

December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As my first term as Headteacher at Heathfield Primary comes to an end I would like to thank all parents, carers, staff and governors for their continued support and thank you for welcoming me into the Heathfield community.

Staff

Congratulations to Miss McGillicuddy who got married a few weeks ago! Her married name is Mrs Abernethy. We wish her all the best as she starts married life! We also welcome back our Assistant Headteacher, Miss Wilkinson who will be returning three days a week in January after having a baby. Mr McLoughlin is retiring at the end of term after working as caretaker for over 12 years! We wish Mr McLoughlin a long and restful retirement. Miss Burke is moving on to pastures new after securing a promotion at Pikes Lane Primary School as 'Pupil Welfare Manager'. Miss Burke has provided invaluable support to children and families for many years. We wish Miss Burke the best of luck as she starts her new role. And finally, Mrs Asani has been promoted to Deputy Headteacher here at Heathfield!

Reminder of Christmas dates

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| Tuesday 17 th December | KS1 Christmas Show 2:15pm and 4:00pm - tickets still available from the office |
| Wednesday 18 th December | KS2 Christmas Performance 9:30am - all welcome! |
| Wednesday 18 th December | Christmas Party Day (Early Years/KS1 –come to school in party clothes; KS2 come to school in Uniform and bring party clothes to change into for after Carol Concert) |
| Thursday 19 th December | Heathfield Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation |

Winter Wonderland

Thank you to everyone involved in the Winter Wonderland last week – it was great to see so many parents come and support the event. We raised £391.40. The money raised at events like this are so important so that we can continue to purchase items that really make a difference to school such as reading books and playground equipment.

Choir

Choir have done an amazing job spreading festive cheer. As you may remember from my last newsletter, the choir opened the Salvation Army Christmas fair on the 10th December. Members of the community are still talking about their amazing singing and they have already been booked for next year! The choir sang at Sainsbury's earlier this week, raising £83.81, they opened our Winter Wonderland and are singing a song as part of the KS2 performance. Well done and thank you to Mrs Neary and the Heathfield choir!

Could you win £100 for two minutes?

Speak to Mrs Renton or Miss Burke or get a form from the office and fill out the Free School Meals form with your basic details and be in with the chance to WIN £100! It doesn't matter if you don't think you are entitled – fill it in! EVERY entry will be put in to the draw! The winner will be announced on the 18th December 2019!

Heathfield Curriculum

This term Heathfield staff, parents, governors and members of the local community have been looking at the Heathfield curriculum, considering what it is that we want for our children. This has resulted in lots of debate and discussions. Following on from this we have identified the following vision:

The children at Heathfield will be provided with a an inter connected curriculum that promotes meaningful connections between concepts and knowledge (Heathfield Head), develops genuine and robust character traits to prepare children for life in the modern world (Heathfield Heart) and opportunities for children to use and apply their Head and Heart to answer learning questions (Heathfield Hands) resulting in knowledgeable, physically and mentally healthy children that achieve their potential and have a solid foundation to become lifelong learners.



I will be talking more about this in future newsletters. If you would like more information about this before then, please feel free to speak to me when I'm outside before or after school.

Mental health check-in

Having a positive mental health is very important and highly valued at Heathfield. A positive mental health means that children are able to learn better, express and manage a range of positive and negative emotions well, form and maintain good relationships and cope with and manage change and uncertainty. Our Mental Health Ambassadors wanted to implement a simple system that would allow children to signal easily if they were experiencing negative emotions. With this in mind, we are implementing daily 'Mental Health check-in'. This means that from January, at 8:50am teachers will remain in class to greet the children and as they arrive children will self-assess how they are feeling. If children are not feeling overly positive they will have the opportunity to meet with Mrs Renton that day to discuss their feelings and/or carryout mindfulness activities so that they can carry on with their day in a more positive frame of mind. We will review how this is going throughout the half term.

Punctuality '5 to 9 be on time'

Reception - Year 6: School starts at **8:55am** - this means children must be in school no later than this time. Teaching Assistants will be locking the doors at **8:55am**. If your child arrive after this time they will have to access the school via the main entrance where their late will be recorded. If children arrive after 9:10am they will not get their morning mark and this will impact on their overall attendance.



Reading together and Stay and Play sessions

Next term we will be inviting First steps, Nursery, Reception and KS1 parents into school to enjoy a story with their children. KS2 parents will be invited into school to watch their children's amazing Maths skills! If these events prove successful, we will offer more opportunities for parents to come into school! See dates below!

Parking and Neighbours

Please avoid driving up Henniker Road at all costs for the safety of our children. Also, please will parents and children, who access or leave school via the back gate, not use neighbour's gardens as a cut through. Thank you

"Please don't park on the road near school because it is dangerous and it might hurt me or another child or an adult and I don't want that to happen" (Year 2 Heathfield child)



Responding to popular demand of many parents/carers, we have purchased ParentPay. This will mean that very soon parents will be able to make payments to school online. Once we have launched ParentPay, following a settling-in period, all payments for lunches, snacks, trips etc., will have to be paid online. Further details will be provided in the new year!

Two- Year old places

We have some places available in our Two Year Old provision **for this academic year**. Please pass this information on to any friends or relatives who might be interested.

Twitter

Staff are really good at uploading pictures onto our Twitter account, showing all the amazing things we are doing at Heathfield. If you are not following @HeathfieldCP, start following us now! We need permission to upload pictures of children onto Twitter - if you think you have not given this permission and would like to, please contact the school office.

End of term

School closes at **2:00pm on Thursday 19th December**. If you require child care after this time, why not send your child to Cinema Club from 2:00pm – 3:45pm for £4. Book your child's place at the office, however, places are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis.

Future Dates:

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| Monday 6 th January | Term begins (8:55am – be on time!) |
| Friday 10 th January | Heathfield Coffee Morning 9am |
| Monday 13 th January | Reading together Rec & KS1 - 3pm-3:15pm, First Steps & Nursery 8:40am-8:55am & 12:20pm-12:35pm |
| Tuesday 28 th January | Stay and Play KS2 Maths 9am – 9:15am |
| Friday 31 st January | Heathfield Coffee Morning 9am |
| Friday 7 th February | PATH cake sale 3.15pm |
| Tuesday 11 th February | Safer Internet Day |
| Friday 14 th February | Non-Uniform Day – wear red - £1 donation |
| Thursday 13 th February | Design and Technology Day |
| Friday 14 th February | Design and Technology Day (Details will be sent out re. parents coming in to see the children's work) |

Once again thank you for all of your support this term. As always if you have any comments you wish to make, please speak to me before or after school or arrange an appointment at the office.

I wish you all a restful break and a Happy New Year

Yours sincerely, Mr M D Thornley Headteacher



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#WakeUpWednesday

12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The Christmas season has finally arrived and soon many of you will be opening your presents in the hope that Santa has listened to your request for the latest mobile phone or smart device.

Owning a mobile phone can be fun, but it's important to use it safely and responsibly. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that you set up your phone securely, keep your personal information private and enjoy using your phone in the healthiest way possible.

1 ALWAYS SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your phone without your permission. Make sure your password is memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share it with your parents just in case you forget it.

2 DISABLE LOCATION SETTINGS

This can usually be done from the device's privacy control settings. Disabling location settings means that your phone can't be tracked by others and strangers can't tell where you are when you're using it. It also helps to save battery.

3 ALWAYS USE A SECURE WIFI NETWORK

When you use your WIFI at home usually it is a secure network that only you and your family know the password to. Public networks, like those in coffee shops, can be accessed by anyone which means that people could potentially hack into your device and access your personal information without you realising.

4 ONLY PAIR WITH BLUETOOTH DEVICES YOU KNOW

A Bluetooth connection with another device means that you can send and receive data wirelessly. For example, you could listen to music wirelessly or receive pictures and videos from your friends. However, pairing your phone with a device you don't know means that you could be sharing personal information with a stranger or could leave your device open to receiving viruses.

5 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.

6 BEWARE OF BECOMING ADDICTED TO YOUR PHONE

Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.

7 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Using your phone for too long, particularly in the evenings, can make you feel tired at school, affect your concentration and make you lose interest in other things in life. Only use your phone at certain times of the day and don't use it close to bedtime. You can set a 'screen time limit' via the settings on your phone. This will help you stay fit and healthy and means that you will still be able to focus and perform well at school.

8 THINK OF OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS

Don't take embarrassing photos of other people on your phone. If other people get access to the photo and share it with more people, it could make that person really upset and treated as a form of bullying. Always be mindful of the photos you take using your camera and who you share them with.

9 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This means that you will be able to use your phone safely and securely and won't accidentally do things you shouldn't do. The best time to do this is when you get a new phone or device so that you're protected from the very beginning.

10 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR PARENTS IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE

Sometimes, even though your phone is really secure, you might see something you don't like, or someone might contact you who you don't know. If this happens, always tell your trusted adult like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and advise you on what you should do next.

11 DON'T TEXT AND WALK

This might seem like a strange thing to say but it can be dangerous to stare at your mobile phone whilst walking outside alongside busy roads or bicycle paths. In some cases, children have been knocked over by cars or cyclists because they haven't been aware of their surroundings whilst texting or playing games on their mobile devices.

12 DON'T SHARE YOUR NUMBER OR YOUR DEVICE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW.

Never feel pressured into sharing your phone number with people you don't know and don't lend your phone to strangers or keep it where others could get hold of it. Look after your device and always keep it hidden from sight to avoid it being stolen or broken into.