

# Heltwate Round up

February 2023

www.heltwate.co.uk



## A note from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a short half term but has been an extremely busy one, I hope you have been following what has taken place on Dojo. I would like to thank my team of highly professional colleagues for another fantastic half term.

Across the school we have been working incredibly hard on phonics and learning to read. We are all delighted with the progress being made. I hope you saw Emily's guide to teaching reading on Dojo. World book day is being celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. We are combining literacy with careers education. Children will be invited to dress up using the theme; When I grow up, I want to be? You might like to start thinking about what outfits might be appropriate. (We all wanted to be footballers, ballerinas or superheroes, so don't over think it). We are looking forward to that. Your children should come home clutching their free book or World Book Day voucher during the week before or after this.

Attendance has started to pick up a little bit after Covid, but still needs to improve. I am having so many requests for term time holidays. It is always a difficult decision, but schools are not allowed to authorise them. There is increased pressure from the local authority to issue fines for unauthorised leave or persistent absence.

The school day starts at 8:40 and it is great to see the children smiling and eager to come in ready for their learning. They really like being here. On the occasion you do have an appointment please make every effort to get them here before or after as their attendance at school is really important. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

You will have noticed that the new Jubilee building is really coming on. Hopefully it will be finished shortly after Easter, it is going to be lovely and I'm looking forward to showing you around.

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 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at 3.00 p.m.**

**Pupils return to school on MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at 8.40 a.m.**



# NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 3rd February, we took part in NSPCC Number Day and it was a huge success raising over £365.

The students in the Develop, Discover and Stepping On pathways took part in a range of activities across the day including a Maths Quiz, BINGO, Number Pong, Archery and more.

Those students on the Engage and Explore pathway had access to a range of multisensory resources in class, focusing on Number Sense and working together to produce fantastic art work for our Ten Town display.

Alongside the activities was a cafe and cake raffle. Congratulations to Filip in Magenta class for winning the cake prize. We would like to say a huge thank you to all staff, students and parents/ carers for supporting the event!



## Donation

We would like to thank the Bains family who have very kindly made donations to Heltwate School following the very sad passing of Great Grandad and Grandma.

We send our condolences to the family at this sad time and thank them again for their support.



# M&M Theatre Production

On Tuesday 17th January we had the welcome return of M&M Productions with a cinematic experience of Snow White.

Watching a performance on a giant cinema screen was a new experience for some of our students. But everyone agreed they thoroughly enjoyed it! Feedback this year was again very positive. 'Coral Class sat for the whole hour and were engaged and interacted with the whole show'. They loved it!

'It was a little long for some but most of our pupils stayed and were really excited. It was lovely to see students who find it hard to engage with crowds, noise and music really smile!'



Opportunities for students to experience live theatre is a unique and invaluable experience. Again, we would like to thank the Happy Days charity for part-funding this for Heltwate Students.

# Growing Tower

We have been lent a growing tower by PECT Peterborough Environment City Trust. They work in partnership with Rethink Food and Grow Seed to empower children to think about food and the planet. The Growing Tower is an innovation and will show children an alternative way of growing the vegetables they eat without the need for planting in the ground.

These photos taken on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February show the change in growth already.





## Drinks in School

We've noticed an increase in energy and fizzy drinks being brought into school e.g. Prime. We would just like to make you aware that these are NOT allowed in school.

Children should only bring water or sugar free squash in a reusable bottle to school – which they can refill during the day with water.



## Attendance

The whole school attendance percentage for the school year up to 9<sup>th</sup> February is 89.9%.

We have seen an improvement in attendance this half term – 91.4% since the start of January compared to 87% for the last half term before Christmas. We remain above the national average for Special School attendance which is 86.5%.

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 317455 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.

## **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.

Our current menu is remaining after half term and we will be starting on Week 2 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February and it is available to view on our website.

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>

If your child is going to be late please be aware that school dinners have to be ordered by 9.30 a.m. so if you have not contacted us before then and bring your child into school late then they will need to provide them with a packed lunch.