

DECEMBER 2023  
NEWSLETTER



# Heltwate School



## A note from our Head

We are at the end of the first term and it's a bit strange, although there are three terms in the year, in actual weeks, we're nearly halfway through the academic year! As an acknowledgement of that, there's a lot of taking stock, planning and final lists of jobs being written: what really must be done before the New Year? It's a psychological thing but starting the New Year with things in order makes such a big difference, creating an opportunity for a very positive, clean start to 2024.

It has been a busy term, lots going on and lots of staff illness. For all the strain there is a real buzz about school. The range of activity, energy and enthusiasm is infectious.

We have had an endless stream of visitors wanting to see what and how we do things; They all continue to be very complimentary and comment on the calm, caring and purposeful aspect of the school. We have coordinated several charity events and reached out beyond school to raise funds. MacMillan, Children in Need, Pink for breast cancer, Poppy Appeal, the collection at Harvest assemblies went to the food bank. Parents evenings were well attended and the survey following parents evening painted a positive picture. Our daily Advent Activities have been a huge success, exciting events every day. I hope you managed to get to the class Christmas performances. There are plenty of other events on the horizon too.

I would like to say a big thank you to the staff for their hard work and commitment. The difference they make to pupils and their families cannot be measured.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year



## Heltwate Advent

Don't forget to continue our Heltwate Advent Calendar until Christmas Eve! There's some lovely surprises behind each door for you to enjoy at home, and the calendar can be accessed here:

<https://tuerchen.app/thJX1tx02x200m21> or by scanning the QR Code:



## CONTACT INFO

Our Number  
01733 262 878

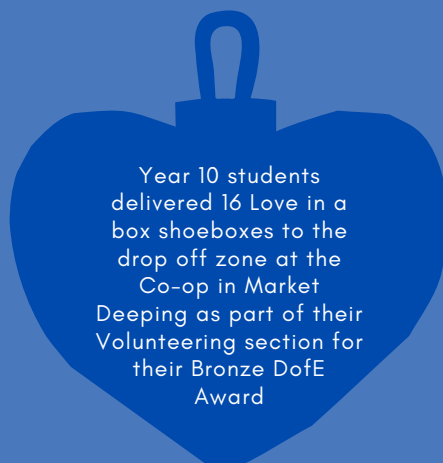
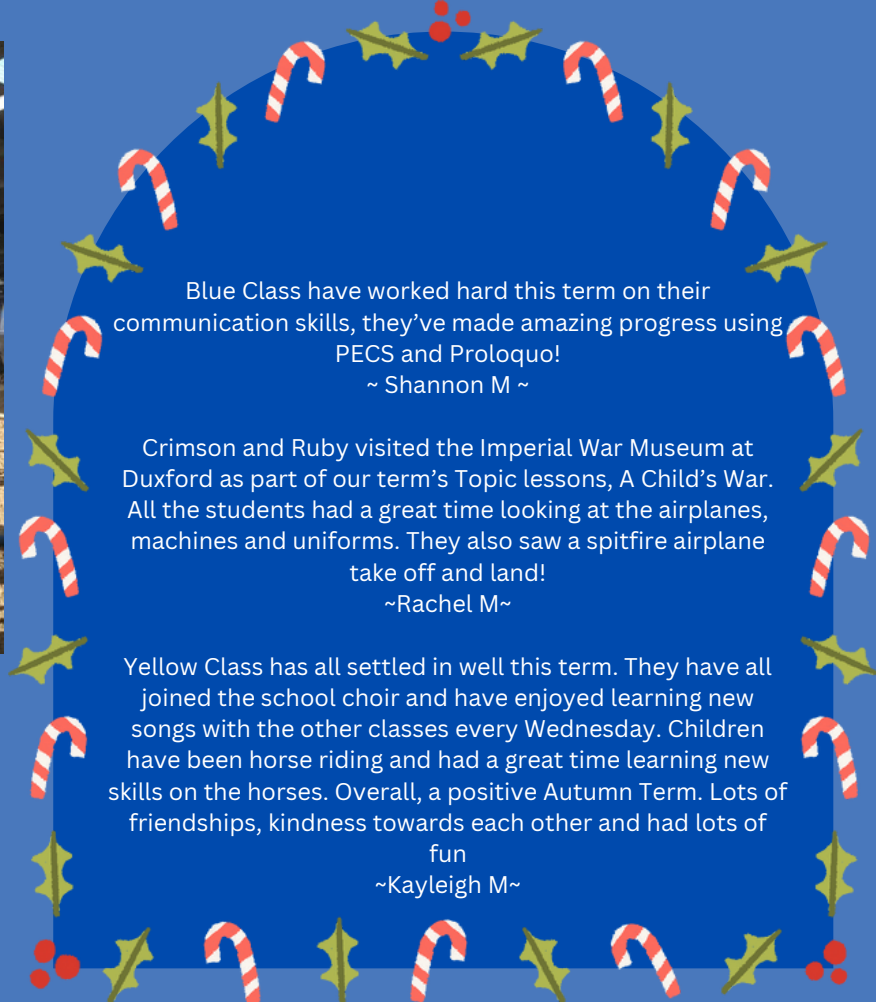
Transport  
01733 317 455

Looking forward to  
seeing you all back on  
the 4th January!





# What's been happening this term!



# Attendance

# MATTERS



## School Year Attendance

0 days off	100% attendance	perfect
2 days off	99% attendance	excellent
5 days off	97% attendance	good
10 days off	95% attendance	slight concern
20 days off	90% attendance	concerning
30 days off	85% attendance	very concerning

We take pride in our high attendance at Heltwate School and attendance for the whole school this term is 92.2%. The national average for Special Schools is 87.7%.

This table shows the amount of absence days over a school year that an attendance percentage is. Our school target is 94% which is 11 days absence a year. If attendance is below 90% over the year which is 20 or more days (4 weeks) then this is a cause for concern.

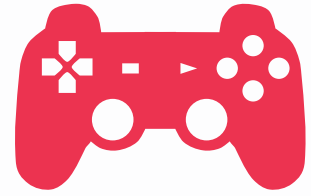
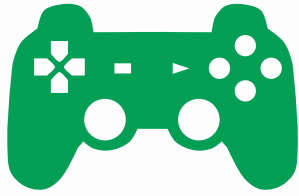
We shall be sending home via dojo your child's attendance for this term to keep you informed.

We are aware that the increase in absence this term due to the recent increase in rates of seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illness will impact the attendance for some children and so over the course of the school year the attendance percentage should increase.

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 which we can.



# Online Safety During Christmas



The ever evolving social media and gaming world can be fun for children but, for many parents it seems like a foreign world. If your child has been gifted a new console or a new game it might be worth reading about keeping your child safe online.

Each game has a PEGI rating, this indicates the appropriate age the game is designed for and why.



Games such as Fortnite and COD are online and you can play with anyone in the world. It's also easy to instant message on these games, please supervise your child's messages & message requests.



Phones and tablets also have settings so you can stop your children by blocking access to sites, limit access to the camera and sharing of photos.



Additional information on how we can keep children protected online can be found here

<https://safetynet.skipseducational.org/>

TOGETHER WE ARE

LEARNING, SHARING, GROWING & CARING