

Heltwate Round up

March 2023

www.heltwate.co.uk



A note from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,



This time last year I was telling you that we had just started work on the Jubilee. This year I can report that it is nearly finished. As I sit here today, they are surfacing the carpark and starting to landscape. We take ownership after Easter. We are pleased with what we are getting, it is bright and airy, it looks much larger than we anticipated and certainly will enhance our facilities. I can't wait for the handover, if for no other reason than we will gain all that parking.

Last year we were still plagued by staff absence due to Covid, it hasn't entirely gone away. Staff have been magnificent, and we have continued to ensure exciting lessons, and lots of trips, visits, and events. The school has a large NEU membership. The strikes forced us to close day 1, and we were open for just less than half the classes days 2, 3 and 4. Thank you for your support. I am relieved that the government and the teacher's unions have started talking, hopefully we will not see further strike action.



This is a busy half term. My favourite event was the combined World Book Day and My Future event. YP and staff dressed up as different work professionals and we looked at books which reflected different types of job. The biggest hit of course was the fire engine, ambulance sirens and flashing lights, closely followed by the tractor.

Safer Internet Day, NSPCC Maths Day, Science Day, Comic Relief, Autism Awareness Day were all great successes. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Mother's Day event, the list goes on.

I'm looking forward to welcoming lots of you into school for parent's evenings after Easter. Have a lovely Easter holiday and enjoy the lighter evenings. We will see pupils back on the 17th of April.

Adam Brewster



School breaks up for half term on FRIDAY 31st March at 3.00 p.m.

Pupils return to school on MONDAY 17th April at 8.40 a.m.

World Book Day – My Future event

This year we marked World Book Day in true Heltwate Style! The theme was 'When I grow up I want to be....' with a focus on jobs people do and the children's futures. Each Curriculum Pathway provided an overview of their work for the week which included using Colourful Semantics.



All classes had an amazing time from engaging in different sensory activities to writing about what job they would like to do in the future, to writing job application forms!



The week culminated in a My Future Day. We had some amazing people who gave up their time to join us for the morning. We are very grateful to them for helping to make the event really special for all students. They were able to meet; a carpenter, Paramedic, hairdresser, Farrier and a Childminder (and her wonderful little helper!). There were lots of 'hands on' activities. The Olympic College Munchbox Café were also there handing out samples of the food they sell as part of their enterprise work.

We were lucky enough to have the support of Kid's Country again thanks to Sandra Lauridsen and so we had Lincolnshire Herbs who provided an amazing sensory experience with lots of herbs. Thanks to Simon from G&J Peck with a tractor!



The Paramedic brought an ambulance along and a fire engine also appeared.





Biffa, who continue to support the school, arrived with Woody the Waste Eater vehicle and a van.



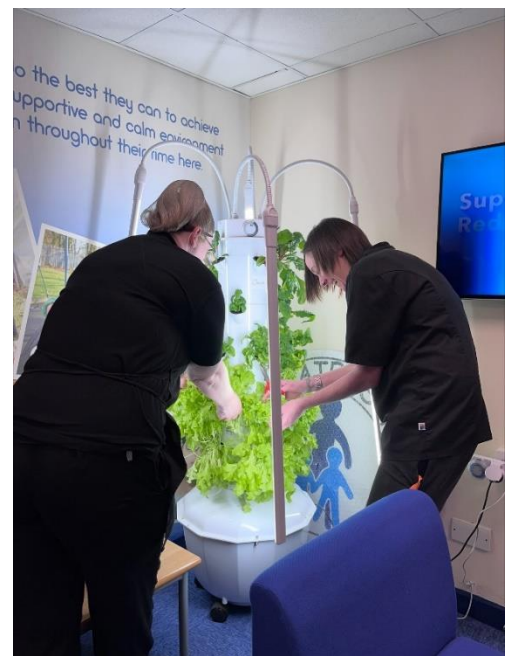
RG Carter, who have built our new Jubilee site, also donated sets of books to the school. We even featured in their press release!
<https://www.rgcarter-construction.co.uk/hercules-house/>

Growing Tower

This month we have been able to eat the lettuce grown in the Hydroponic Growing Tower – and our catering staff added it to the school dinner salads.

It has been very interesting experience for pupils to see the growing process and it has now been returned to the PECT

Peterborough Environment City Trust for the next school.



Crimson Class visit to the Black Country Living Museum

On 23rd March 2023, Crimson Class visited the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

They stepped into their time machine and travelled back in time between 1800-1930. The students were given the opportunity to visit old shops, including a general foodstore, hardware store, sweet shop and bakery. Crimson class explored old toys when Xboxes and iPads were not yet invented and watched a demonstration from a Blacksmith to create a link for a metal chain. It was a wonderful experience for all!



On Friday 10th March, a fundraising gig was held at The Parkway Club in Peterborough, to raise money for our school.



A massive thank you to Hannah Forman, Colin Hodgkinson and Marcus Bonfanti for making this happen. The Friends of Heltwate charity never imagined a member of a band that played in the original Woodstock line up would be fundraising for us! The total raised was £2,608.37!!!!

Attendance

The whole school attendance percentage for this school term is 91.1% and for the school year up to 30th March is 90.1%

We remain above the national average for Special School attendance which is 86.4%.

115 pupils this term have over 94% attendance which is our school target – and 32 of these were 100%. Well done!


To report a school absence please either send a class dojo message or telephone the school office on 01733 262878 by 9.15 a.m.



If you feel there are issues other than illness that are affecting your child's attendance please do contact school. We want to work with you and your child to ensure that your child is able to attend and help in any way we can.

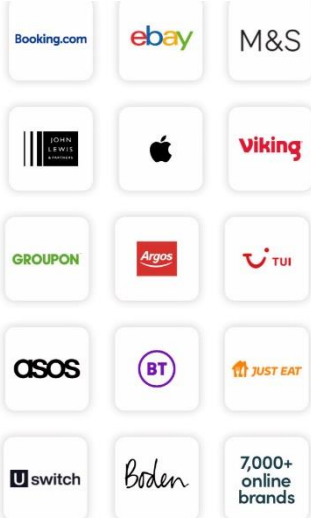
Fundraising for School

The school is now registered with easyfundraising, so you can raise FREE donations for us when you do your everyday online shopping. All you have to do is find the brand you want to shop with on the easyfundraising website or App and they will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you!



See your favourite brands donate to us whenever you spend with them

[Find out more](#)



Sign up for free at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/heltwate-special-needs-school/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-sch-n3



Moving house

Please be aware that when you move house you need to contact the transport office on 01733 317455 so they can re-arrange your transport as your move could mean your child being on a different transport route. Transport may not be able to organise the change immediately and so you would need to bring your child to school yourself whilst it is being done.

Please make sure that you let the school office know your new address.



Parent / Carers vehicles onsite

Please can we remind those who bring and collect their child into school that **the school site cannot be accessed between 8.40 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. by parent / carer vehicles**. If you do come onto site during these times you will be asked to move your vehicle.

Class Dojo

Please make sure you are signed up to class dojo and regularly check it – we use it for all communication between school and home.

School Transport

All transport is managed by Peterborough City Council. If you need to speak to the transport team about your child's transport please ring 01733 317455 and NOT the school office.

School Dinners

Dinners are £2.70 a day for Years 3-6 and £2.90 a day for Year 7 upwards. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 do not need to pay.

We have a new menu starting after the Easter holiday and is available to view on our website.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

The application is an online form which can be accessed from our website or from the link below:
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

Peterborough City Council have secured funding for the next year to distribute vouchers during the school holidays for families who are eligible.

If your child is going to be late please be aware that school dinners have to be ordered by 9.30 a.m. so if you have not contacted us before then and bring your child into school late then they will need to provide them with a packed lunch.