

Heltwate Round up

December 2020

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A note from the Head

Despite the obvious COVID-19 challenges, the first term back has been calm and focused. It is a joy to have all of our students back and accessing consistently high quality Teaching and Learning. Our staff have all been truly amazing, I asked them at the start of term that we try and do the things we would normally do, in their bubbles or virtually. They have risen to the challenge. The way in which everyone is managing the changed structure of the school day. Both staff and students have been patient, resilient and tolerant, in far less than ideal circumstances - I am, and continue to be forever grateful. I feel great guilt every time we have to ask a child to stay at home, but I assure you it is unavoidable. I am so grateful to you as parents/guardians for your continued support throughout. I feel a huge weight of responsibility when I think about the trust you place in us as a school, and we are always driven by the determination to live up to your expectations and to treat your child as if they were our own.

I can hardly believe that I am writing to you at the end of term already! It is so busy. Covid rules and regulations and social distancing measures aside, we are determined this will not spoil our Christmas fun. Mrs Phillips sent you a long Class Dojo message on the 24th of November outlining some of the activities. I have had a sneak preview of some of the class Christmas performances, you have a treat in store.

We all wish you an extremely happy, and restful, Christmas.

Adam Brewster



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11th December we are participating in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper day. Pupils can wear a Christmas jumper regardless of making a small donation. We hope you will support this charity and that we see lots of festive and sparkly jumpers.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

**School breaks up on Friday 18th
December at 1.30 p.m.**

**Pupils return to school on
Tuesday 5th January 2021**

In light of the current restrictions and the increasing number of positive Coronavirus infections in school, it seems wise to continue with the 'Bubble' arrangements we presently have in school. This ensures there is minimum cross contamination between classes, cleaning regimes remain rigorous and staff are able to have their planning time.

This means the school day will continue to end at 1.30pm on a Friday after Christmas. We will continue to monitor this and as infection rates fall and the vaccination is introduced we will hopefully be able to return to the normal school day.

Staff News

I am also delighted to inform you that Mrs Sam England, teacher of Ruby Class has been appointed Assistant Head Teacher at St George's and starts her new role in January.

Attendance

We are pleased to report that the total attendance for this term is 93%

Firstly, we want to thank you all for all your support with your child's attendance this term and for adapting to the new restrictions COVID brings to us with attendance. Can we reassure you that any absence related to COVID is not counted against your child's percentage.

Please can we remind you that it is essential that if your child is ill you must telephone the school or send a Class Dojo message by 9.15 a.m. so we can account for all our pupils who are not in school. The school telephone number is 01733 262878

Track and Trace

To keep everyone safe schools have been asked to continue to report positive cases of Corona Virus to the local authority. If your child has a positive test in the first 6 days of the holiday will you, please direct message Mr Brewster or Mrs Ashworth via Class DoJo and we will then be able to inform the staff and children that they have been in close contact with.

It is recommended that you use the drive through testing rather than use a postal test as this takes far longer. Let's hope you don't need it.



Heltwate Jubilee

Some of you will be aware that the planning permission for the new building 'Heltwate Jubilee' was passed last week. Exciting news! It is one step closer.....

WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on 25th September was held in memory of Brian Thompson, who had taught at Heltwate for over 20 years and who sadly passed away at the start of the year.

Although COVID has meant we were not able to hold the Coffee Morning with parents / carers / visitors in school we still had a very successful fund raising effort from everyone. The raffle in was a great success – and in total we raised an amazing £1200!!!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this.



Children in Need at Heltwate!



As you are aware, Heltwate had Mad Hair, Spotty Clothes and the sponsored Joe Wicks work out. It was a marvelous effort.

Everyone seemed to have a fantastic day and there were lots of smiles all round.

All the money raised has been donated towards this fantastic cause to try and ensure every child in the UK has a childhood which is:

- Safe
- Happy and Secure
- Allows them the chance to reach their potential



Thank you so much for all the money that was donated - we raised over £700

Sarah Deans

COMMUNITY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



IF YOUR CHILD HAS ONE OR MORE OF THESE SYMPTOMS

CLICK HERE FOR OUR QUICK-GUIDE FOR PARENTS



Non-COVID symptoms:

- A RUNNY NOSE?
- SNUFFLES?
- SORE THROAT

WITH NO FEVER OR COUGH?

↓

Send them to school as normal if you feel they are well enough.

COVID symptoms:

- A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH?
- A HIGH TEMPERATURE?
- COMPLETE LOSS OR CHANGE OF SMELL OR TASTE?

↓

Protect them and others by keeping them off school. Dial 119 or go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus to arrange a test. Your household and child should self-isolate until you have the results.

AT ANY TIME, IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS UNRELATED SYMPTOMS THAT WORRY YOU ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM OFF SCHOOL

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Contact your GP or call NHS 111

If your child displays unrelated symptoms, such as a runny nose or sore throat, you should act in the same way as you would have done before the pandemic. This may involve sending your child to school or keeping them at home, depending on the nature and severity of symptoms. Seek medical advice via your GP or 111 as you normally would. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of this.

PLEASE WEAR A FACE COVERING

If it is crowded at pick up time and you are unable to keep a safe 2m distance from others (as shown above), adults are advised to wear a face covering. Thank you.

HANDS FACE SPACE

Please Ensure Social Distancing



Please remember we are a **NUT FREE** school. Packed lunches and snacks must be healthy and not contain nuts, chocolate or fizzy drinks.

No dogs except guide dogs



On Monday the 16th of November Children took part in Odd Socks Day, this was to highlight the issues associated with Bullying. Children took part in a national virtual assembly, and in school re-enacted a now press play story raising topical issues. Most classes offered a range of other anti-bullying activities.



Forest School News

It exciting times in the Forest School area!

This month Orange Class have been busy planting rows of Willow for future basket weaving activities. They have also planted some young trees.

Coral Class have also been very busy constructing a Willow play dome, which will look fantastic in the Spring once it starts growing.

Paula, Pauline and Darren have been busy clearing the pond area, fixing fences and a general tidy up. The whole area is starting to look pretty amazing!

Other exiting news! A Fire Shelter (see below) has been ordered and will be installed sometime in the new year. This will make working in the area much easier, especially in poor weather.





Virtual Christmas Fayre

14th - 16th December

Website details will be shared on Dojo next Monday. The website will remain live until 6pm on Wednesday evening. Orders will be sent home with your child on the last day of term. All transactions will take place via the website, please do not send any money into school.

Kids Country Winter Warmer Soup Challenge

Congratulations to Davina, Waahid and Dominykas who won 1st place in the Kids Country Winter Warmer Soup Challenge 2020 with their Taco Soup! A big well done to Keira, Ahmed, Istikhar and Liam who were runners up with their American Garden Soup. We saw some great effort from all students who took part across the whole school!

