

February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy half term it has been! I hope you have been keeping an eye on Twitter to see all the amazing things your children do on a daily basis!

Curriculum

Many of the changes we have been discussing in the autumn term have now started to be implemented. Based on evidenced based research, we have made changes to the way we teach Reading, including early reading (phonics) and Maths. Some of the greatest changes are to foundation subjects like History, Geography, Art and Design and Technology. Subject leaders and teachers have spent a considerable amount of time considering what subject knowledge that we want children to know. We refer to this as the '**Heathfield Head**'.

Teachers have carefully sequenced when children learn this knowledge over their time at Heathfield. This is important because we want to ensure that the knowledge the children are taught remains in **long term memory**; to do this we need to continually build on children's prior learning. If children cannot remember what they have been taught, has learning really taken place? This is why we have created **Knowledge Organisers** for some subjects and these are starting to be sent home.



Heathfield Head

Knowledge Organisers



The knowledge organisers detail the specific knowledge/facts/vocabulary the children need to know. As parents/carers you can use the Knowledge Organisers to quiz your children on key vocabulary/facts. This will benefit the children greatly when they are in class.

Of course, simply learning a list of facts is not the aim. We set a '**Big Question**' each term and the expectation is children use their knowledge (Heathfield Head) to answer the '**Big Question**' - we refer to this as the **Heathfield Hands**.



Heathfield Hands

Thanks to the Knowledge Organisers, your children do not have an excuse when you ask the question, 'What did you learn today?'

Heathfield Heart

I have spoken above about the **Heathfield Head** - the knowledge we want children to have but that is only one part of our curriculum intent. We also want to develop children's character - their **Heathfield Heart**. I have mentioned this in previous newsletters. The character traits we have selected are built up over a child's time at Heathfield and have been selected based on research. They are proven to be important character traits a person needs to be successful in life. We believe that the **Heathfield Heart** combined with the **Heathfield Head** results in children that are knowledgeable, physically and mentally healthy that achieve their potential and have a solid foundation to become lifelong learners. Summarised in our motto, **learning together, learning for life**.



Heathfield Heart

Independent Inquirer

An independent inquirer is a child **who is curious** - they want to find out new things.

Resourceful thinker

A resourceful thinker is **innovative** and makes links, bringing their skills and knowledge together.

Team Worker

A team worker is a child who collaborates well, sharing their own ideas and listening to and respecting others.

Reflective Learner

A reflective learner is a child who is resilient, knowing what they have done well and how it could be improved.

Self-Manager

A self-manager is someone **who is organised and takes responsibility**.

Effective Participator

An effective participator is a child **who is willing to take risks and have a go**.

Early Years

Early Years parents are kept up to date about their children's progress regularly through Tapestry. It is so pleasing to see parents posting their children's achievements and application on knowledge and skills at home. This constant communication between parents/carers and teachers is so important and provides the strongest foundation to your child's school career.

Bingo!

Thank you so much to the PATH group for arranging a superb bingo evening. It was great to see so many families in the hall enjoying the evening. A special thank you to local businesses that kindly donated some of the prizes. Some children have written to the businesses to thank them for their generosity. We raised £200 which will be used for playground equipment and improvements. Following on from the success of the bingo, we will be arranging an Easter Bingo. Keep an eye on the notice boards for the date!

Design and Technology days

Thursday and Friday are 'Design and Technology' days. The aim of Design and Technology days are for children to develop skills that allow them to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. The days are split into four sections: Evaluate, design, make, evaluate. **On Friday 14th February at 2:55pm, we would like to invite parents into school to see the work and process the children have taken over the two Design and Technology days!** This will be a lovely way to end the half term!

Parent Pay

Parent Pay is finally up and running. A massive thank you to Mrs. Walsh for sorting this. After half term, Heathfield will be a cashless school. To support parents/carers with this transition we will be holding several support surgeries to support any parents/carers that may need assistance setting up their account. (See next page)

Future Dates:

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| Thursday 13 th February | Design and Technology Day |
| Friday 14 th February | Design and Technology Day |
| Friday 14 th February | Non-Uniform Day – wear red - £1 donation |
| Monday 24 th February | Art Day |
| Tuesday 25 th February | Art Day |
| Friday 28 th February | Coffee Morning at 9 am |
| Tuesday 10 th March | Reading at Heathfield Parent Meeting |
| Wednesday 11 th March | The Book Bus |
| Tuesday 24 th March | Parents' Evening – Book your appointment via the eSchools app from 9 th March |
| Thursday 26 th March | Parents' Evening – Book your appointment via the eSchools app from 9 th March |

I will write to you inviting you into future 'Reading Together sessions' and 'Stay and Play' sessions at the start of the half term.

Once again, thank you to all parents/carers for their continued support.

School closes at **3:15pm this Friday (14th February)** for one week.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 24th February at 8:55am**.

Have a wonderful half term.

Yours sincerely, Mr M D Thornley Headteacher



Heathfield School is going cashless!

Have you set up your ParentPay account?

From Monday 24th February the School will not be accepting cash payments for School Meals, Snack, Nursery Fees and Trips.

**CASH IS NOT
ACCEPTED**

All payments will need to be paid online using ParentPay.
Please ensure you set up your account today!



If you experience any difficulties the staff in the office are on hand to help. If you have mislaid your activation letter(s) please contact the office for a reprint.

We will be holding support surgeries to provide assistance setting up your account, showing you how to pay for the different items available and to answer any queries on

Thursday 13th February 9:00am – 9:30am

Monday 24th February 9:00am – 9:30am

Tuesday 25th February 2:45pm – 3:15pm