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Headteacher: Mr. M. D Thornley BSC (Hons)

Wednesday 1st December

RE: NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well and are having a lovely week – certainly a windy week following on from storm Arwen. Half of the Heathfield sign above the front door ended up on the field and the other half lodged on the school roof!

COVID-19

We currently have two confirmed COVID-19 cases in school (Year 3 and 6) and cases remain stubbornly high in Bolton. This, alongside the emergence of the Omicron variant, is a reminder that we must continue to vigilant to ensure everyone in the Heathfield family is safe and can enjoy the Christmas/winter break.

Since first writing this newsletter this morning, Bolton council have been aware of two highly probably cases of Omicron in Bolton. When entering school, **please ensure your child/ren sanitize their hands, keep your distance** from other parents as much as possible when dropping off and collecting children and if you are able to, **wear a face covering**. The priority is to maintain face to face education but I am aware of schools in neighbouring authorities that have had to close classes because of 5 confirmed cases within a class. **If your child/ren has COVID-19 symptoms, please do not bring them to school and arrange for a test.**

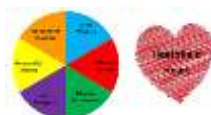
Like we have throughout the pandemic, we need to work together to ensure the Heathfield family is safe, high quality, face to face education can continue and everyone can enjoy the Christmas/winter break.

DIGITAL LEADERS

This week our digital leaders took part in a virtual training programme to learn about what children need to do to stay safe online. The digital leaders will be sharing their knowledge with other children through assemblies and posters.



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4 of our 6 Digital Leaders

The advantages of the internet far outweigh the disadvantages, however, children need to know how to use it safely. Internet safety is taught through our PSHE and computing curriculum throughout school. On the 10th December, KS2 will be taking part in a national google legends internet safety assembly.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Following on from the headlines shared last week please see below some of the comments from the parent questionnaire. Once again, thank you for sharing your views. They are valued.

Like the use of Tapestry to see what my child has been getting up to... My child is extremely happy at school and loves their days at Heathfield, thank you!

My daughter, who has SEND, has settled in really well at Heathfield Primary. The staff have been fantastic and ensure she is included in all activities as much as possible. I would highly recommend the school to other parents considering primary schools places for their children.

Lovely friendly school Very good school

Heathfield gives good support to kid's development even the kids who have any disabilities

I am more than happy with the education and support that my child receives at Heathfield. I see on a regular basis that staff go above and beyond to support my child's needs.

Really pleased with the regular newsletters and information sent via the Facebook page.

Heathfield is one of the best schools in Bolton. I am satisfied with this school and very happy that my children attend this school.

My children are very happy at heathfield and that's is fantastic for me as a parent.

The reading support given to xxx has improved his reading and he now enjoys reading and school much more than previously

Great teachers who are committed to the wellbeing of the children

Very good school and very helpful teachers

xxxx enjoys school, all subjects and has always been fond of his teachers who have encouraged and supported him throughout the years. Brilliant school and excellent headteacher

The way my child was supported in reception, that was outstanding. Teachers are very well capable to understand a child's strengths and weaknesses and they work with children according to that. Very friendly staffs and easily reachable. Working parents are well supported by their lovely HOOSC staffs. I feel no worries at all when my son is in the school

The School offers a wide range of subjects and communication between the school and parents is brilliant. The immersive days are fantastic and my child gains alot from these days.

Heathfield gives good support to kids development even the kids who have any disabilities

I think Heathfield is a lovely school. My child is very happy there. Every teacher we have dealt with has been brilliant, helpful and nurturing for my child. I especially like the way mental health is managed in the school, teaching children

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to be aware of their feelings and encouraging them to identify and embrace the way they feel I think will lay the foundations that they will need as they grow.

I am more than happy with the education and support that my child receives at Heathfield. I see on a regular basis that staff go above and beyond to support my child's needs.

Great teachers who are committed to the wellbeing of the children

Very good school and very helpful teachers

I think the school should start serving halal food during lunch time.

Our school meal service is provided by Bolton council. For a school to offer halal food a high percentage of children would need to eat halal food. We are awaiting feedback on the exact percentage and then we will consider next steps.

When my child reads with an adult in school I would prefer to see a written comment rather than a stamp

We understand parents would prefer a written, perhaps more personal comment. We base our decisions on what will have the most impact on children's learning. We have a limited number of hours to listen to all children read and so the stamp allows staff to be efficient and spend more time listening to readers. Please be assured children are provided with verbal feedback.

Breakfast clubs and other clubs should be free for parents, with a range to choose from. Thank you

We would love this too! Many staff do volunteer their time to provide clubs for children, some of these are before school, during school and/or after school but it can be difficult juggling teaching commitments and volunteering time to do clubs. We are always looking to invite companies into school to deliver additional clubs but unfortunately they usually come with a cost that we cannot afford within our school budget. We have changed the way we staff break and lunch times meaning that there are less children on the playground with more staff to enable children to take part in quality sporting activities during lunch. We will continue to try and develop our club offer.

Please open the back gate again to make school pick up easier! It would also ease the flow of parents leaving the school at home time. And trips. Does the school do swimming lessons?

We do plan to open the back gate again in the future but keeping it closed allows us to maintain the one way system which stops the bottle necks forming at the KS1 and KS2 gate. We have started to programme trips in again including visits to the Octagon theatre and RHS garden centre. Yes, children go swimming usually Year 4, although because of COVID, it has had to change as children have missed out.

There were some comments about additional homework.

We often get mixed responses about homework; some parents prefer less and some prefer more and we also need to factor in the workload for teachers. In preparation for high school, our Year 6 children receive additional, more formal homework. All children on a daily basis have reading, spellings, times tables and we offer a menu of other relevant activities that can be completed over the half term. Teachers will do their best to accommodate additional work if requested but as a leadership team we need to be mindful of teacher's workload. (Overworked teachers are not effective!) If you feel you are not being supported with additional work, please email parents

More outside lighting as when pick up from after school club dark at the side of school

We will get a quote for this.

Understand the restrictions with covid but it would be great to invite parents more into school i.e. for class assemblies and performances. Parents miss this connection.

We miss it too! We have plans to invite parent/carers back into school for various activities such as: Reading together, stay and play events, Mother/Father day lunches and a sportsperson's dinner. We did manage to

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hold a face to face 'Cuppa T with Mr. T' which was great and offered a hybrid offer of either face or face or virtual meetings for parents evening.

Thank you for your comments. Should you ever wish to pose a question or provide feedback, please email parents@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk

NUT FREE ZONE



A polite reminder that nuts or nut based products should not be brought into school as part of snack, lunch or birthday celebration treats. We have several children with nut allergies. Thank you for your understanding.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Several places have become available in our woodwind musical instrument lessons – recorder, flute or clarinet. Younger children (Year 1, 2 and 3) could initially learn the recorder and then transfer onto the flute or clarinet once they have grown/hands are bigger.

As a school we buy into Bolton music service in order to subsidise the cost of musical instrument lessons. The cost of a group lesson is £22 per month). If you would like your child/ren to take part, please email parents@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk for further details.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – FINAL REMINDER

On **Tuesday 14th December** we will be offering our Christmas dinner service.

If your child has a packed lunch and you would like them to have a Christmas dinner the cost of the meal is £2.20. The Christmas dinner is free to Reception, Years 1 and 2 children.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2 and would usually have a packed lunch, please email parents@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk to inform school your child would like a Christmas dinner.

If your child is in Nursery, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 and would usually have a packed lunch, please pay on ParentPay to indicate that your child would like a Christmas dinner.

Children already on school dinners will automatically receive a Christmas dinner.

Please ensure school has been informed by **9:00am on Monday 6th December**. Requests after this time will not be accepted.

KEY DATES

Monday 6th December 9am	Deadline to inform school about Christmas dinner
Friday 10th December	Christmas Jumper day (Usual uniform apart from jumper. £1 donation via parent pay)
Monday 13th December	Pantomime – Puss in boots

Yours sincerely, Mr. M D Thornley Headteacher

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