



Heathwood Lower School Newsletter

January 2024

Our vision for every child is to embed a love for learning, to be passionate about the world around them, to celebrate differences and be kind.

Our children will learn important life skills so they leave Heathwood equipped to be successful learners ready for the next steps in their lives.

Welcome back to the Spring Term 2024!

I hope you all had a fabulous Christmas break and would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and friends a very Happy New Year! A massive thank you to you all for the kind, thoughtful and generous Christmas gifts and cards 😊

We have a very busy term ahead of us and are looking forward to lots of exciting learning. Memorable experiences are planned and new class projects are underway. Curriculum documents and Class Curriculum Overviews 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, with a focus on building resilience and stamina, positive attitudes 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
Headteacher

Pre-School News

Welcome back and happy new year. Hope you had a wonderful Christmas. We are very grateful for the kind gifts we received. Our topic for this term is "Starry Night." This project explores how the world differs at night from during the day. As well as teaching children about the importance of a good night's sleep, it teaches them about nocturnal animals and what happens in the world during sleep. We would appreciate it if you could send us pictures of your garden/house at night and during the day. Over the next few weeks, we will explore these pictures.

Wanted: We are on the hunt for, dress up of 'people who help us' ie. firefighters, police, vets etc. We would be grateful for any donations.

Governors News

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term 2024.

The Governors first meeting will be on the 16th January. Governors at that meeting will be reviewing the School Development Plan, the curriculum, wellbeing and Health & Safety. Governors will also have a walk round the school before the meeting starts.

The Spring Term is always a very busy time for Governors and we hope to see some lovely learning during our learning walkways.

The Board is still looking for a Local Authority Governor, if you or you know someone who works for the LA that would be interested in becoming a Heathwood Governor please contact the office.
Have a fabulous Spring Term !

Heathwood Governors

Dates for your Diary

January

1st Bank Holiday
2nd School Holiday
3rd Inset Day
4th Children Back to School
8th Class 1 Local Walk
11th Class R Trip to Tring Museum
15th Class R Baby Visit
24th Class R bring your Grandparents to School
26th-28thThe Big Garden Birdwatch 2024

February

19th 23rd Half Term
22nd World Thinking Day
28th Class 4 Parent Lunch

March

6th Class 3 Parent Lunch
8th Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
11th March Science Week
13th Class 2 Parent Lunch
13th Class 3 Trip to Science Museum
13th Class 1 Assembly
14th Rescheduled Tag Rugby Event
20th Class 1 Parent Lunch
21st Year 3/4 Cluster Sports Festival
22nd Mid Year Reports sent home
25th Parents Evening (Virtual)
27th Class R Parent Lunch
27th Parents Evening (Virtual)
28th Last Day of Term

Term Dates 2023/24

Autumn

Tuesday 5th September 2023 - Friday 20th October 2023
Monday 30th October 2023 - Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring

Thursday 4th January 2024 - Friday 16th February 2024
Monday 26th February 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer

Tuesday 16th April 2024 - Friday 24th May 2024
Monday 3rd June 2024 - Friday 19th July 2024

INSET Days

Friday 1st & Monday 4th September 2023
Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Monday 15th April 2024
Monday 1st July 2024

Monday 6th May 2024 - May Day Bank Holiday

School Communication

We have an excellent way of communicating with you quickly and accurately but we are however limited in the number of characters we can use. Therefore our messages might seem a little abrupt or to the point. Please be assured every message has an invisible Please and Thank you attached!

In an attempt to be more environmentally friendly we are now texting all letters unless they require a reply slip.

All copies can be found on the school website at

<https://heathwoodlower.com/Letters-to-Parents/>

Parking

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.

Please could we also ask that when dropping children off in the morning that you do not park in front of the School gates in Chiltern Gardens.

This prevents staff from getting into the carpark and is a danger to those accessing the school by foot. And finally, please could you turn off your car engine whilst waiting outside school.

We appreciate your help in this matter.

Thank you.

What are we learning?

If you would like to know what our children are learning this term then please follow the website links below for your class page. Here you will find information on the topics that will be covered throughout the term.

Class R <https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Forchildren/ClassR/>

Class 1 <https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Forchildren/Class1/>

Class 2 <https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Forchildren/Class5/>

Class 3 <https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Forchildren/Class3/>

Class 4 <https://www.heathwoodlower.com/Forchildren/Class4/>

TT Rockstars and Numbots

Due to its success and enjoyment we have again renewed the subscription to TTRockstars and Numbots.

Please can we ask that you download the latest version to continue playing at home. play.ttrockstars.com/reset or update the Times Tables Rock Stars app from the app store.

All children have passwords in their diaries for them to access these fun and educational maths games in school

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.

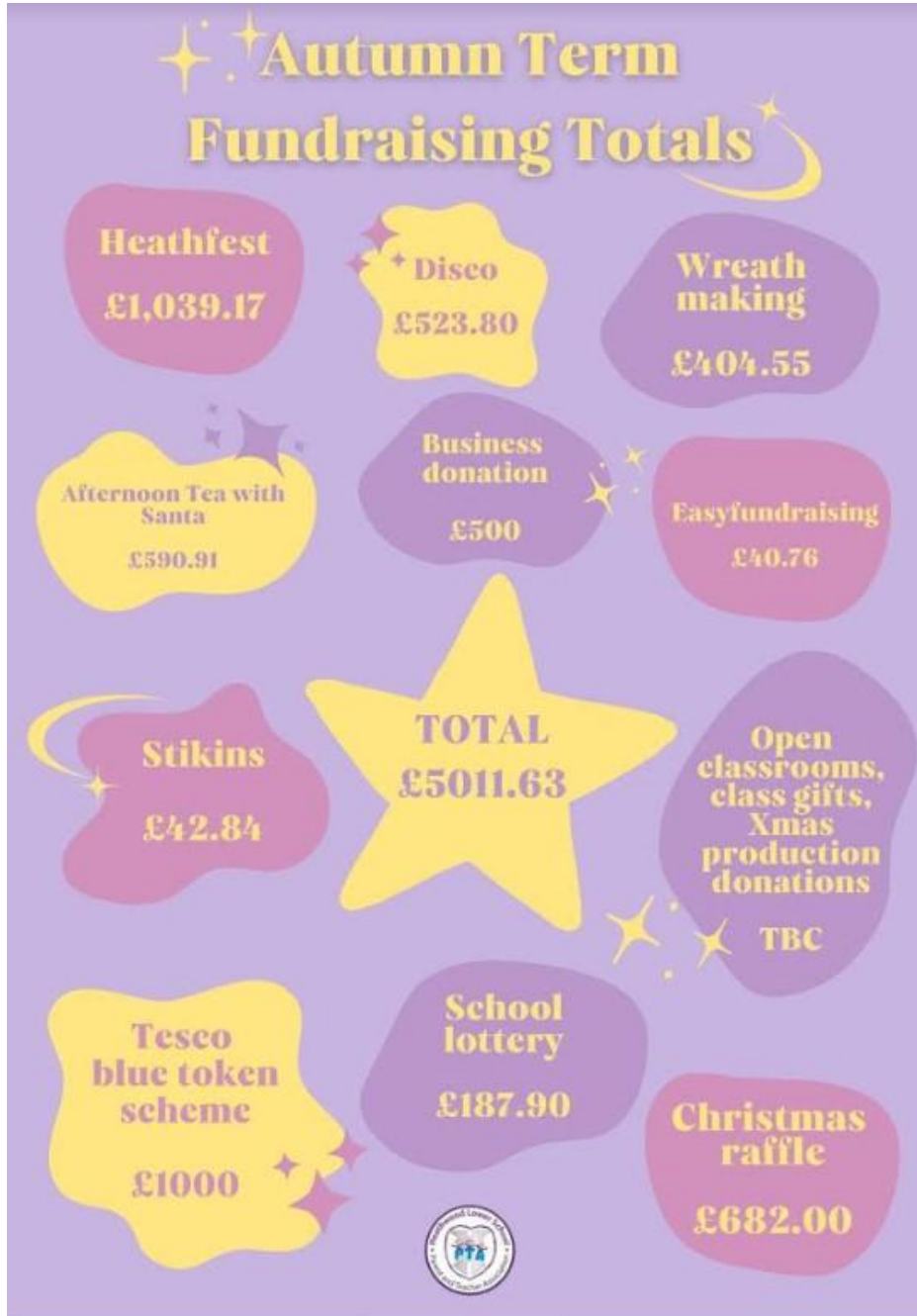
Tel: 0300 300 8306 or

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.

and at home. They are a great way to practise times tables and number facts. I hope your child enjoys being a rockstar and creating their robots.

PTA News



Tuck Shop

Fairtrade Council sells tuck (Chocolate Cookie) on Fridays.

This is £5.50 for the Spring term. Tuck Shop is available to pay on School Money. If your child was absent on a Friday during Autumn Term the credit has been applied to your child's account for the Spring Term.

Payment will be available to pay on School Money.

Application for Schools

Lower School Applications and Middle School Transfers - Deadline is Monday 15th January 2024.

School admissions for 2024 are now open, and Central Bedfordshire have been publicising the message widely over the last 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 2019 and 31st August 2020 and you are interested in a place at Heathwood, please call the School Office on 01525 377096.

Eco Council



How to take part

- 1 Get your free guide and stock up on supplies, with 15% off and free delivery on food and feeders at the RSPB shop.
- 2 Spend an hour watching the birds in your patch, between 26 and 28 January, and record the birds that land.
- 3 Tell us what you saw (even if that's nothing at all!) You can submit your results online or by post.



Choose an hour between 26 and 28 January



Only record the birds that land in your patch



Record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time

Follow the link to sign up!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

School Meals

School dinners for children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 are free, funded by the government (UIFSM-Universal Infant Free School Meals). We are very proud of our super school meals.

We work really hard to provide a nutritious and delicious selection of food every day. I would encourage all children to have a free meal at lunchtime instead of bringing a packed lunch.

For children in Years 3 & 4 the price for school dinners has been increased and is £2.45 per day / £12.25 per week / £78.40 for the January/ February half term

Payment for school meals will now be on School Money This will be updated weekly to record the meals that your child has had. You can make payments weekly or you can add money to your account and check your balance. Any money which has been paid into the bank account has been added to your school money accounts. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Link to winter menu

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1g8nU2OxtvhrMobcFdphMYAUzeOW-ntG7/edit#slide=id.p1>



Welcome back to another year of challenges from me! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for the challenges I have for you in 2024. Thank you and well done to everyone who completed one of my challenges in 2023. We have moved the Challenge display - it is now in the corridor to the Rainbow Room if you want to see your challenge on display.

For January, I would like you to use your construction skills and creativity to design and build a tower that would be able to hold a tennis ball. However, the tower has to be at least 17cm above the ground. It can be more than 17cm but not less. What could you use? What materials can you think of that would be strong enough? How would you put it together? Have a go at home and then take a photo of your creation and email it into school for me to look at and display.

Secondly, I have a problem for you to think about. The answer to the problem is 25cm; but what is the question? Have a think (it could be anything). Can you write a problem that would match my answer?

Get Creative and I look forward to seeing what you come up with,

Paul Dicker
Deputy Head teacher

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!

