



School

Heelands School News

Friendship, Respect, Self-belief, Cooperation, Challenge and Responsibility

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

9th Oct – 11th Oct **MK Food Bank Collections**
For Harvest Festival

10th October **Phonics Session**
Monkeys Class at 2.15.pm

11th October **Harvest Festival Assembly**
9am Performance

18th October **Parents Evening**
17:00pm–19:00pm

19th October **Parents Evening**
15:30pm–17:30pm

20th October **END of Term**
School closes at 3:15pm for the
October Half-Term Break

30th October **INSET Day**
School closed to Pupils

31st October **School OPEN**
Autumn Term (2) 2023

OPEN MORNING for School 2024

Friday 13th October – If you have a child or know anyone who has a child who will join in Early years in September 2024 – please do come along and look around our school. We will take tours around at 10am and 11 am – Please telephone the office and speak to Mrs Farmer. We will be delighted to share this truly wonderful school with you. This is for parents of children for children joining in 2024 only.

MK FOOD Bank Donations

As usual we will be collecting donations for the MK food bank. These can be made from Monday 9th October until 11th October. Any donation, however small will be gratefully received. Thank you



HEADTEACHER NEWS

Thank you for all your support in settling the children back into the Autumn Term. We spend a lot of time in and out of each class and we are so impressed with the learning behaviour, engagement and joy your children show in their learning. Behaviour at Heelands School is exceptional.

Parents evenings will be on Wednesday 18th October 5pm. – 7p.m and Thursday 19th October 3.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m. (Details will be sent separately)

It will be a lovely opportunity for you to come and look at your child's learning. Class teachers will share progress with you and you can ask any questions that you may have. We are always here to help and if you do need to speak to a member of staff, you can always call, pop a note in the Home-School Communication book or speak to an adult at drop off or pick up.

DAILY ROUTINES

We have really appreciated your help with the extended school day. The extra time each week is already having a good impact on the amount of learning that we can fit in! We have noted that there is a bit of a squish before the gates are opened in the mornings. To help with this, Mr Hull will open the gates at 8.25a.m. School doors will open at 8.30 a.m.

The parents survey that many of you kindly completed, did highlight that parent would like to see teachers more often. In response to this, teachers will all wait at class entrances each morning to welcome the children. Our team of Learning Support Assistants will be in the classrooms ready to help children settle in and start their learning.

- Monkeys will come in via their usual door.
- Giraffes will come through the entrance they use now.
- Lions children will now come through the entrance where they leave each afternoon.

ATTENDANCE

So far, Monkeys class have had the highest attendance EVERY week so far! Please help us with maintaining high levels of attendance by ensuring your child is at school and by not taking holidays in term time.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The children have been busy singing and each class has learned a song which they will be ready to perform for you on **Wednesday 11th October**. This will be a short but sweet performance and we invite parents and carers to come along and watch.

Please drop your child off and then we will welcome you into the hall from 8:50am ready for a performance at 9:00am. Children will have their lunch as usual on this day. In the afternoon, we will come together as a school and share a simple meal of bread, cheese and fruit while we listen to stories about Autumn and Harvest.



EYFS

Our youngest learners have settled into school so well and we are very proud of them. They have got off to a flying start with phonics and learning to read. They are now independent when choosing activities, are enjoying all the activities both indoors and outdoors and are listening very well in their focused tasks. They have had great fun exploring our beautiful outdoor spaces to look at the changes in weather. Please support your child by reading with them each evening.



YEAR 1

Lions have been Antarctic explorers! Using the book *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers, they have learned the story and had a go at writing it by themselves. They have written post-cards, played in our Travel Agent Centre and shown great enthusiasm for their learning. In maths they have been practising number formation and counting. Reading at home is generally excellent so thank you for this. The best way to support your child at the moment is by listening to them read, reading to them and completing any other home learning.



YEAR 2

Ocean Adventures – Giraffes have read *Commotion in the Ocean*, *The Snail* and *The Whale* and a range of Non-Fiction books. They have written their own stories and poems. They have made a massive effort with handwriting and presentation and some children are already joining their handwriting. Forest School has bought much excitement. Mrs Foster and Mrs Creaser have taken the children out and taught them some very important skills. As your child reaches greater independence with reading, please still listen to them daily and record this in their Home-School Communication books. Thank you



National Poetry Day...

National Poetry Day on Thursday was a super day full of fun, rhyming and some incredibly inventive outfits! It was wonderful for staff and children to have the time to share favourite poems and rhymes and stories. An assembly with Mrs Mills saw all the children perform a class poem. Well done to all!



NOTICES...

Smart Boards

Each class room has now been fitted with a new Smartboard. These will enhance the learning and enable children to do things such as share their work via screen with the class, and complete interactive task.

Phonics Session

Mrs Money and Mrs Wilson will be holding a **Phonics Session** for parents in Monkeys class at 2.15.pm on Tuesday 10th October. WE hope all parents will be able to come along. As well as understanding how we teach and how you can support, it will also be a time for you to share reading with your child in class.

Help for Families

We have made some really useful connections with local organisations. If you would like any support with food bags or anything else, please drop an email to the office or pop in for a confidential chat with Miss Daley or Miss Withington. As a school in the heart of Heelands, we really do want to support all families in any way that we can.

LIBRARY...

Over the summer our school library had a HUGE makeover! It has been transformed into a beautiful, big space for reading and sharing our love of books. It is also full of wonderful new texts! Please pop in and have a look when you are in school for Parent Evenings.

