

HEATHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter – September 2023



A message from Mr Kirby-Bowstead Headteacher

"To be successful you have to be out there – you have to hit the ground running" – Richard Branson

Welcome to all of our new starters, and welcome back to everybody else – what a bright and sunny start to the new academic year it was! It has been wonderful seeing children back at school, and the buzz of learning in every single classroom has been amazing: well done everyone!

And we welcome several new members of staff to the team this September: Miss Brittain is our new Admin Apprentice in the front office; Mr Glenning joins us as a Teaching Assistant, supporting children across the whole school; Miss Davidson has moved from the kitchen to the playground as a Lunchtime Supervisor and Play Leader; Mrs Hayes has joined the kitchen team; and Mrs Brown and Miss Jacques continue to support children across school in their continuing role of Teaching Assistant.

You may have noticed two other new 'additions' to our school – the mannequins near the front office. These provide an example of what uniform should look like – both on a regular day and on a PE day. Thank you to all of our families who ensure children come to school in the right uniform each day, and thank you to those who have double checked with us about it. To clarify, PE kit is:

- a plain white t shirt (*small logos are acceptable, eg. a Nike tick on the chest or Adidas stripes on the arm cuff*);
- black shorts/jogging bottoms/leggings;
- sensible and appropriate footwear (*plimsolls or trainers*);
- in the colder months children can simply put their school jumper over the top, or wear a plain black hoody.

This year our children in KS1 and KS2 will also have at least one half term of 'Forest Schools' led by Mrs Graham – please keep an eye out for a text message that lets you know when your child will also need to bring wellies and waterproofs into school!

I have also had several parents already ask about holidays during school time. Please can I direct your attention to our attendance policy – available on the school website – which states that *'holidays during term-time will not be authorised by the Head of School... All holidays requested will be referred to the CAP for a Fixed Penalty Notice'*. Of course, there are sometimes exceptional circumstances for absences (such as a family emergency, hospital appointment or bereavement) however family holidays will not be authorised.

And please remember to follow our Facebook page – there are numerous posts and photos of celebration from this past week, in addition to useful information about upcoming events both in school and in the local community. Between our newsletters, Facebook and Marvellous Me, we aim to keep you fully updated about all aspects of school life!



A message from Miss Fogg, Mrs Evans & Mrs Hindson Assistant Headteachers

Here are some key dates for this first half-term back:

Wednesday 20th September: National Fitness Day – National Fitness Day is a chance to highlight the role physical activity plays in both our physical and mental health. This year's theme is '*Your health is for life*' to promote looking after ourselves through regular exercise. All children are invited to come into school in their PE kits for special activities throughout the day.

Wednesday 4th October: National Poetry Day – On the lead up to National Poetry Day, children will be given a poem to learn by heart. On the day itself, children will be challenged to come together as a class to create a recording of them reciting the poem to demonstrate their beautiful speaking and performing skills.

Monday 9th October: School Photo Day – Make sure uniform, hair and big smiles are ready for school photo day! More details will be sent later to organise family and sibling photos where required.

Wednesday 25th October: Autumn Disco – We are very excited to announce the date for our autumn disco! Children will not need to buy tickets for the disco, but will pay entry on the door. We will send a reminder with more details about entry and organisation closer to the time.

Nursery and Reception Disco: 3.30pm – 4.00pm

Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Disco: 4.15pm – 5.00pm

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Disco: 5.15pm – 6.00pm

w/c Monday 23rd September: Black History Month – To mark Black History Month, each year group will be learning about an influential historical figure whose legacy has had a long-lasting impact. We look forward to sharing our learning with you!

Friday 27th October: Term ends. Children can wear non-uniform on this day.

Monday 6th November: Term starts.



A message from Mrs Hindson Assistant Headteacher & SENDCo

What a great start to the new academic year, where we have seen children settle back into school routines - very well - after the long summer break.

I continue to be the point of contact for any concerns relating to your child's educational needs or any barriers they may be encountering. I greatly appreciate the open and collaborative relationship that I have had with parents and carers in my short time here so far and do hope that this continues. Do remember I am available upon request via the school office. If you leave a message for me, the office staff will contact me and I will endeavour to get in touch as soon as possible. I believe that communication between school and home is vital to ensuring your child's success and I am committed to working together to get it right.

In addition, I would like to inform you of a slight change we are making to SEN review weeks. While our SEN reviews will now be conducted every term – rather than half termly - 'Pit Stops,' will happen at the half term point. These 'Pit Stops' are designed to celebrate when your child has met any targets earlier than intended and to ensure that their support remains tailored to their evolving needs.

Thanks again for entrusting Heathfield Primary School with your children's education and well-being. We look forward to a productive and successful year.