

Heltwate School Newsletter

JULY 2024



Well, that's it; another year almost over. So much excitement and no small degree of nervousness as we start to plan for another new term after the summer break. We are saying goodbye to 9 year 11's who are all moving onto college. 3 more are moving into our own Olympic College Post 16 Centre. We have 7 year 14s also going onto college. They of course enjoyed their Prom.

The leavers assemblies were well supported by parents, and I was pleased with our accredited outcomes. So, thank you to all staff involved. It was interesting to see that some of these leavers were young people that started in reception when I first started at the school in 2013.

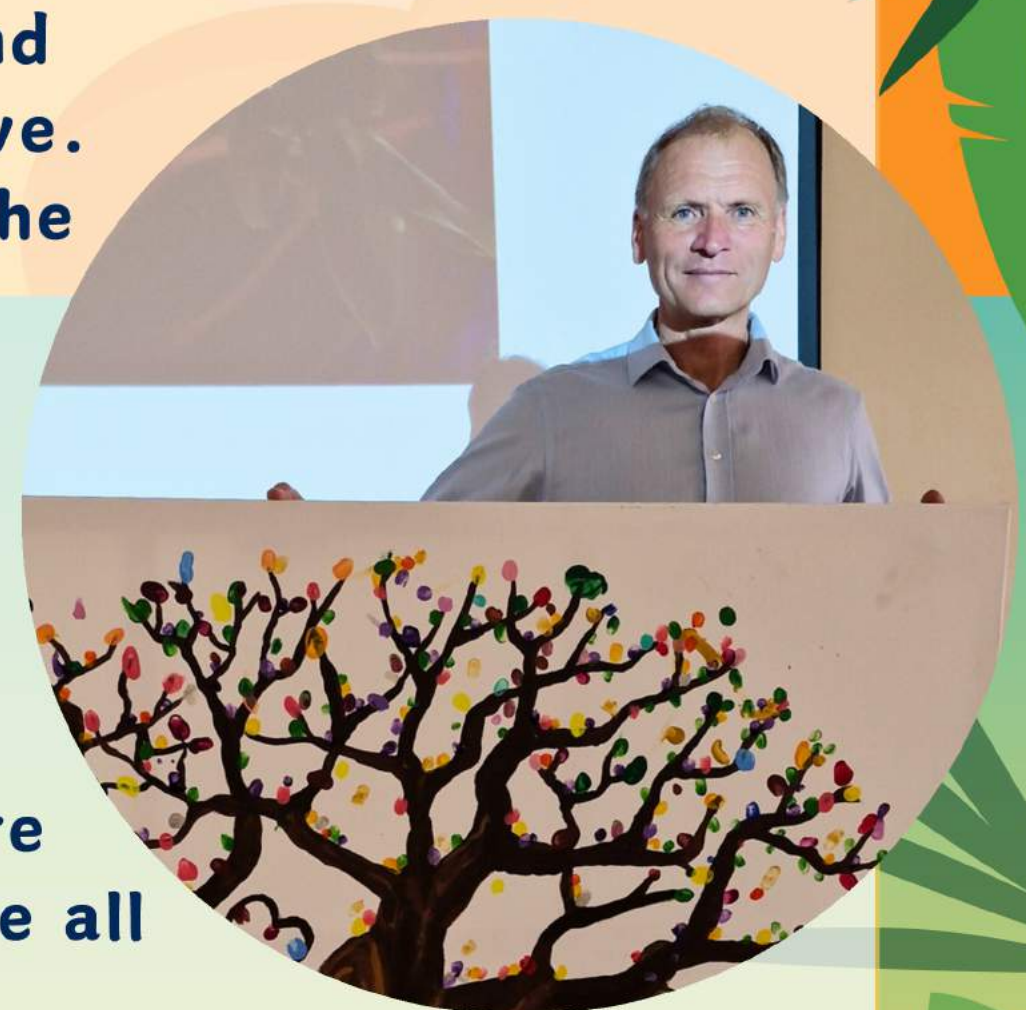
This is my last Newsletter. Eleven years, who can believe it? I never intended to stay more than five. Somehow you get sucked into Heltwate and get embedded in a way I haven't experienced elsewhere in my career. I am so pleased Ofsted have been, and I am very pleased with the outcome. I could not be more proud of the way the school continues to reinvent itself, adapt to changes, and tackle issues head on.

We welcome 22 new starters and their families and look forward to working with them. Alison will be taking over as Head Teacher and will continue to move the school forward.

We have the most extraordinary staff, highly skilled and committed. The loyalty to the school is exceptional. We will do what we think is right! I am proud that others want to know what we are doing and want to copy us, we have continually been at the forefront of SEND development nationally and shied away from nothing.

A huge thankyou to all staff, governors, parents, and partners that have enabled us to progress as we have. When you are leaving and step away and look in at the progress and impact we have on our pupils and families it is enormous. We have an amazing staff team. I cannot stress how extraordinary our staff team is.

Have a very lovely holiday and stay safe – We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back in the Autumn. Thank you again for everything that you are doing to support us. Your support is invaluable as we all strive to help your children succeed.



Bye for now.



91%

ATTENDANCE



87.1%

Attendance for the 2023 / 24 School Year 91%. This is nearly 4% higher than the Special School National Average of 87.1%

98 students have exceeded our school target of 94% attendance.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported us this year with making sure your child is at school and that they are on time every day. You are supporting them in making sure they don't miss out on important social and learning experiences throughout the year. Thank you also to those who have improved their child's attendance following communication from us.

We have an identified small number of students who have had unauthorised absences this year. This may be due to unauthorised holidays, absence where the reason is not acceptable, or being late after registration has closed.

A new attendance record begins at the start of each academic year – therefore every child has the potential to achieve high attendance from September.

New Attendance Regulations for schools from September 2024

You may have seen in the media that there are national changes from September regarding Leave of Absence taken in term time and unauthorised absence. Peterborough Local Authority are currently reviewing this and we will be able to share more in September.

We strongly discourage leave of absence and can only consider leave for exceptional circumstances – family holidays DO NOT count as exceptional circumstances so do not presume that as your child attends a Special School that this will be authorised.

SUMMER FUN DAY & COLOUR RUN

On Monday 8th July children had their summer fun day. This was organised as a celebration for the end of the year for all children to engage with and to get together as a whole school.

At St. George's children had fun on a water slide and at main site depending on their class also had an opportunity to go on the water slide or have sand and water sensory play with inflatables either on lower or upper school playground. Jubilee site had sand and water fun with the inflatables as well as other sensory experiences. The children also had access to various fun day activities they undertook in their classrooms including science activities, maths and phonics all linking to the summer theme. Children then had fun setting up stalls and being able to interact with each other for the summer fete in the afternoon. Fun was had by all!



All classes across the school accessed multiple physical and sensory activities throughout the day. The highlight for most being the colour run. Children from all classes donned their sunglasses and enjoyed racing around the track dodging splatters of paint. Some children then chose to take part in some of the throwing, getting their own back on staff. It was a truly splendid day, I've never heard so much laughter and seen so many smiles during a sports event!



ST. GEORGE'S & DOFE AWARD PROM

Year 10 students have achieved their DofE expedition section of their Bronze Award and they are well on their way to receiving their full Bronze Award. A big congratulations for all of their hard work and teamwork throughout the award!

Friday was the Year 11's and 14's Prom. It was so lovely to see them look so grown up in their dressed up clothes! We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all you parents for putting in so much effort into their outfits for their special evening!

The evening went very well, with them all keeping staff on the dance floor! It was lovely to see them all joining in and having fun. We remember most of them when they first started, It has been a pleasure to work with them all!

Wishing everyone of them all the very best for their futures! Good luck everyone!



MAIN SITE



Navy class have been really busy this half term, here is a few of things we have been doing. In Maths, we were learning about weight and capacity – seeing how many spoons of rice it took to fill a measuring cylinder and using a balanced scale to see which bags were heavy and light. Within our cooking sessions, we have made a doughnut in a mug, cheesecakes and ice lollies. Our art saw us learning about colour matching and mixing.

This half term Emerald Class have been lucky enough to go sailing with Sailability. The children have been so sensible around the water and loved steering the boats. We have also been thinking about what clothes we need to wear at sailing when it is hot or cold.



Orange Class visited Mod Shoes for our Asdan work 'Visiting a workplace'. Everyone enjoyed learning what they do there and saw how they advertise their products in the studio and we even got a professional photo taken!



Pink Class had the amazing opportunity to visit Peterborough Fire Station! We had a tour of the building, a look into the day to day of the red team and a few students even helped using the fire hose!



SENSORY DAY & CHARITY EVENT

On Monday 1st July all of the children at the Jubilee site took part in a sponsored slide at Whittlesey Manor soft play. We set the children a target of 100 slides. We took Mr Brewster as an official adjudicator to make sure the counting was accurate. The children were incredible and completely smashed the 100 slide target by completing a total of 255 slides! The children had a fab time and everyone including staff had a super work out! We were completely overwhelmed with the amount of Sponsorship money raised, so a massive thank you from everyone at the Jubilee site. The total amount of money raised was

£679.25!

The children enjoyed lots of fun activities for their sports and sensory day. St. George's and mainsite engaged with a colour run. Mainsite also enjoyed some sensory soft play and drum fit sessions. At the Jubilee site the children engaged with a range of messy play activities, and drum fit. A bouncy castle was also at the Jubilee site for all children to enjoy. Fun was had by all!

