



# Heathfield Primary School

## Newsletter – January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas break, even though it was probably very different to what you are used to. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as the new Executive Head Teacher for Heathfield Primary School. I am really excited about this new opportunity to create an excellent partnership with Northwood Primary School in Darlington. I hadn't planned my first newsletter to coincide with another national lockdown, however these are the challenging times we find ourselves living in.

Although this may be a new position for me, I have worked closely with the team at Heathfield for a number of years and already recognise the fabulous team and community at the school. As Head of School, Mr Dipple will be responsible for the day-to-day running of Heathfield Primary School and is the first point of contact if you have any issues, concerns or questions.

My vision for Heathfield and Northwood is focussed on three things:

- The child is at the heart of every decision made, whether that's to do with the environment, the curriculum offer or the school meal plan.
- Preparing children for the next stage of their education, whether that's Nursery to Reception, Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2, or Primary to Secondary education.
- Creating an excellent partnership with Northwood Primary School to ensure both schools are "The schools of choice" for families in Darlington.



### Computing Matters

Prior to the end of the Autumn Term, it became evident that the Computing offer was not at the standard it should be. I worked with Mr Dipple and the central team of Lingfield Education Trust to create a financial package which would allow us to upgrade our Computer Suite.

Since returning in January we now have state-of-the-art kit in the Suite which will ensure that the children at Heathfield receive a first class Computing curriculum. Thanks to ITSystems for working to tight deadlines to

ensure that the Suite was ready for the beginning of this new term. I can't wait for the children to be able to take full advantage of this fantastic new provision.

### Lunchtimes Matter

Mr Dipple and I have worked on reinstating a wholesome, cooked school meal for the children of Heathfield. After reviewing Parent feedback, it was obvious that the lunch offer needed to change. Our school meal plan was initially impacted by current government guidelines, which resulted in children eating their meals in the classrooms. I am pleased to let you all know that 'The Broadway Bistro' is back in business. We hope all of our children enjoy the new routines and systems, which will allow them to eat their meals together in the Dining Room. When all the children return to school, we hope that those families who have now opted to provide their own packed lunches will reconsider our school meal options.





### Facebook Matters

We hope you've already noticed the increased activity on Heathfield Primary's Facebook page. It is our aim for our Facebook channel to provide the wider school community with an insight into the quality of education that is happening in Heathfield, as well as provide a vital source of up-to-date information. If you haven't done so already, please like our Facebook page via [www.facebook.com/heathfieldprimarydarlington](http://www.facebook.com/heathfieldprimarydarlington)

### Enriching the Curriculum

I am passionate about ensuring children have a full and rich curriculum offer which extends to national events, themes and initiatives. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, to celebrate National Number Day, we will be having a non-uniform day. Children and staff are invited to dress in clothes featuring numbers and/or patterns and/or shapes, whether in school or at home. Whether your children are in school or working at home, I am inviting the whole school community to participate in the following events:

- Week Beginning 11th January: Sugar Awareness Week
- Week Beginning 18th January: Big Energy Saving Week
- Friday 22nd January: National Reading Day
- Week Beginning 25th January: RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch Week
- Friday 29th January: National Puzzle Day
- Week Beginning 1st February: National Storytelling Week
- Week Beginning 1st February: Children's Mental Health Week "Express Yourself".
- Friday 5th February: National Number Day (Non-Uniform day - clothes featuring numbers and/or patterns and/or shapes)
- Tuesday 9th February: Safer Internet Day

Thank you for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Beach".

Mrs Beach

Executive Head Teacher

