

Heltwate Round up

October 2023

www.heltwate.co.uk



A note from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe that it is half term already. It has flown by. Overall, it has been a great one with young people coming back to school after the summer, looking smart and ready to learn. The first term is always tough as young people settle into new classes and new routines. Staff learn individuals' likes, dislikes and how to get the best out of everyone. Trust grows. Each week I lead the Weekly Good Work Assembly and it is so lovely to see how classes and individuals gel and start to excel. Well done to everyone.

I want to thank our students and staff, they make this school a pleasure to be at. Recently, I have been reading a lot about the importance of belonging, particularly after the pandemic. Human beings need to feel connected to other humans - it's a proven fact - and to belong. Our school is uniquely placed to do this. But no one person can do this on their own. I am aware of the millions of micro interactions (conversations, acts of kindness, glances, smiles, physical gestures) that take place every day in a community as big as ours. We need to think about undertaking these consciously and carefully to promote warmth and kindness. We are lucky to have such an amazing group of humans who are actively working together to create an awesome community.

Communication between parents and class staff is vital. If you have a query or concern, we are always happy to help. For non-urgent queries Dojo is the first port of call. Please understand that our teachers will not respond during teaching time but will endeavour to reply within 24 hours. Please avoid sending duplicate messages to teachers to try to get a faster answer as this just causes unnecessary workload, and potentially mixed messages. If your query is more urgent, please contact the school office.

Finally, well done to all the children and particularly the new children who have settled marvellously into the new Heltwate routines. Thanks to all the staff who work so hard to make it all happen.

Have a lovely half term.

Adam Brewster



***School breaks up for half term on THURSDAY 19th October
at 3.00 p.m.
Pupils return to school on Monday 30th October at 8.40 a.m.***

What's been happening at Heltwate...

Macmillan Cancer Support

Thank you for your support with our Macmillan fundraising this year. It was a non uniform event for a donation to Macmillan and we had variations of coffee mornings across the school sites.

Pupils at the Mainsite and Jubilee held coffee mornings in their classes, with some classes joining together on the school playground.

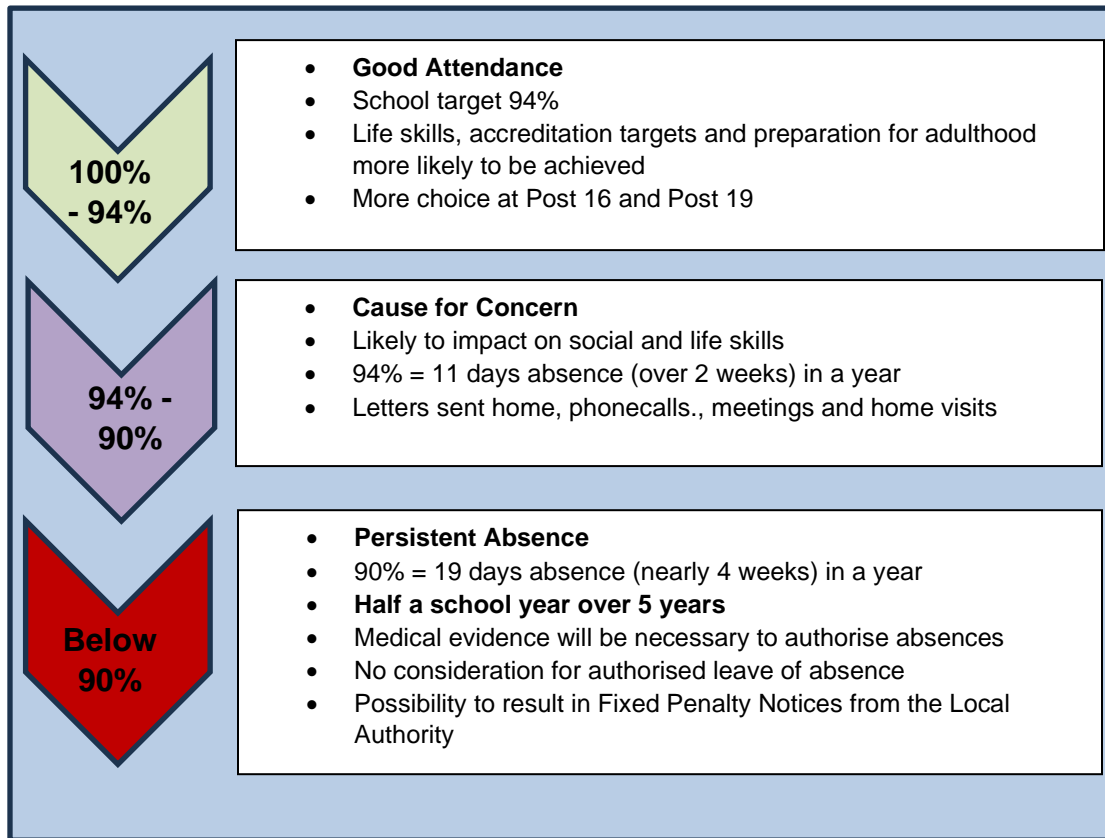


St George's site hosted a coffee morning for parents and it was well attended and a great success.



We raised £341 in total across the school sites – thank you all so much for your generosity.

Attendance



The whole school attendance percentage for this half term is 93.2% - thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends.

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 can attend and help in any way which we can.

To report a school absence please either send a class dojo message or telephone the school office on 01733 262878 by 9.00 a.m.

EHCP Reviews

The EHCP annual review cycle has begun for this school year 2023 – 24 and all pupils will have their EHCP reviewed. The meeting will be taking place either virtually or face to face. Your class teacher will contact you in the weeks proceeding your child's EHCP with meeting details.

Our Earwig online assessment programme is proving to be an excellent tool for tracking your child's EHCP targets and is regularly updated by teaching staff. Please dojo Louise Goodlip if you need access or have any questions.

New Starters

Our new starters who joined us in September have settled well into school life at Heltwate. Those who have needed a bit more support with the move to a new school are starting to feel more settled. Well done to parents / carers and staff.

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 2.40 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. by vehicles. If you do come onto site it obstructs and slows down school transport making everyone late. We have seen a more streamlined start and end of day with transport this term which is great.

Class Dojo

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

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.

Contact Numbers

Please make sure that you let the school office know if you change your phone number or move house so we always have the correct details for you.

School Dinners

Dinner prices from September went up to £3.00 a day for Years 3-6 and £3.20 a day for Year 7 upwards. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 do not need to pay.

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.

The school dinner menu is changing after half term – it has been sent out to you via Class Dojo.

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>