

Heltwate Round up

December 2019



www.heltwate.co.uk

A note from the Head

I am so proud of the school that we are managing to maintain, and still continue to develop and improve in a climate of austerity, recruitment and forced expansion is a real credit to the staff. There have been so many successes both in and outside of the classroom. Following the Local Authority review, an external SEND expert was appointed to visit all of the special schools and report to the LA. I was pleased that we received a comparatively clean bill of health. She praised the website, was impressed with the skill levels of staff around safeguarding. She was impressed by the curriculum and fed back; "prospects for teaching and learning at the school are excellent". She felt that behaviour was well managed and procedures safe and well thought through. She made a few suggestions for improvement, the main one being her concerns around the carpark. We will again review our pick up and drop off arrangements. As a special plea when accessing the school site please drive very carefully and under no circumstances come through the no entry sign.

Our improvement and expansion plans are moving ahead at a slow pace, somewhat hindered by the weather. St. George's will have a grassed play area in the spring. Lower School playground is almost complete and children are enjoying most of the new equipment, some of it is still rather waterlogged. We have 2 mobile classrooms being constructed and weather allowing they will be ready for January. The new school building; Heltwate 'Jubilee,' seems to be confirmed and a planning and building schedule is proposed and planning meetings have been put into the calendar, with a tentative opening date of Jan 2022. We are full, and filling up for September.

I'm looking forward to all our Christmas events and look forward to seeing you at some of them.

Have a lovely Christmas

Adam Brewster

Christmas Diary Dates

Monday 9th Dec and
Tuesday 10th Dec
10.00 a.m.

Lower School Christmas Production (Bretton)

TICKETS ALL ALLOCATED - no further seats available
Please bring your tickets with you to the performance.

Tuesday 10th Dec 9.30 a.m. &
Wednesday 11th Dec 1.45 p.m.

St Georges Christmas Production

Contact St Georges for tickets

Wednesday 11th Dec and
Thursday 12th Dec
10.00 a.m.

Upper School Christmas Production (Bretton)

TICKETS ALL ALLOCATED - no further seats available
Please bring your tickets with you to the performance.

Friday 13th Dec

Christmas Jumper day

Monday 16th Dec

Morning - Concert by Salvation Army Band
Afternoon - Christmas Party

Tuesday 17th and
Wednesday 18th Dec

School Christmas Dinner

Thursday 19th Dec

School Disco
End of Term at 3.00 p.m



Class News

Violet

The first half term we have been very busy. We have:

- been swimming at the HydroTherapy pool to build up our confidence in the water.
- visited St Georges for hot chocolate and biscuits to practise our social skills.
- had breakfast in the classroom to experience new tastes and textures.
- been on an autumn walk to look at the changing trees and landscape, we collected different shaped and coloured leaves to use back in the classroom.



Jade

SEND Music Hub Christmas sing a long.

Jade class started our festive season by attending a Christmas sing-a-long with Peterborough music hub. We were all invited to choose an instrument and join in singing with Donna and her band. The students appeared to thoroughly enjoy the music, and the intimate performance was a lovely opportunity for some of our more reserved students to take part and show us their dance moves. We even wore some festive accessories to help get us in the Christmas mood. Lots of smiles and laughter accompanied the session and the students were a credit to the school.

Rainbow 3 and 4

This half term Rainbow 3 and 4 enjoyed a trip to the cinema to watch The Gruffalo and Zog. All the children were on their best behaviour and liked watching the film, some of the children were also able to join in with some of the words from the Gruffalo after enjoying reading the book in class. Thank you to Haddenham Arts Centre for hosting a great "Into Film Festival" event. We all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Rainbow 1

Rainbow have been busy making lots of lovely Christmas crafts. We have made glittery Christmas decorations, and Reindeer handprint Christmas cards.



Amber

This term Amber class enjoyed going to the cinema to see 'How to train your dragon'. They have also continued to have table top cricket lessons on a Tuesday afternoon which they say has been fun.

Ruby the wonder dog, continues to visit school each week, and Amber students have been learning how to take care of a dog, their needs, how to exercise them and the correct food for them.

We have been helping Mr. Almond to develop the forest school area by planting thirty trees! We planted Rowan, Silver Birch and Wild Cherry trees. This was hard, muddy work but we look forward to seeing the trees grow and attract wildlife to the area.



Amber students are now preparing for the many exciting activities that they will be enjoying during December and these include – making tree decorations, Christmas cards and calendar's and tasty treats. They will also be preparing and cooking a delicious meal for their ASDAN accreditation which will be a vegetarian shepherd's pie and an old-fashioned delicious pudding.

We are busy learning 'Last Christmas' by Wham for our Christmas performance and look forward to seeing you on the 11th or 12th December.

Duke of Edinburgh

The DofE group this year have started their Bronze Award with their volunteering section. They have created 15 Love in a Box Christmas presents for the Samaritans Purse Charity so children in poor and war stricken countries receive a gift on Christmas day. The students worked hard as a team creating these boxes and then delivered them to the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society in Stamford where they will be sent off for delivery. Well Done to all of the DofE students!



Ruby

Ruby Class have been making Christmas decorations to sell as part of their ASDAN PSD accreditation. They have had to get into groups, contribute to making rules for a group and allocate jobs to each other.

We have worked extremely hard in our groups doing market research, making the decorations and preparing them to sell at the St George's Cafe on a Friday. Decorations are being sold over the next couple of weeks on the 6th December and the 13th December.



Rainbow 5



This term Rainbow 5 have enjoyed many activities related to Christmas time. We have taken trips to visit lights and the Christmas trees in the city centre and Hampton. We are visiting Santa very soon at Dobbies and are very excited. The students have also created decorations for the class, the school Christmas tree and made cards to take home. Rainbow 5 have been busy rehearsing for their Christmas performance as well as learning how to sign Christmas words.

Charities Update

Huge, huge thanks to all the effort, time and of course the money donated to the charity events so far this year. The support for these events has been fantastic and every penny donated has helped these important causes.

We went spotty for Children in Need at the end of November and raised a fantastic £336.60 across both sites. Our spot trail was a huge success and it was lovely to see the students roaming around the halls in search for the spots. We had some delicious cakes made from the students of St Georges and the special Children in Need café was busy and bustling throughout the morning.

In other news, I received a phone call from a lady at Macmillan to inform me that since 1994, Heltwate has raised over £10,000 for this charity. This is such a fantastic achievement and a phenomenal amount of money. Our recent pledge of £1070 was our largest donation. Our support could fund a Macmillan nurse providing people living with cancer and their families, medical, practical and emotional support for around one week. It also really helped us achieve this total so once again a huge thank you.

Miss Sarah Deans

Changes to purchasing School Uniform

Due to the increase in school numbers and so the increased demand for school uniform we have made the decision to move our school uniform sales to our uniform providers Chroma Sports. This will make the purchasing of uniform much easier for you as they can hold larger quantities of stock. They are very close to the school, in Wulfric Square – which is only a 5 minute walk from school.

We will be sending home information in the next week of how you will be able to buy uniform from them – they will do online orders or you can go into their shop to buy.

As well as the sweatshirts, cardigans and reversible fleeces they will also be selling white polo shirts, baseball hats and woolly hats with the Heltwate logo. There may also be a slight change to the prices.

We do have a limited amount of uniform still available to buy from school which will be available to purchase at the Christmas performances.



If you bring your child to school please be aware that school opens at 8.40 and children are to be in their classes for **8.50 a.m.**

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2019

Ends Thursday 19th Dec at 3.00 p.m.

Spring Term 2020

Opens Monday 6th January

Half Term Monday 17th Feb – Friday 21st Feb

Ends Friday 3rd April at 3.00 p.m.

Summer Term 2020

Opens Monday 20th April

May Day Friday 8th May

Half Term Monday 25th – Friday 29th May

School closes early at 1.00pm on Friday 3rd July for staff preparation

Ends Friday 17th July at 3.00 p.m.

Leave of Absence

Heltwate School will authorise Leave of Absence only 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.

Attendance

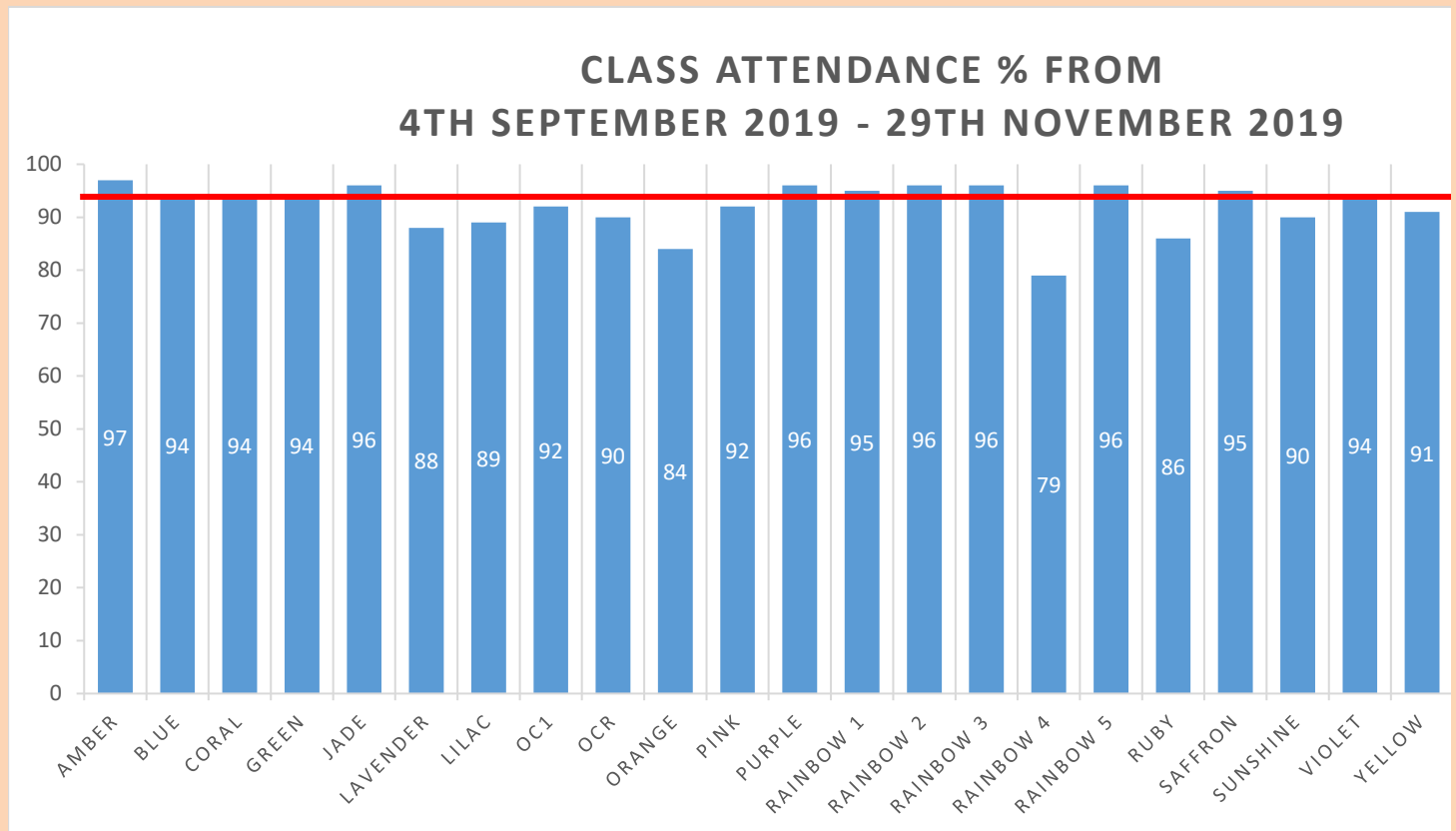
Our attendance up to 29th November is 92.6%.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance. A breakdown of pupil attendance is below:

42 pupils (21%)	100%
80 pupils (41%)	94% or above
34 pupils (17%)	90-93.9%
27 pupils (14%)	80-89.9%
14 pupils (7%)	Under 80%



We have 12 classes who have reached or exceeded our minimum target of 94% - well done!



**Term ends at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday
19th December, and pupils return
on Monday 6th January at 8.40 a.m.**

