

Heltwate Round up

May 2022

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A note from the Head

Hello everyone,

It has been a busy Half term and finally it feels as though Covid is behind us, we have most staff and students in school and we have started to reintroduce many of the things that we lost over the pandemic. Hopefully, we will meet many of you in school for the Summer Fete on the 30th of June.

Over the last few weeks, I have seen the most extraordinary range of exciting activities and events in and out of school. There is a sense of excitement, achievement, and anticipation: teachers; teaching assistants, pupils and parents have been preparing for transition visits, trips, curriculum days, dance performances, theatre trips, sports events, accreditation all of which have taken place or will very shortly be upon us. The leadership team have been privileged to have watched every teacher teach and I can assure you that the quality of teaching remains very high, the new curriculum is exciting, and your children are working hard, are focused and mostly happy. Some parents have suggested we do too much, I have worked in schools for long enough to know that it is completely pointless to suggest that we 'relax and calm down'. How can we be approaching the last half term already?

I don't know if you saw in the media but it was 'Thank a Teacher' week this week. I would like to say thank you and say how very proud I am of all of our staff team; we are so lucky. I honestly cannot think of a team that could have done any more. We don't always get it right, but I can assure you we do try very hard to ensure school is exciting and stimulating and that everyone wants to be here.

Enjoy the break, and let's hope for some sunshine over half term.



Adam Brewster

School breaks up on Friday 27th May at 3.00 p.m.

Pupils return to school on TUESDAY 7TH JUNE



What's been happening at Heltwate...

The PECT Eco Charter Awards 2022

Heltwate School has been awarded the Wildlife and Land Use award for the improvements we have made to our outdoor area on the allotment and Forest School area by Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT). Darren Almond, Orange Class and Forest School teacher has led this and says: "It's fantastic that Heltwate is getting the recognition for all the hard work which everyone in the school has contributed to this year".



British Values Day

On May the 6th we celebrated British Values Day. All pupils took part in a collaborative art project. The idea was for the pupils to complete drawings/make marks to represent themselves and create portraits of each student at school in the year 2021/2022. The self-portraits were assembled for display under the heading 'All are welcome at Heltwate School.'



Coral Class performance

Coral Class have had a great time learning all about Queen Elizabeth in preparation for her upcoming platinum jubilee. The class have also put together a performance to celebrate her love of corgis! If you would like to watch it, please scan the QR code.

St George's News

This half term has been a very busy one for students and staff at St George's. Year 11 have sat AQA English and Maths exams. They have worked incredibly hard on these and we await the results! A huge well done to them for all their hard work and dedication.

Work for ASDAN Personal Development Programme has also been submitted and we are very pleased to say that students in Year 9, 10 and 11 have all been able to submit their folders of work. Again, we are waiting for confirmation of their Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Key Stage 5 have been studying AQA Animal Care this term and have been learning about farming, animal welfare and what they need to be healthy. They have visited Wimpole Hall Farm and are going to Muddy Boots farm before half term.

Year 11 have enjoyed some great work experiences this term with visits to LUSH and the Viridor Recycling Centre in Peterborough. They have experienced meeting different people in a range of jobs as well as learning about what the world of work is like.



Ruby Class are currently volunteering at WestRaven Community Garden and are learning how to work independently as well as working in a community environment.



Attendance

We have seen a slight increase in attendance this half term to 91.2%, compared to 90.7% last half term. The total for the school year up to 25th May is 90.1%. We are however still lower than our target of 94%. If your child only has attendance of 90% it means they are missing a whole day every 2 weeks. For the most this isn't really good enough.

Please support us by minimising the absences from school – particularly taking leave of absence for holidays during term time. Leave for family holidays will NOT be authorised – the government states that “children should be in school”.

Leave of Absence

Heltwate School will only authorise Leave of Absence 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:

<https://www.heltwate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Leave-of-Absence-Request-Form-21-22.pdf>

What's happening next at Heltwate...



This week we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Classes are busy preparing for the Jubilee Party taking place Friday afternoon on the field. Cakes and puddings are being made for the competition, and Jubilee themed arts and crafts.

Pupils will all receive a commemorative Platinum Jubilee coin - and a free ice cream from the ice cream van!

Photos will be shared on Class Dojo – keep a look out!

Upcoming dates:

Friday 27 th May	Jubilee party on the field for pupils End of Term
Tuesday 7 th June	Start of term Individual School photos for all pupils
Monday 20 th June	HPV vaccinations – Years 8 and 9 pupils only
Wednesday 22 nd June	Meningitis vaccinations – Year 9 and 10 pupils only
Thursday 30 th June 1.15 – 3.00 p.m.	Summer Fete for pupil and families - Main Site, Bretton