

Heathfield Primary School

School Newsletter – January 2024



A message from Mr Kirby-Bowstead Headteacher

"The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all" – Josiyah Martin

Happy new year to all of our Heathfield families and friends! It has been great to see all of our children return for the Spring Term, ready and raring to go – and we have had lots of talk about new year resolutions: how can we do our best and be the best this year?

One aspect we are really focusing in on improving is attendance and punctuality: did you know that your child being five minutes late a day is the equivalent of missing almost 16 hours of learning across a school year? And, if this continued across a child's entire time at primary school, would be like missing over 100 hours of learning?

If your child was late ten minutes every day, that would be around 200 hours worth of learning they will miss. Children **must** be in school on time: doors are open at 8.45am and closed at 8.55am.

We should also all aim for 100% attendance, however we understand that sometimes children are too ill to come to school or that emergency appointments are required. We ask all parents to do their best in making non-emergency appointments out of school time (and to provide a copy of appointment cards where this is not possible), and the NHS provide a useful guide around when a child is too ill to be at school via <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child is off school for any reason, you **must** phone and let us know *before* the start of the school day: even if there is nobody available in the office, there is the option to leave a voice message which we collect first thing each day.

Missing 19 days of school across a year places your child in the category of a 'persistent absentee', and this level of absence has been proven to lead to poorer success in later life.

We are really passionate about giving the very best education to your children – so please make sure they are in school on time every single day to get the best from us too!

Important Dates

Monday 8th January: PD Day (school closed to children)

Friday 12th January: School Council representatives will lay wreaths at the William McMullen Memorial on McMullen Road

wc. Monday 15th January: We will be marking 'World Religion Day' in school by celebrating the many different religions, cultures and beliefs in our locality.

wc. Monday 22nd January: We will be celebrating 'National Storytelling Week' in school with some story-focused activities in each class.

Friday 2nd February: Our non-uniform day this half term will be for NSPCC Number Day on Friday 2nd February, where children will be challenged to come to school as a number, or in number-themed clothes!

wc. Monday 5th February: Children's Mental Health Week will allow us time to reflect on how we can all look after both our physical and mental health to keep ourselves safe, happy and successful.

Tuesday 6th February: As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we will particularly think about how to keep ourselves safe and happy online.

Friday 16th February: School breaks up for February half term at the end of the day; **school is closed on Monday 26th February for a PD day and so children return on Tuesday 27th February.**