

# Heathfield Primary School

School Newsletter – May 2024



## A message from Mr Kirby-Bowstead Headteacher

*"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... it's about learning to dance in the rain!"*

... and there has certainly been plenty of rain lately! Hopefully we will be seeing clearer skies from now on, which will mean the school field can finally dry up and our children can get back to our full range of activities – such as den building and tyre rolling – at lunchtime.

In terms of lunchtime, we will shortly be waving goodbye to Mrs Hoggett (our school cook) as she moves on to pastures new. We wish her all the best for her next adventure.

Across the whole country, this time of year at schools brings with it a range of tests and assessments. Here at Heathfield our Year 6 children will shortly be completing the End of KS2 Assessments (commonly known as SATs); our Year 1 children will soon be completing their Phonics Screening Check; and our Year 4 children are not far away from completing the Multiplication Tables Check as well. Our children – and staff – are all working incredibly hard in preparation for all of this, and it is vital that **all** children are in school – on time – every day so they can do their very best; both now and in their future! We place high importance on good attendance, as research shows us that the children who fall behind in their learning are those with poor attendance.

In regards to school holidays, for the next academic year Heathfield term times will be in line with the rest of Darlington Schools. This information can be found at [https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/17309/school\\_term\\_dates\\_2024-2025.pdf](https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/17309/school_term_dates_2024-2025.pdf) Information regarding the dates for the four additional PD days for 2024/2025 will be sent to you over the next few weeks as we make our final arrangements.

And to finish with, a huge well done to all of our children for achieving the **GOLD** Green Tree Schools Award! Regular Forest Schools sessions for our KS1 and KS2 children – alongside all of the outdoor learning in Early Years – means that we have been recognised for inspiring children to learn about trees, woods and wildlife. Great work everyone!

### Important Dates

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May: May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May: As part of 'share a story month', our children across KS2 will be taking part in a special workshop with author/illustrator Liz Million! Liz will be selling signed copies of her 'Potato Book' at the end of the school day for £6 for any children and parents who would like one.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May: As part of 'share a story month', our children across Early Years and KS1 will be taking part in a special session with author Elizabeth Green! Elizabeth will also be selling copies of her books on the day – watch this space for more details!

wc. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May: SATs Week (End of KS2 Assessments) for our Year 6 children.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Early Years 'Share a Story' sessions – watch this space for more details!

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: School breaks up for May half term.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May: PD Day (school closed to children)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: School reopens for the latter half of the Summer Term.

### The Heathfield Virtues:

kindness   courage   curiosity   fairness   resilience   respect