

HELTWATE NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM OUR HEAD

As you know Ofsted visited 2 weeks ago; as I write this the final report has not yet been released, and I haven't seen a draft. Until this happens the outcomes are confidential. However, I can say that the inspectors met our children, visited many lessons on all three sites, and interrogated our systems and procedures. In the feedback they were very complimentary and told us what a lovely school we had with an embedded culture of warmth and purpose. They met lovely young people who were taught and cared for by a highly skilled staff team. Thanks to those people that completed the parent survey. You said some lovely things about the school.

They were impressed with the way our young people clearly like school and this is reflected in the attendance data we publish. I suspect the final letter can't be far away, I hope it reflects the verbal feedback they gave us.

Ofsted aside, I told you in the last newsletter my big news, that I have informed governors that I intend to move on at the end of this school year to give me the opportunity to divert my time and energy elsewhere. Governors have undertaken a thorough recruitment process. I am delighted to say that they have appointed Alison Ashworth as the new Head Teacher at Heltwate School. Many of you will know Alison, she has been my Deputy for several years and knows the school and our families very well. She is full of good ideas and will continue to drive forward and ensure we champion the needs of all our young people.

I have always said to myself 'whatever happens, do a job that I am happy to go to every day and keeps me smiling.' 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 residential 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, the curriculum is exciting, and your children are working hard, are focused and most importantly happy. Some parents have suggested we do too much. I've 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 my last half term already? I can say how very proud I am of the hard work that has got us to this point. 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 always work very hard to ensure we continue to go from strength to strength.



What happened this
term?

Jubilee Feature

St George Feature

Information

INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

As a school we aim for 94% attendance and we are currently at 91.4%.

We have 104 pupils whose attendance is 94% or above for the school year from September. We saw an increase in attendance in 119 pupils from their Autumn to Spring term attendance percentage – well done!

Whilst we push for high attendance we recognise there are authorised medical reasons for absences which have to be taken – however there are small changes which can be made to improve attendance:

- Arrange appointments where possible out of school time
- Arrive on time – pupils who arrive after the registers close at 9.15am are recorded as unauthorised late which is an absent mark
- Family holidays should be taken during the 13 weeks of school holidays and not term time

Speak to us at school if you have issues other than illness affecting your child's attendance – 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

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.

PARENT PAY

ParentPay is an easy way of paying for trips, school dinners and curriculum activities without the need for bringing in money to the school. Every parent can be set up on this and you can also pay as you go or deposit a specific amount to cover the term. If you are still paying in cash and would consider joining ParentPay please drop an email to office@heltwate.peterborough.sch.uk

TERM DATES

HALF TERM: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024

SCHOOL OPENS: 3rd June 2024

TRANSITION DAY: Friday 12th July 2024– School closes at 1pm

ENDS: Friday 19th July 2024 at 3pm

WHAT HAPPENED THIS TERM?

Amber class had a very exciting trip to the Warning Zone in Leicester as part of PHSE day. On this trip, we looked at how to keep ourselves safe in the community and the different risks that surround us. We also learnt some important facts about our world... did you know you can have a criminal record from the age of 10?! The hands on experience and real life examples really helped to bring this information home and will hopefully make an impact on their thoughts and actions.



Navy class have been learning about Transport. We have shared Naughty Bus and Mr Gumpy's Car. We have all enjoyed taking part in singing Row, Row your boat and doing the actions to Wheels on the Bus.

All the children have been investigating and exploring how toys work especially remote control cars. As part of our RE focus we held a birthday party with Blue and Sapphire rooms, making birthday cards and bunting.



Coral class this term we have enjoyed learning all about coasts and seas. We started our topic with a trip to Skegness Aquarium where we enjoyed looking and learning about all of the sea life there. We have continued to learn about lighthouses, beaches around the world and the past and present seaside holidays.

Blue Class have been learning about food. We have experienced stories about food, including Handa's Surprise and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have also taken part in lots of different sensory activities linked to food. At the end of the term, we had a special R.E week about Celebrations. We joined with Navy Class and Sapphire Class to have a party to celebrate everyone's birthday!

Indigo Class have been learning about money in maths and have used opportunities when out and about to put this into practice. They have also been looking at making a snack and have planned and made some delicious pizzas, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



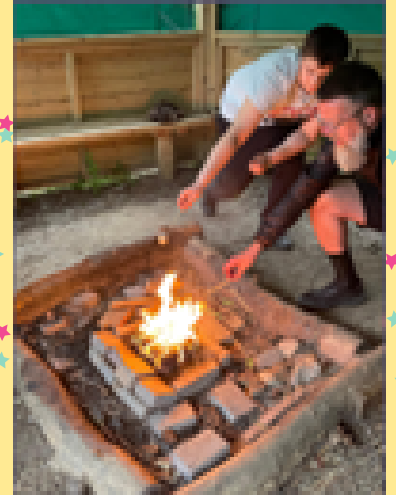
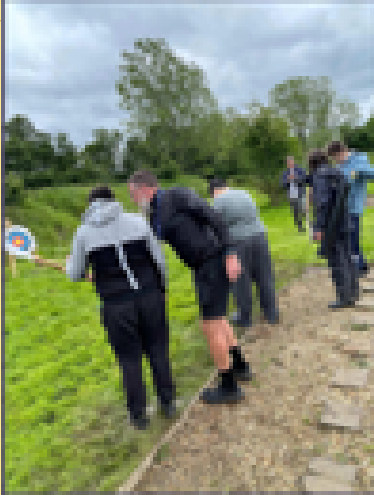
Orange classes topic this term has been Travelling. We have been learning about dangers in the home and the community. We have also been learning to safely cross roads. We have been enjoying our weekly trips to the supermarket and the cafe. This has linked nicely to our money focus in Maths. Orange Class have also enjoyed sailing this term and are busy preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh Expedition in June.



Pinks topic has been superheroes this term! All the children have been engaged and are enjoying the topic. This term they have also enjoyed sailing at Ferry Meadows and swimming at the Manor Pool in Whittlesey. This has supported them with their fine motor skills and their listening skills.

Yellow class started the term with a fun and exciting trip to Hunstanton. In forest school we have been learning about spring and the children have enjoyed exploring different local areas, making bug houses and hunting for butterflies.

COPPER RESIDENTIAL TRIP



Copper class headed to Grafham for the yearly residential trip to beat the Ultimate Grafham Challenge! This consisted of everyone being blindfolded through a very muddy obstacle course – This was a great test on the children to use communication and listening skills.

After we beat the Grafham Challenge we all headed to the power boats. Everyone had great fun on the power boat whilst having a go and steering the boat. Copper class were great captain's! Once we got back onto shore we did some bushcraft activities by splitting into two teams to make a shelter whilst the other team made a fire.

After all the excitement we headed back to school for pizza and a movie in the hall.



JUBILEE FEATURE



This half term our topic has been about food. We have read lots of interesting books including Peppa Pigs Picnic, The Gingerbread Man and the Tiger That Came To Tea. We enjoyed lots of food related activities but our favourite has probably been our weekly trip to buy items of food that we have then used in our kitchen session, we have been practising using a knife to cut food safely.

– Lilac



This term we have been learning about transport. We have read lots of 'That's not my...' books, 'We All Go Travelling By' and 'Car, Car, Truck Jeep'. All the children have been able to sing along with actions to the wheels on the bus. We have enjoyed lots of transport toys especially the remote control cars. In PE we have been learning to strike, aim and catch with different ball and PE equipment.

– Purple

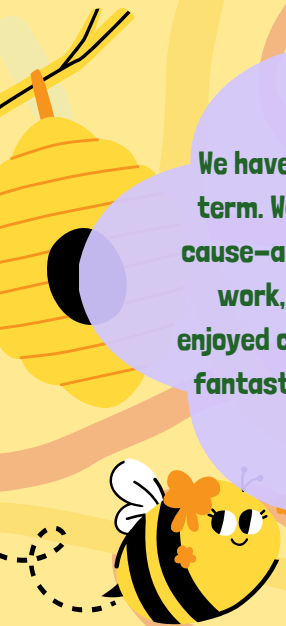
We have been learning about transport this half term. We have been enjoying playing with lots of cause-and-effect toys and figuring out how they work, including remote control cars. We have enjoyed creating models as a class and made some fantastic junk-model airplanes using cardboard tubes.

– Violet



This term our topic has been about transport. The children have enjoyed engaging with lots of stories and songs about transport. They have made some shortbread transport biscuits and explored trains, cars and boats in their play. –

Lavender



ST GEORGE'S FEATURE

With exams finished Crimson class got the opportunity to find out what happens to Peterborough's black bin waste and visited the Biffa waste disposal plant as part of our OCR. Did you know they burn your black bin waste to create power?!

–Crimson



This term we have been volunteering at the West Raven Community Garden. The OC Munchbox Cafe is a popular event each week and we have enjoyed seeing familiar faces! We also took the OC Munchbox Cafe on the road, to the Papworth Trust in Huntingdon. We have also been very active this term, we have groups of students going to Oundle School for sports activities and a team represented our school at the regional Lord Taverner's Table Cricket Competition.

–Olympic College



During this term we have visited a SEND Preparing for Adulthood Festival. The students took part in different team games and also listened to some young adults speaking about the choices they are able to make when they have joined a group called Voiceability.

–Ruby

As part of ROC's Vocational studies programme this term we have been learning to use a community facility over a period of time. The students have visited Hampton Library each Friday. They have all travelled very well and engaged in reading and looking at books during their visits.

–Olympic Rainbow

This term, Scarlet Class has been learning about Humanism. We were lucky enough to have a visitor from the Humanist Society to talk to us about Humanism. Rishi came into class and spoke about the Humanist approach to life and how it was about happiness and kindness and science. Students then worked together to draw things related to these areas.

–Scarlet

