

January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year - The start of a new decade! Whilst I am sure it feels like a long time ago now, I hope you all had a lovely break.

Coffee Morning

It was great to talk to parents at the coffee morning on Friday 10th January. It is such a valuable time for me – it's a great opportunity to answer parent questions, consider parent suggestions and a time for me to share what is happening in the future. The next coffee mornings are on Friday 31st January and Friday 28th February. I will be attending on the 28th February. As always, please feel free to talk to me before or after school if you have any questions before this time or arrange a meeting with me at a convenient time via the office.

Reading at Heathfield



Reading is the **most** important skill and a key driving force in everything we do here at Heathfield. If children cannot read they cannot access the other areas of the curriculum; if children cannot read we are limiting the opportunities available to them! We are working hard to enhance the way we teach reading at Heathfield from First Steps to Year 6 to ensure all children are able to read in line with their age expectations – **keep up not catch up!** From First Steps we start the teaching of reading using a phonic programme called 'Letters and Sounds' and this provides the building blocks for children becoming effective readers. As children are able to decode and read fluently, we start to focus more on comprehension and children's understanding of the text.

As well as the formal teaching of reading, we want the children at Heathfield to enjoy reading and to read for pleasure. To promote reading for enjoyment we have introduced the following Reading Reward systems.

Reception - Year 2 - Reading Superheroes

The aim is for the children to read 100 books! Each time a child reads a book, it will be recorded and when the children have read 20, 40, 60 and 80 books they receive a certificate in assembly. Once they have read 100 books they will receive a special reading prize! In each class (R, 1 and 2) there will be a display to show how many times the children have read. Each display will have the children's face and a set of clouds with 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100. Children will move up the clouds once they reach the reading milestones.

Reading reward system Year 3-6

In KS2, we are aiming for children to read **at least** 20 books in a school year. In KS2, once children have read a book they will complete a book review to reflect on whether they have enjoyed the book or not and to suggest books to other children in the class. Children will receive a certificate when they reach each milestone.

Bronze – 5 books. Silver – 10 books. Gold – 15 books. Platinum – 20 books.

Once the children have read 20 books, they will move onto reading **award winning texts**. Award winning texts are a set of books that have been recognised by the Costa Book Awards or the Waterstones Book Awards as high quality, popular books. **I would like to thank the PATH group for their very kind donation to allow us to purchase the award winning texts.**

Reading at Home

For children to be successful readers, they must read as frequently as possible. At Heathfield, we have changed the way we are using Teaching Assistants to ensure that we can listen to children read as much as possible but we still need **parental support**. So many of you listen to your child read each night – this is fantastic and so important. Reading with your child should not be a chore but rather a special time. Your children reading to you, you reading to your child and reading together all has a **significant impact**. We all have such busy lives and it can feel like we don't have the time but just five minutes reading each day can have a massive impact on your child.

Everyone Read sessions

It was wonderful to see so many parents/carers attend our Everyone Read sessions last week in Early Years and Key Stage 1. We had some really positive feedback so will be holding similar events in the future.



Reading Buddies

As well as teachers, teaching assistants and parents listening to children read, some of our Year 6 children are giving up some of their lunch to listen to Year 1 readers. To become a Reading Buddy the Year 6 children had to complete an application form and then were invited to interview. The children selected demonstrated their love for reading and a commitment to helping younger children read. This is a true example of the Heathfield family ‘*Learning together, Learning for life*’



Want to know more about Reading at Heathfield?

We would really like to share with parents/carers in more detail our approach to reading and so would like to invite parents to come into school, have a brew and biscuit and listen to the Heathfield approach to reading. **The meeting will be at 9 am on Tuesday 10th March.** A letter will come out closer to the time to remind parents.



Heathfield Heart

You may recall on a previous newsletter I shared with you our new Heathfield Curriculum Intent. Part of our curriculum intent is the ‘**Heathfield Heart**’ The Heathfield Heart refers to the essential character traits children need to prepare them for life in the modern world.

By adopting the ‘Heathfield Heart’ we recognise the impact that personal/character skills can have on the academic success and well-being of our children. The following 6 areas of personal development form what we class as the ‘**Heathfield Heart**’ and are worked upon throughout a child’s time at Heathfield Primary School. Heathfield Heart consists of: Independent Learner, Team worker, Effective participator, Reflective learner, Resourceful thinker and Self-Manager. I will go into more detail about each characteristic in future newsletters.

Punctuality ‘5 to 9 be on time’

Reception - Year 6: School starts at **8.55 am** - this means children must be in school no later than this time. Teaching Assistants will be locking the doors at **8.55 am**. If your child arrives after this time they will have to access the school via the main entrance where their late will be recorded. If children arrive after 9.10 am children will not get their morning mark and this will impact on their overall attendance.



As I know some parents are aware, we are having a few issues with ParentPay linking to our school systems. ParentPay are working to resolve this issue and we hope to have ParentPay fully up and running ASAP. This means that your account balance may not reflect meals taken this term. Thank you for your patience – it will be worth it in the end!

Chocolate Bingo

Get your tickets for Family Chocolate bingo next week – be great to see families there having some family fun! I have been rehearsing my bingo lingo... Prime minister’s den, Number 10! One sitting duck, number 2! Look forward to seeing families there!



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.

Future Dates:

- Tuesday 28th January Stay and Play KS2 Maths 9 am – 9.15 am
- Friday 31st January Heathfield Coffee Morning 9 am
- Wednesday 29th January Bingo 6 pm
- Friday 7th February PATH cake sale 3.15 pm
- Tuesday 11th February Safer Internet Day
- Friday 14th February Non-Uniform Day – wear red - £1 donation
- Thursday 13th February Design and Technology Day
- Friday 14th February Design and Technology Day (Details will be sent out re. parents coming in to see the children’s work)
- Monday 24th February Art Day
- Tuesday 25th February Art Day (Details will be sent out re. parents coming in to see the children’s work)
- Tuesday 10th March Reading at Heathfield Parent Meeting

Yours sincerely, Mr M D Thornley Headteacher