

Heltwate Round up

February 2022

www.heltwate.co.uk



A note from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a short half term but in the same breath felt quite a long one. I would like to thank my team of highly professional colleagues who despite continuous coughs and colds, enforced absence and feeling unanimously under the weather, kept coming in and teaching great lessons with panache and creativity.

We are very pleased to be able to report that staff Covid absence numbers have continued to reduce across the school and are delighted to have welcomed back most staff who have been unwell. Rates locally are still high and children absence rates remain high. A third of our students have now had Covid since the start of September. We will keep our current Covid protection arrangements in place until the end of this half term and start next half term with the same procedures in place. We have all heard the rumours about the end of restrictions, but at Heltwate we will continue to be cautious to keep everyone safe.

This week in school has been a busy one.....

We had the M&M Theatre Company run an interactive cinematic performance of Snow White for us, this was funded by Happy Days Charity. The children also enjoyed taking part in the NSPCC number day events. The school has also had a focus on Online Safety some children met 'Princess Peach' and were helped to understand how to maintain their safety online. Please ask your children about it.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to the lighter evenings and a little more warmth, enjoy the half term break.

Adam Brewster



School breaks up for half term on FRIDAY 11th FEBRUARY at 3.00 p.m.

Pupils return to school on MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY at 8.40 a.m.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day this year was on Tuesday 8th February. The focus this year was on having fun online. The children learned about online safety and looked at how we can stay safe.

In classes, there was a variety of activities that looked at how we treat others online and knowing how we can responsibly have fun and stay safe. Some classes also participated in online safety sessions, where they were tested on their Internet safety skill



As part of 'Safer Internet Day' some classes had a Zoom call from a stranger ! The 'stranger' asked students questions to see who would be willing to give away their personal details. Luckily, the 'stranger' was actually just Kim in disguise, but the exercise highlighted how vulnerable some of our students are whilst online, as many were very keen to meet up with the stranger for a McDonalds or share gamer tags and usernames. More work will be completed in class to follow up from this lesson and staff will be reinforcing the importance of Internet safety throughout the curriculum. A huge well done to those students who refused to talk to the stranger though! You did yourselves proud!



NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 4th February the school took part in the NSPCC's Number day. Every class decorated a number to create a giant number line display for school, we have such a wide variety of designs ranging from painting to mosaics. They are so wonderful to look at, and we are very excited for the number line to go up in the hall. There was a lot of excitement in the classrooms throughout the day as the children exchanged money for snacks, joined in with number songs from Paul the music man, participated in the schools quiz, explored sensory number activities and dressed up in some fabulous number based outfits. It was so lovely to see the children engaged and having fun to raise money for a charity that helps so many children in the UK. Well done everyone!



M&M Theatre Production

On Monday 7th February we had the welcome return of M&M Productions with a new theatre format for us to experience. As a result of covid, they introduced a cinematic experience which meant they could provide a safer, but more immersive experience for their audiences. Both the Bretton and St George's sites were treated to 'Snow White' on Monday.

Watching a performance on a giant cinema screen was a new experience for some of our students. But everyone agreed they thoroughly enjoyed it! Students from Scarlet class said they liked the massive cinema screen and the performance was 'funny'. Kia said she liked the music. All students agreed that they would like M&M Productions to visit again next year. As a school, we would like to thank the Happy Days charity for funding this for Heltwate Students.



Attendance

The whole school attendance percentage for the school year up to 10th February is 89.8%. This is an expected dip from previous years due to the increase in COVID absences and the need to still self isolate. Our attendance is significantly higher than the national average for special schools. For the week beginning 24th January, our attendance was 84.7% and the national average was 75.3%.

To report a school absence please either send a class dojo message or telephone the school office on 01733 262878 by 9.15 a.m.

If you feel there are issues other than illness that are affecting your child's attendance please do contact school. We want to work with you and your child to ensure that your child is able to attend and help in any way which we can.

Moving house

Please be aware that when you move house you need to contact the transport office on 01733 317452 so they can re-arrange your transport as your move could mean your child being on a different transport route. Transport may not be able to organise the change immediately and so you would need to bring your child to school yourself whilst it is being done.



Please make sure that you let the school office know your new address.



Coral class visited Birch Tree cafe in Easton on the Hill this half term. We had a lovely time and really enjoyed that the cafe is staffed by people who have learning disabilities. We had super yummy food and really recommend a visit!



Parent / Carers vehicles onsite

Please can we remind those who bring and collect their child into school that **the school site cannot be accessed between 8.40 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. by parent / carer vehicles.** If you do come onto site during these times you will be asked to move your vehicle.

Class Dojo

Please make sure you are signed up to class dojo and regularly check it – we use it for all communication between school and home.

School Transport

All transport is managed by Peterborough City Council. If you need to speak to the transport team about your child's transport please ring 01733 317455 and NOT the school office.

School Dinners

Dinners are £2.70 a day for Years 3-6 and £2.90 a day for Year 7 upwards. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 do not need to pay.

A new menu is starting after half term on 21st February and has been shared via class dojo and is on our website. The link is also here <https://www.heltwate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/School-Dinner-Menu-Feb-July-2022.pdf>

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

The application is an online form which can be accessed from our website or from the link below: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>