00-12.00

**For more information – or to book – please
email sue.rogers1@nhs.net**

**This service is for children aged 0-5 who are not already knowr
to the Speech and Language Therapy Service**



SPA Number: 01234 310163 / 310712

Email: ccs.beds.childrens.slt.admin@nhs.net

Web: www.childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk

Central
Bedfordshire



