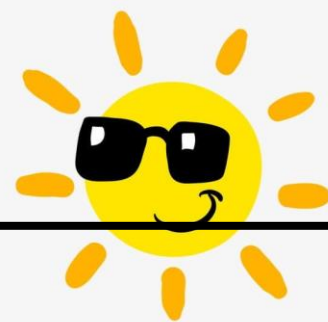


Heltwate Round up

May 2023

www.heltwate.co.uk



A note from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the last few weeks, we have been squeezing lots into a short half term. It was lovely to see so many of you at parent's evenings and the Coronation celebrations (if a bit wet). We are planning for more residential trips, the leavers proms, celebration assemblies, transitions and further improvements to our buildings.

I can't believe the end of the year is approaching. There is much of this part that I don't enjoy - because it means that for some of our students - and staff, we are preparing to say goodbye. It seems like we spend much of our time cultivating students to achieve wonderful things - for what seems like years - then suddenly, they've done it, in a breath it's all over and they are going. I know it's natural and right and the same every year, but it's still hard so let's ensure we really enjoy the last few weeks and remember the end of this school year as the best ever.

Of course, the highlight of the start of the year will be moving into the Jubilee building. I am really pleased with it and can't wait to show you around. We have the keys now and are starting to prepare it for teaching from September, maybe a little before. Instantly parking is a little better. There will be some anxiety around who will be in the new building? and of course who moves from main site to St. George's? As well as who moves onto college or our own Olympic College. We will start to work with our young people as soon as we return after half term preparing them for transition. We will inform you of class moves as soon as details are finalised.

Could I just remind you about the government's legislation regarding leave of absence; I can only authorise a leave of absence in the most exceptional of circumstances. I am getting an increasing number of requests for term time holidays. These will not be approved and unfortunately leads to some awkward conversations. Similarly, we have a number of young people that arrive a little late in the morning or are picked up a little earlier at the end of the day. From September this will not be permitted except in planned circumstances.

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

Adam Brewster



School breaks up for half term on FRIDAY 26th May at 3.00 p.m.

Pupils return to school on MONDAY 5th June at 8.40 a.m.

Eco Awards



On 25/5/23, orange class attended the R.A.U. for the PECT Eco Awards. We showcased all of the hard work our pupils had put into making a lovely new garden area.

Earlier in the term, we placed a Hydroponic system in reception and grew lettuce for the school to share. Heltwate won the children's choice award which was a fantastic achievement! Well done guys. Just a special mention for Abdul and Sean who worked extra hard.



The King's Coronation

A HUGE thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Coronation Party to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, (and thank you for bearing with us through the last minute changes due to the weather)! It was a squash and a squeeze but hopefully you all had lots of fun.



St. George's

We have been as busy as ever at St. George's. The Munchbox Cafe continues to be very successful with different classes visiting the Cafe every week. It provides a great opportunity for them to develop their life skills and interact socially with others. Orange Class visited last week.



Crimson Class

Students have been busy collecting clothes to take to the Cash for Clothes site. £551.30 was cashed in at the Metro bank this morning for Friends of Heltwate. This money was raised at the King's Coronation Event at Heltwate Mainsite and in Stamford. The students in Crimson Class also took clothing, DVDs, books and CDs ' site after sorting through the charity cupboard in their careers session which added to the total amount raised. Thank you to everyone who was involved and supported to help to raise this fantastic amount of money!



Ruby and Scarlet Class joined forces this week for an RE day with a focus on learning about Sikhism. We have been learning about what happens in a Gurdwara. Both classes made food to share with each other. In Sikhism, this is called 'langar'.

Magenta Class Forest School

Magenta class had a special Forest School session with Jemma who works for the Royal Forestry Commission. Our topic this term is Enchanted Woodland and this session fitted our learning perfectly. The students were tasked with sorting different leaves from the trees, looking at shape, size and pattern. From here we then identified the different trees in our allotment and learnt their names. We then went on a minibeast hunt, thinking about the different animals we could find, where they live and then using a chart to classify what we had found. The conclusion of our session was listening to a worm! Jemma set the worm on the table where, if we were really quiet and listening intently, we would be able to hear the worm moving. Each student took a turn, to varying degrees of success... you will have to ask them what secrets of the underground the worm shared with them! A lovely session had by all and we are very grateful to Jemma for taking the time to come and visit us.



Lower School Trip

This term the Lower School children had the opportunity to go on a residential to Rutland. This trip was a great success and the children had lots of fun. They got to experience feeding baby lambs, pond dipping, roasting marshmallows over the fire and even camped in bell tents. A big thank you to those involved and hopefully we can have another successful trip next year!



Attendance

The whole school attendance percentage for this half term is 92.5% and for the school year up to 25th May is 90.9%

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

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.

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.

Upcoming dates:

Friday 26 th May	End of half term
Monday 5 th June	Start of half term Special Dinner Menu – FA Cup theme
Wednesday 7 th June	Individual School Photos – Bretton Main Site pupils
Thursday 8 th June	Individual School Photos – St George's Site pupils



Friday 7 th July	We will be holding our summer fair on the afternoon of Friday 7th July. The is in aid of raising funds for the Friends of Heltwate charity. Further details and invitations will be sent out after half-term
Friday 14 th July	School closes at 1.00 p.m.
Tuesday 18 th July	End of term at 3.00 p.m.



End of Term arrangements

Friday 7th July	Last day for the Year 11 and Year 14 pupils <u>at St. George's only</u>
Friday 14th July	School closes to all pupils at Heltwate and St. George's at the earlier time of 1pm. School transport will collect at this earlier time.
Monday 17th July & Tuesday 18 th July	Heltwate and St. George's transition days – start and finish at normal times
Tuesday 18 th July	End of the academic year, transport will collect pupils at the normal time of 3pm

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.

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.

School Dinners

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

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.