

Heltwate Round up

May 2021

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A note from the Head

The Covid restrictions are still in place, but school has a buzz about it. There are lots of exciting things taking place. If we all keep working together to keep each other safe, I am hopeful some of the restrictions may be lifted by the end of term. We are starting to reintroduce some of the wider curriculum activities we so enjoy at Heltwate. The first trips are being planned and as long as local authority guidance allows these, they will be able to go ahead in the second half of the Summer Term. Let's hope the weather improves.

We have such resourceful staff and they have found ways to continue with some of our favourite activities. Virtual assemblies have really showcased the vast range of activities taking place. All the photos of the children's achievements at school and in the community are fantastic and tell such a powerful story of how we continue to be a strong school throughout such a challenging time. I hope you are able to access Earwig, and can follow what your child's class has been doing.

As we approach the end of another school year, we are thinking about those that are moving on, and others moving up. It has been difficult, not being able to mix class groups or to visit new classrooms or the colleges. Transition work with our young people is starting to take place and will continue as we near the end of term. We will be in touch shortly about the arrangements for next year.

You may have heard in the news that the government has provided funds for the school to provide a summer school, which in the first instance we are going to target at Year 6 and 7 children. If you are a Year 6 or 7 parent, please respond to the Dojo link I sent last week to reserve your place.

Let's hope we have some sunshine over half term. I think we are all ready for a break.



Adam Brewster



As Covid cases decrease, we are all pleased that the lockdown continues to ease as part of the Government Roadmap and more restrictions are being lifted. However, guidance for schools has not changed and we continue to follow the same rules as we have done all year. Thank you for your continued co-operation

School breaks up on Friday 28th May at 1.30 p.m.

Pupils return to school on Monday 7th June

Classes are remaining in the 'Bubble' arrangement 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.

Literacy Week

For literacy week at Heltwate, each class chose a book with a food theme. Some classes have chosen stories like *The Little Red Hen* or *Pancake* by Eric Carle, others chose to look at recipes and instruction texts. The children's lessons have been based around this book with a literacy focus of reading and writing for the whole week. To enrich this week's learning we held Heltwate's Food Fayre on the field. As the children have not been able to go out and enjoy these experiences during the pandemic, we decided to bring a food market to the children.

All the children engaged brilliantly with all the stalls. They enjoyed tasting fruit and vegetables and looking at options for a healthy breakfast, and some treats like amazing cakes and bread. EVERYBODY was amazed by the tractor and it was a huge highlight for all the staff and students. The more able students engaged well in conversations about farming and wheat and what products come from crops like these.

Overall a brilliant day was had by all, and the addition of a tractor and an ice cream was a highlight for everyone!



Heltwate St George's Outdoor Garden Area

Students across St. George's have been working with **Fenton's Herbology** in order to transform our outdoor space into a beautiful garden and allotment area. On Tuesdays, Scarlet Class work with Nicola from Fenton's Herbology in the afternoons. Students have been very busy learning about the proper way to grow seeds, how to create wildflower areas, and learning a number of other new skills.

Fenton's Herbology offers a unique learning experience where practical learning is combined with opportunities to experience plants using our intuition and all of our senses. This includes observing the plants that we grow from seed, smelling the plants as we work amongst them, tasting herbs through hot and cold infusions in our tea breaks and observing how we feel in our bodies and enjoying the vegetables that we grow to cook.

Scarlet student Shelby has written about her favourite parts:

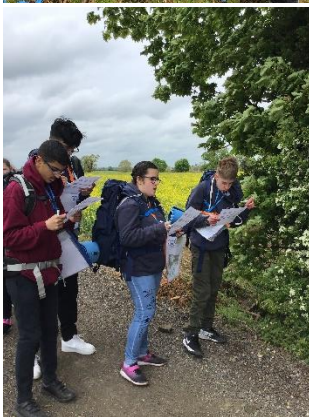
'First, we learnt how plants grow. We learnt all about vegetables that we could grow. We had lots of fun marking out the shapes on the ground for our wildflowers to grow in. It was really hard work digging the area before we scattered our seeds. We planted sunflower seeds in pots and tyres, and we spray painted the tyres'.



The idea over time, is to develop the outdoor space @St George's into a vibrant, community outdoor environment. At Heltwate the intention is to teach students horticultural skills and herbal knowledge in a safe and secure environment to develop each individual's ability to mix socially, grow in confidence and learn and develop practical skills that will enable them to become more independent and employable.

D of E Practise walks

On the 13th and 20th May 2021 two groups took part in their practise walks as part of their Expedition Section for their D of E Bronze Award. All students carried a rucksack containing essentials needed for their walk. They worked as a team and supported each other walking from Bretton through Marholm and back again. All students stopped for lunch at Marholm and used a Trangia camping stove to cook food that they will be eating on their Qualifying Expedition in June. We are so proud of both groups as it did rain but all students carried on, recognising a selection of leaves throughout the walk. Well done everyone!



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. This is proving to be a much more relaxed environment for pupils. The school dinners are individually portioned so please make sure you have ordered your child's lunch if you know your child will be late into school.

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.