

NEWSLETTER

Heltwate School

heltwate.co.uk

February 2024



A NOTE FROM OUR HEAD

What a busy half term! I would like to thank my team of highly professional colleagues who despite continuous coughs and colds and feeling unanimously under the weather keep coming in and teaching and supporting our young people.

Well done to all of you, parents and children, our attendance continues to buck the national trend and remains high.

I guess you have heard my big news now, I have informed governors of my intention to move on at the end of this academic year.

I enjoy working at Heltwate and have stayed here longer than any of my previous roles. We have a wonderful team, and they create a wonderful school. It is a privilege to be part of it. There has always been something new to champion and strive for, but it now feels like the right time for me to move on. This will give me the opportunity to divert my time and energy elsewhere.

To ensure a smooth transition, governors have started the recruitment process for a new Head Teacher. I am keen to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible. I will keep you up to date on the progress.

There are so many things that I will miss. The Cresset Dance Show is one of them. What an amazing event, and what an incredible experience for the children that took part this week. Every member of the team behaved impeccably and all of them deserve to be congratulated on being tremendous ambassadors for the school. We are very proud of you all. Many thanks to the staff that helped and made it possible, and also to the parents that joined us for the performance.

Something to consider over the half term break; we have vacancies for governors, one being a parent governor. 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 10 years ago, I have been hugely grateful to be supported by a great team of governors.

The parent governor is in a key position to improve things for their children and all children in the school. It is 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. - what a privilege! If this is something you might like to consider but need more information, PLEASE drop us an email at office@heltwate.peterborough.sch.net.

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

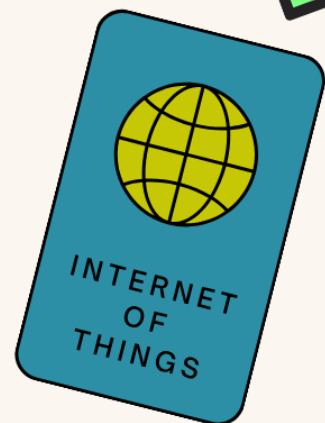
NSPCC NUMBER DAY

On Friday 2nd February we raised £128.76 for the NSPCC Number Day. Our students came into school wearing number themed outfits and joined in with a range of activities throughout the day. Some classes joined in for a number themed disco and a virtual quiz. Classes also had lots of fun using the inflatables and soft play with number songs playing in the background. Overall, the students had a fun-filled day and there was a wonderful atmosphere around the school. It was lovely to see lots of happy faces at the end of the day. A big thank you to everyone involved and for helping us to raise money for a great cause



SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Tuesday 6th February, the whole of Heltwater School took part in a screen free challenge. As a result, there were lots of empty classrooms, meaning outdoor learning was a popular option! Music, cooking, art, dance, PE, drama, reading, writing, maths, construction, waterplay, DIY, communication and social skills were all being practiced, too! It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves away from screens and was a refreshing change.



CLASS RECOGNITION



This term Orange Class have been busy cleaning up the local community for their volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Everyone has worked really hard each week and have handled the task with great enthusiasm. Well done guys, we are really proud of you!



ORANGE CLASS



This week has been Energy Saving Week. Students have been learning how electricity is made and how important it is to reduce energy usage. Students have made a real effort to reduce energy use ensuring computers and lights are switched off amongst other things, all under the watchful eyes of the energy saving police that have been doing daily patrols.



This week Heltwate School performed a dance to 'Lovecats' by the Cure at the Cresset as part of the Primary Dance Festival. The group consisted of pupils and staff from the Orange, Copper, Coral and Amber classes. Everyone worked really hard and the performance was absolutely fabulous!

NEW HOUSE TEAMS

We have relaunched our class house teams, classes are in 4 houses as follows. This promotes a sense of belonging and competitive teamwork and spirit! Our teams are celebrated every assembly.

RHINO

AMBER - CORAL - YELLOW - SAPPHIRE - AQUA -
TURQUOISE - INDIGO
STRONG - LOYAL - PROTECTIVE
UNAFRAID OF OBSTACLES



EAGLE



INDIGO - SCARLET - RUBY - CRIMSON - OLYMPIC
COLLEGE - OLYMPIC RAINBOW
HONESTY - COURAGE - WISDOM
SELF EXPRESSION

ALLIGATOR

BLUE - NAVY - PINK - MAGENTA - EMERALD -
LIME - GREEN
PATIENCE - ADAPTABILITY - BALANCE
PERSEVERANCE



CHEETAH

RAINBOW - LILAC - PURPLE - LAVENDER - VIOLET
POWER - SPEED - GRACE
DIVINE & GUIDANCE



REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

My Future World Book Day

After a very successful joint venture last year, this year we are again combining World Book Day and Careers Week. This year we are lucky enough to have Galliford Try join us to provide career related learning about the importance of environmental work in construction and minimising the carbon footprint.

Each class across the school will choose a book and link career related activities to it. We are looking forward to the day.

At St George's students in Year 10 and 11 have been continuing preparing for adulthood with the OCR Life and Living Skills with home management. They have been learning to use cleaning products safely and how to use a washing machine.

The Munchbox Cafe has been very successful again this term. We had an alumni cafe last week where ex-students came to visit. It was great to see some familiar faces!

Scarlet Class are continuing to work on their ASDAN PDP Qualification and had a visit from employees at Biffa. Daniel and Emma came in to be interviewed by the class.



Parking

As we know parking is an issue around the premises however, please be respectful and not park in front of resident houses. When driving through the school car park please be aware of your speed and surroundings.

Attendance & Lateness

The whole school attendance for the year up to 9th February is 92.7% which is 5.5% above the national average for Special Schools of 87.2%.
Well done everyone!

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.

Leave of Absence requests during term time will not be authorized except in exceptional circumstances. All requests need to be made in writing to the Headteacher and the form is available to download from our website.

<https://www.heltwate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Leave-of-Absence-Request-Form-23-24.docx>

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 to help in any way we can.

Upcoming Events

4/3 - 8/3 Careers Week

13/3 Careers Event

18/3 - 21/3 Parents Evening

19/3 Science Day

School Uniform

We still have some spare uniform to hand out, if you are needing any please message Vienna on Dojo please include what your child needs & their size.