

Heltwate Round up

March 2022

www.heltwate.co.uk



A note from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

The most exciting news of course is that work has started on the Jubilee site. The bats were removed and rehoused, scrub trees have been removed, the pub has gone, the fencing is being erected.

Children have had a treat, walking to the site each day watching the bulldozers and crushers doing their work. One group was even allowed to use the fire hose to help lay the dust. Relationships with site staff have been great, we have been welcomed and had front row seats. The area looks much larger than we anticipated and certainly will have a much-improved aspect. There is a section on our website with regular updates so please have a look

<https://www.heltwate.co.uk/our-school/heltwate-jubilee-site/>



This has been a short half term but has been an extremely busy one. You won't be surprised that we celebrated 'World Book Day', you have never seen so many Willy Wonkers! Science Day, Comic Relief, Autism Awareness Day the list goes on. We have supported a range of charities and had a collection of personal care and medical supplies to send to the Ukraine.

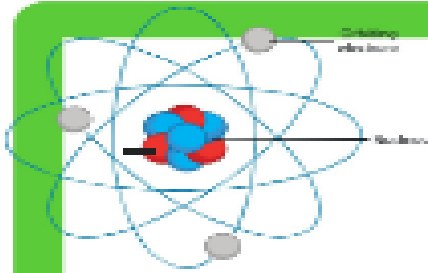
Thank you so much for supporting parent's meetings - they were very well attended.

I have been enormously privileged to have been able to spend time in every one of the classes, observing what is going on. Around 100 lessons were visited by the senior team. Visits were brief yet gave a good indication of the quality of teaching. It was a very positive picture. Generally, we saw; a broad and varied curriculum, Topic work is exciting to observe and for children to take part in. Excellent relationships are evident. Presentation of work is lovely, but it is clear that there is less and less paper-based evidence and we need to look at the photo evidence on Earwig.

School is safe, calm, and orderly, there is a buzz of excitement and many smiling faces. Hopefully the warmer weather will be with us soon. Happy Easter everyone. Have a happy and safe school holiday – we will see you back on Tuesday 19th April.

Adam Brewster

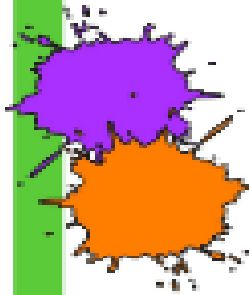




Science Day



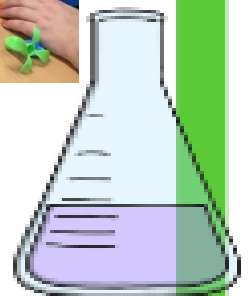
On 17th March we celebrated 'science day'. This year the theme was 'growth'. Throughout the day children explored and looked at all different themes in relation to growth. There was a range of activities - planting seeds or bulbs either in the allotment or in pots to grow in classrooms, a spring walk to see what was growing whilst others looked at how they grow from a baby to an adult.



Older pupils had the opportunity to carry out an experiment on how to grow crystals whilst the younger pupils were able to engage with a 'make your own garden' using different pieces to build up flowers from the ground upwards. Pupils also were able to make seed bombs and potato grass heads. There were virtual PE demonstrations to join in, concentrating on how animals grow and change in their movements from babies to adults.



It was a very eventful day with all the children having lots of fun!



***School breaks up for the Easter Holiday on
FRIDAY 1st APRIL at 3.00 p.m.***

Pupils return to school on TUESDAY 19TH APRIL at 8.40 a.m.



This year Heltwate and St. George's took part in the national event Red Nose Day. Classes participated in this event by completing Red Nose Day activities and with a non-uniform day which was superhero themed. Many thanks to all who participated in this activity, it was fun to see so many superheroes wandering around the playground and in the corridors.



As part of our event, we had a superhero fashion show! Each class was tasked with creating their own superhero and dressed their amazing staff member accordingly. The playground was marked with a red carpet and the students gathered around to see which superhero would appear!

Once the music was started... the show began. This was the first whole school event that has taken place for some time, and it was absolutely lovely to see all the classes together. Our winning Superhero at main site was created by Lavender class who presented Super Sensory! Angie, the class teacher, was adorned with sensory items and equipment, very fitting and a worthy winner for our students.



In addition to this, we held a cake raffle. Danielle in Turquoise class was challenged to make a superhero cake and the end result was marvellous. Not only did it look brilliant, but it also tasted delicious too! Our winner of the cake was Louise in the office, many thanks to all who purchased a square and helped to raise extra funds for this event.

Overall, we raised a fabulous £403.68. Once again, many thanks for your continued support and contributions to charity events at Heltwate School.



St. George's News

Gym

During February half term new gym equipment was installed at St George's into the old common room. The room has been partitioned so there is a dedicated gym space for the equipment.

The School Council helped to choose the new equipment which has been funded by Living Sport.

The equipment includes a rowing machine, a treadmill and an adapted bike which will be accessible for wheelchairs.

Staff are currently being inducted on the equipment after which, students will have their induction. This means that we will be able to timetable sessions for students. The intention is to open this more widely to our school community.



Student Transition

Year 11 and 14 students are preparing to leave Heltwate and move on to college. On Friday 24th March some students visited City College Peterborough for taster sessions. They very much enjoyed the craft, cooking and animal care taster sessions. This is excellent preparation for adulthood, for their transition for September.

Further sessions are planned for after Easter.

For further information please have a look at this [Parent's Guide to Preparing for Adulthood](#).



Youth Parliament

Students took part in the National Youth Parliament vote this term. Students watched the candidates' manifestos so they could choose who they wanted to vote for. An official ballot box was sent to school and Olympic College set up the Polling Station.



Our School needs YOU!!!!!!!

We have vacancies for **TWO** governors coming up and it could well be that Heltwate School needs someone just like you! I've said before governors play a key part in influencing the direction of the school. They work as a 'critical friend' to the leadership team of the school, offering advice, challenge, and support in varying amounts. Since I became the Head, I have been hugely grateful to be supported by a very strong team of governors. Moreover, there is very clear evidence of the impact they have had in setting the strategic direction of the school. As a parent, you see aspects of the school that may well need highlighting to senior leaders. Often, we think we know what's going on, but students and parents have different views sometimes. The parent governor is in a key position to improve things for their children and all children in the school. It is undoubtedly a position of real responsibility, but it is also tremendously rewarding to feel that you are playing a part in improving the life chances of young people at Heltwate - what a privilege!

If this is something you might like to consider but need more information, PLEASE drop us an email l.bowes@heltwate.net or pop in for a chat.

Attendance

Class Dojo messages are being sent this week to parent / carers whose children have less than 90% attendance. As of 29th March, 90% attendance means your child has missed 12 days of school, and 80% is 24 missed school days which is almost 5 weeks. Missed days really have an impact on your child's learning and socialising skills.

The whole school attendance percentage for the school year up to 29th March is 89.9%. This is an expected dip from previous years due to the increase in COVID absences. Our attendance is significantly higher than the national average for special schools. During the week beginning 14th March, our attendance was 89.9% and the national average was 82.9%

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.

Leave of Absence

Heltwate School will only authorise Leave of Absence under exceptional circumstances. The Governors of Heltwate School consider that 'exceptional' circumstances do not occur regularly by definition and are one off occasions. **HOLIDAYS WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED.**

Requests for exceptional leave of absence should be made at least 4 school weeks in advance and will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher as delegated by the Governing Body, (or in their absence by a Deputy Headteacher).

Forms are available to download from the school website:

<https://www.heltwate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Leave-of-Absence-Request-Form-21-22.pdf>

<https://www.heltwate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LOA-letter-2021-22.pdf>

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.

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.



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.

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 or the switchboard on 01733 747474 and ask for passenger transport. Please DO NOT contact 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.

The link to the menu is 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>