
Heltwate Newsletter

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MARCH 2024

A NOTE FROM OUR HEAD,

This term we have been grappling with seeing how much can be squeezed into a tiny half term! Next half term seems even more busy! Staff have been so creative, and children so engaged, we have had; NSPCC Maths Day, Safer Internet Day World Book Day, My Futures, Cresset Dance Show, Comic Relief, Red Nose Day, Parent's Evenings, Mother's Day, Food and Farming Day and, a residential to Graffam Water. A huge well done to the Heltwate Choir who visited Braceborough Hall Care Home. They sang and signed beautifully to the residents and really brightened up their day! The Munch Box Café continues to run.

The school ran a very successful World Book Day event which was combined with My Futures. An effective careers programme is in place meeting the government's statutory guidance. All teachers from the youngest classes to the oldest can now describe their role in preparing young people for adult life.

There are other visits galore. Just to reassure you this does not distract from the learning taking place in the classrooms. The Leadership Team have been enormously privileged to have been able to spend time in all the classes watching what is going on. I am delighted to be able to tell you that lessons across the school continue to be fun, pupils take part and there is a feel-good atmosphere around the school.

Today we are doing Star of the Class Assemblies, there is such enthusiasm and joy, A massive thank you and well done to everyone. I asked Heather to join us in assemblies giving out the medals to the winners. Heather is leaving us at Easter after 30 years at the school. We worked out that she must have attended approaching 200 of these assemblies over her time at the school. She has had an enormous impact on so many young people, and the staff that worked with her. I will miss her; she has often been the voice of reason and never failed to give me sound advice. She will be missed.

The smiling faces of children coming into school are a good indicator of the development of many of our pupils. Pupil's personal development is very good. The profile of our students is changing, we are looking more and more at the way our young people achieve beyond the academic curriculum. This needs to be a real focus for us in school. 'How do we make what they are doing purposeful?

We have been fundraising for Children in Need and Red Nose Day. A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes. Autism Awareness and our own charity week are coming up.

I guess we all deserve a holiday. Have a lovely Easter break and I look forward to welcoming children back Monday the 15th of April.



ADAM BREWSTER, HEADTEACHER





What happened this term?

Coral and Emerald enjoyed a trip to Hamerton Zoo, we all enjoyed looking at all of the different animals and learning about them. We have used our knowledge to expand our learning during lessons.

Sapphire class have been looking at jungle animals. We have made collages and sensory bottles linked to the jungle. In maths we have been looking at 'more and less'.

In Amber we have been busy discussing the difference between 'wants and needs' in our Preparing for Adulthood lessons. We discussed different scenarios about how we would choose to spend money, and deciding if we prioritised things we truly needed or things that we wanted to have in our lives. It was a very interesting debate!

To celebrate world book day, we had a world book day week. We engaged with lots of activities based around careers. On Monday we focused on farmers and had activities and books about farmers and farm animals, on Tuesday we focused on bakers, Wednesday was train drivers and today we focused on dentists and read the story "Peppa's visit to the dentist".

Lavender class also enjoyed engaging with the career's food and farming morning. We enjoyed exploring the different herbs and vegetables and looking at the tractor.



Orange Class have loved going swimming this half term! We've had lots of fun jumping in, splashing staff and practicing our swimming strokes. It's been great for life skills too as we've had lots of practice with dressing/undressing and personal care skills.

This term Yellow Class have enjoyed learning about different animals. They have created beautiful artwork, learning to move like animals and enjoyed lots of lovely animal sensory stories. Everyone has also thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons.

Ruby and Crimson Year 10's have been completing their First Aid course for their Skills section of their DofE. they have learnt how to place a casualty into the recovery position, CPR, How to bandage cuts and sprains and how to use a defibrillator.



08 March 2024 Mothers Day Event

Heltwate welcomed special guests from each family to come and join us for our Mother's Day event.

Parents and carers from Jubilee were invited into each room to play with the children with a range of classroom activities including sand, water play and art activities.

The children baked and made special cakes and cards at Main Site to share and send home to say 'Thank you'. It was such a nice afternoon filled with lots of love!

World Book Day & Careers Week



For World Book Day, Blue Class enjoyed exploring activities linked to the job of an inventor. The book we used was 'That's Not My Robot', and the children were able to interact with a sensory robot made by the staff in Blue Class. The children also explored sensory trays linked to robots and inventing things, and made robot themed Mother's Day cards.

We celebrated National Careers Week and World Book Week from the 4th to the 8th March.

It was another fantastic event for Heltwate School. This year we were delighted to welcome the environmental Officer and colleagues from Galliford Try, a leading UK construction company. They talked about their commitment to the environment during their builds. They made bee bombs with students and carried out water testing using pH kits. Jean, Sam and Georgia from the company, presented the school with a book. We are very grateful to Galliford Try for this employer encounter and plan to work with them again.

The theme for the day was 'Communication'. This year classes chose books linked to a careers themes including, zoo vet, astronaut, chef, dentist, environmental workers, online content developer and others! Classes also took part in sensory activities and decorated umbrellas linked to their book or job theme.

A range of job themed activities were set up for students. They had great fun working in an office, using the phone, filing and using post-it notes! There was a post office to send letters and a listening station for students to listen to lots of different job related sounds. Students enjoyed dressing up and building in the construction area.

Everyone dressed up for the day! It was great to see builders, astronauts, construction workers, police officers, chefs and Ninja Turtles walking around school.

Career related learning and engaging with employers is a key part of preparing for adulthood, so whole school events like this are invaluable for our young people to know they are free to choose what their future might look like.





Red Nose Day & Fundraising

We had a wonderful assembly at main site ahead of Red Nose Day. The aim of the assembly was to have a laugh and 'Do something funny for money'. Mr Stubbs and Mr Leslie had a go at 'Knock it down' with Mr Leslie claiming the victory.

We then had the return of Pie Face with some willing teachers taking part. Many thanks to all the great staff for joining in and the students for raising the roof with their laughter and encouragement.

We just wanted to say a massive thanks for all of your support and help in making the day such a spectacular success.. Yet again, a lovely reminder of what a generous community we have at school and the support from everyone has been incredible!

This year, our Red Nose Day fundraising was split between the Red Nose Day causes and supporting a former student, Liam Horne. Liam has recently been diagnosed with Burkitt Lymphoma, a rare and aggressive form of Blood Cancer at Stage 4. He has commenced treatment at Addenbrookes Hospital with care provided via The Teenage Cancer Trust ward. Liam, who has Global Learning Delay and Autism, requires familiarity and routine to feel safe and communicate effectively, especially during this challenging period.

He spent 12 years at Heltwate School and many staff members remember him well! Our fundraising efforts on Red Nose Day, alongside money collected at the St George's Mother's Day Cafe managed to raise a fantastic £398.80. This money will be used to support Liam's family in securing accommodation via the Addenbrookes' hostel as Liam needs them to be close by.

His mum, Rose, and big brother, Sam, would like to pass on their gratitude for the generosity shown to Liam by the Heltwate community. Shilpa and Kim went to visit Liam and his family on Saturday 16th March and Rose was overwhelmed by the amount of money raised. A huge thank you to everyone who was able to support Liam and his family at this difficult time.

Thank you for your donations!





St. George's Highlights

This term Scarlet class took a 2 day residential trip to Graffham Water.

On the first day they settled in extremely well finding their beds and having lunch, afterwards they grabbed their buoyancy aids and headed to the boats!

Whilst on the water they impressively managed to swap boats and have a turn at steering.

After getting back on land they had a relaxing bushcraft session cooking their own breadsticks over the fire.

Day two was the exciting Graffham Challenge!

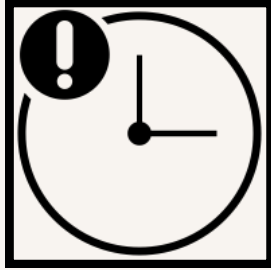
The Graffham challenge consisted of a blind folded obstacle course. Before heading to it they had a warm up on the low ropes challenge. Pupils will hold on to a rope to guide them through a series of challenging obstacles to reach the end.

This was great fun and VERY muddy for everyone involved! Afterwards Scarlet class had a quiet evening in the canoes, on the last morning they had a small session of Archery before heading back to St. George's.

We are so grateful Graffham Water hosted this trip for our class and we hope they had an amazing experience and that it's one for the memories!



School Info



Lateness

There were 192 late arrivals into school this term. School opens at 8.40 a.m. and registration is up to 9.00 a.m. It is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time so that they don't miss the start of the daily routine and to prevent disruption to the teacher and the class.

Pupils who arrive after 9.00 a.m. are marked as an authorised late up to 9.15 a.m and arrivals after 9.15 a.m are an unauthorised absence for the morning session which will affect their attendance percentage.

We understand that there may be rare occasions when a pupil is unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances and on these occasions, please make sure you contact the school office to inform us when your child will arrive.

Parents Evening

Thanks to all that attended Parents Evenings - we hope you found meeting with your class teacher helpful and informative. We know a few classes still have their Parent evenings to come.

In total, 128 families attended - that's 61% of our school community!

Parent Questionnaires

We had 65 questionnaires completed, and we were really pleased to see lots of positive responses, with 97% of you saying your child is happy at Heltwate, and 100% telling us we let you know how your child is doing .

Thank You all for taking the time to complete our questionnaire.

OPENS:
MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2024

MAY DAY: MONDAY 6TH

MAY 2024 HALF TERM:
MONDAY 27TH MAY – FRIDAY
31ST MAY 2024

Earwig

Earwig is our online assessment system we use it to capture and record your child's achievements and progress at school.

Its really easy to login and look for yourselves, please go to [earwig.uk.com](https://www.earwig.uk.com) and take a look.

If you need help logging in please contact Louise Goodlip via class dojo and she will get your account set up.

There is also a parent app available, but currently in the early stages of development by Earwig, so it's not quite so user friendly just yet. However, you should be able to find it on Apple and Android

