

# HEATHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter – January 2023



## A message from Mr Kirby-Bowstead, Head of School

*"The start of something new brings the hope of something great – anything is possible!"*

What a great start to the spring term here at Heathfield – and there are brilliant things to come!

First of all, can I say a thank you to all of our parents, carers and families for your ongoing support in everything we do; the partnership between school and families is such an important one, and it is fundamental in shaping a positive and productive experience for our children. This was evident in the survey you completed last half term, where 100% of respondents stated that their child came to school happy and 98% reported they felt their children were safe and well looked after here at Heathfield. Some parents felt that there was more to do to tackle inappropriate behaviour and potential incidents of bullying – this feedback has been really useful for us to shape our next steps in school development.

We are already well underway in further developing our Behaviour Policy, and staff have been working really hard to make sure it is right for our children; we will keep you fully updated as and when changes are being implemented so you can support us with this. To add further strength to our existing anti-bullying stance, we have also subscribed to the BIG Award (Bullying Intervention Group) which will involve further collaboration between children, their peers, parents and school.

A further thank you to all of those who bought tickets for our Christmas raffle - you raised just under £300, which will go into school funds to contribute to our ongoing developments for all of our children. Keep your eyes peeled for our next big event... we have some exciting things planned!

There is also a new beginning in Year 2 this term, where Miss Colling joins us in teaching Class 6 - welcome to Heathfield, Miss Colling!

And finally, a quick update on my own health after my accident: I am doing really well in terms of recovery, and should be back in school by no later than the end of this half term. I cannot wait to see you - and of course our wonderful children - upon my return.

## Heathfield Primary School



## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

NOVEMBER 2022

At Heathfield Primary, parental feedback is really important to us and we know it's vital that we work closely with parents/carers to explore ways in which we can continue to develop the school and ensure our children are happy and successful throughout their time at Heathfield.

With this in mind, we recently took the opportunity during our parent Book Look to gather as much feedback as possible by collecting responses to our parent questionnaire. We'd like to say a big thank you to all of the parents/carers who took part in the questionnaire, and we are thrilled to be able to share these results with you. In total we had 80 responses to the questionnaire which equates to approximately 20% of all parents.

### PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE STATEMENTS

Our parent questionnaire provides a series of statements for parents/carers to respond to. The information below shows these statements along with the proportion of parents who either agreed or strongly agreed with them.



\*26% of respondents answered 'Don't Know' to this question either due to their children not ever experiencing any instances of bullying or a lack of knowledge as to what the procedures are for dealing with bullying.



## A message from Miss Fogg, Assistant Head Teacher

### Foggy's Fun-Filled Days!

So far this term, we have already enjoyed learning about Braille on World Braille Day, going out and about to spot what birds are in the school grounds for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and finding out about A.A.Milne's wonderful creation: Winnie-the-Pooh.

Here is what else we have coming up:

- **Week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> January:** National Handwriting Day.
- **Week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> January:** National Storytelling Week.
- **Week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> February:** Children's Mental Health Week. We will think about the theme 'Let's Connect'. Also this week, we will think about how we can keep ourselves safe online as part of Safer Internet Day on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**.
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February:** Term ends. Children can wear their own clothes on this day.
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February:** *Term starts for children.*



## A message from Mrs Evans, Assistant Head Teacher

We have been really pleased to see how quickly our new Nursery starters have settled in this month. Miss Willis, Mrs Gallacher and Mrs Bayles have enjoyed seeing the older children help and support the younger ones. They are enjoying exploring the provision, are getting to know the routines and happily making new friends. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for photographs of them enjoying their learning.

If you haven't already, please take a minute to like our Facebook page via the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/heathfieldprimarydarlington>.

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can also check out the school website, which features the Facebook feed so that you can keep up-to-date with everything that is happening: <https://www.heathfieldprimary.com/>. We will also send reminders via Marvellous Me.

### Uniform Reminder

We would really appreciate your help in ensuring the children are wearing the agreed uniform. As per our policy, the basic uniform is:

- Black or grey trousers, shorts, skirt or a pinafore dress
- White polo shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black flat shoes

#### PE

- Plain black, navy or grey shorts/jogging bottoms
- Plain white T-shirt
- Plimsolls and/or trainers

Children will continue to come in their PE kit for the full day, on their PE day.

In addition, we ask that:

- Jewellery – with the exception of one pair of stud style earrings – and make up (including nail varnish) are **not** worn in school
- On swimming and PE days, studs are removed by your child (prior to activity, taped or not worn to school)
- Children may wear a watch when they are able to tell the time, but responsibility for its safe-keeping belongs to them, and the school will not be held responsible for any losses.