

Heltwate Round up

March 2021

www.heltwate.co.uk



A note from the Head

The smiling faces of children coming into school on Monday 8th of March was a reminder of why we do this job. School has been calm despite the long absence of pupils and we very quickly dropped back into the routines and curriculum we all enjoy so much. I had to smile, as by lunchtime of the first day, everyone was ready for a sleep. We are in full swing now. Our staff and children that are shielding will all be back after Easter and hopefully we can start to look forward to a long term routine.

In the recent parent survey, the majority of respondents were pleased with the way we had provided remote learning, and were appreciative of the effort our staff have gone to providing meaningful work for learners. The learning curve has been steep for all of us, so well done and thank you to parents and staff.

Some things have been really successful, we will continue to operate in bubbles, assemblies and parent's evenings and meetings will remain virtual where possible for the foreseeable future. However, if I never had to say, "you are on mute" again I would be pleased.

We are continuing to finish at 1.30pm on Fridays. If we did not do this, I don't think we would be able to have all children in school all week. When I hear what is happening in other schools, and the numbers still being sent home, I am convinced this is the right approach. It will remain under review.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) has been taking place in school since Christmas with the majority of staff testing twice a week, families can now get tests for the whole family and even if your child won't test I urge you to get the rest of the family to do so. If we are careful we can avoid further lockdown and closure.

Heltwate Jubilee looks like it is going ahead and we are hoping site clearance will take place in June and building starts September. I am excited and pleased with the plans.

I'm looking forward to the clocks changing and having a little bit of sunshine. Have a lovely Easter.



Adam Brewster

School breaks up on Friday 26th March at 1.30 p.m.

Pupils return to school on Monday 12th April

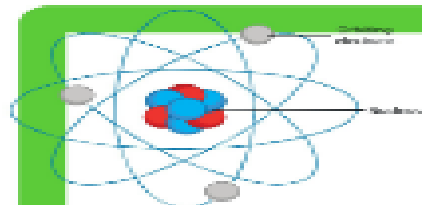
Classes are remaining in their 'Bubble' arrangements we presently have in school. This ensures there is minimum cross contamination between classes, cleaning regimes remain rigorous and staff are able to have their planning time.

This means the school day will continue to end at 1.30pm on a Friday.

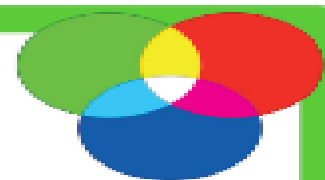


FRIDAY 19 MARCH

'Funny is power' and after last year and the start of this year... we needed a laugh!! Red nose Day was the perfect opportunity for this. We had a joke competition that the students appeared to really enjoy with the winner being Blue Class, with Mr Brewster as a close second! A huge thanks to all who took part and to those who voted. On the day, school was awash with red and all the non uniform outfits the students picked for the day, thank you for all the donations towards this. We also held out first Inter-house Pie Face competition. Most classes joined in with this virtual event, waiting to see who would be the first victim of a pie to the face... when Kim got a face full of cream, it was met with peals of laughter and excitement. Continued thanks to all those who donated towards the day, both on the online platform and in the form of cash. We have raised £282 which is fantastic.

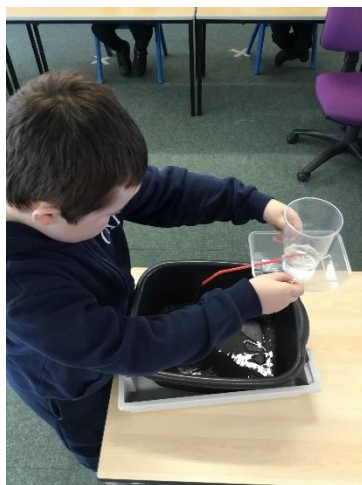


Science Day



This year, Lockdown was released just in time for all our student to join in with Science day.

On Thursday 11th March, the school embarked on their science activities with gusto and excitement. We focused on the theme of Energy this year, specifically looking at the sun, wind and water. Lots of our classes made some amazing lava lamps and watching the reaction that occurs between oil and water, whilst others made kites, wormery's, water powered boats and sun catchers. The students appeared to really enjoy the Science assembly to introduce the day and the accompanying sensory story.



Lots of investigations, explorations and enjoyment was had, it was a lovely way to welcome everyone back!



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.



Don't forget to log on and look at Earwig. This is where you can see lots of evidence of what your child gets up to at school!

<https://earwig.uk.com/>

Log on using your email address

Any problems, email l.goodlip@heltwate.net

School Dinners

Pupils are continuing to eat their lunches in their class due to COVID restrictions, and this is proving to be a much more relaxed environment for pupils. The school dinners are individually portioned by pupil and so please make sure you have ordered your child's lunch if you know your child will be late in.

We would like to encourage as many of you as possible to consider the school dinner option for your child. Research carried out by the Children's Food Trust shows that children who eat a nutritionally balanced meal at lunch time were more alert and over three times more likely to be 'on-task' working with a teacher after lunch time, than those who didn't. In addition, research carried out by Oxford and Essex universities showed children eating healthier lunches do far better in tests and absences through sickness dropped by around 14%

So check out the menu on the website and we do encourage you to let your child try school dinners.

School dinners are priced at:

Junior dinners (Reception to Yr 2 – no charge)

(Yrs 3-6) are £2.70 a day, £13.50 a week

Senior dinners (Yrs 7-14) are £2.90 a day, £14.50 a week.

If you pay for your child's dinners please use our online payment system - ParentPay. If you have not yet registered, please contact the school office for information.

REGULAR PAYMENTS HAVE TO BE MADE –

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO SEND YOUR CHILD WITH A PACKED LUNCH IF YOU DO NOT

ALL children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 are eligible to receive a free school dinner as part the Governments school dinner initiative. We would encourage you to let your child take this opportunity.