



Heelands School News



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

20th October	END of Term <i>School closes at 3:10pm for the October Half-Term Break</i>
30th October	INSET Day <i>School closed to Pupils</i>
31st October	School OPEN <i>Autumn Term (2) 2023</i>
17th November	Children In Need <i>Further Info will be sent</i>
11th December	Nativity <i>Dress Rehearsal</i>
12th December	Nativity <i>Community Performance</i>
13th December	Nativity <i>Parents / Carers Performance</i>
13th December	Nativity <i>Parents / Carers Performance</i>
21st December	Christmas Party <i>Christmas Party & Lunch</i>
21st December	END of Term <i>School closes at 3:10pm for the Christmas Break</i>
22nd December	INSET Day <i>School closed to Pupils</i>

HEADTEACHER NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is nearly the end – I cannot believe it – of our first half term of the year! Even though it is a long term, it seems to be going very quickly; time flies when you are having fun!

Thank you so much for all your donations for the Food Bank as part of our Harvest appeal. We had a tremendous response. The donations have been taken to the Food Bank at Kiln Farm. I know that many people are struggling with the cost of living at the moment so to have so many donations was really heartwarming. If you are struggling, please do speak to the office or Emily Withington and we can help you in any way we can.

During Covid, there were some changes that schools made that have been kept on as they improved the school day. One of these was that children came in wearing their PE kit on PE days. Not only does this prevent uniform going missing but it also means lessons can start quickly without taking up time to change. From Autumn Term (2), we would like children to come to school in their proper PE kit on those days. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a great weekend and half term break.

See you all back on Tuesday 31st October.

Ian Fraser

Executive Headteacher



NOTICES...

PE Kit:

Please can children remember to wear their PE kit to school on their PE days, thank you.

PE days are as follows:

Reception – Wednesdays

Year 1 – Weds/Fri

Year 2 Tues/Thurs



October Half-Term Ideas...



MiltonKeynesKids

[Kids Eat for £1](http://KidsEatfor£1)



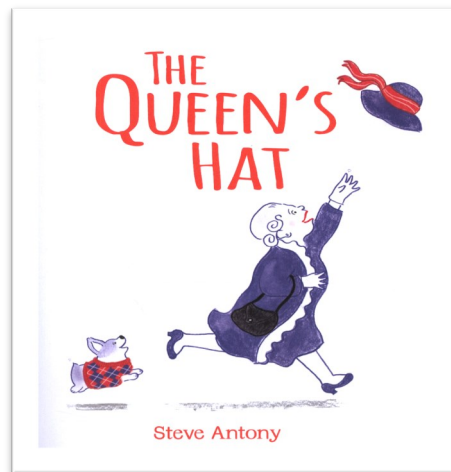
EYFS

In Monkeys class the children have finished their All About Me topic. We have been so impressed with how the children have settled in, made friends and learned to explore the indoor and outdoor learning spaces. They have been taking part in daily Write-Dance sessions to strengthen their fingers and have been writing their names and letters. They have taken part in phonics sessions every day and have enjoyed going on sound hunts around the school. Numbers 1-5 have been explored in detail with plenty of counting, matching and number writing happening. After the holidays, our topic is Celebrations. A party day on Friday 2nd November will see them start their learning in style!



YEAR 1

Lions class have enjoyed their Antarctic topic. They have made a fantastic transition into Year 1 from Early Years and are already focused and engaged in their learning each day. After the holidays, the learning will be focused around "Famous People" and "Significant People" from the past. The children will be writing stories based on The Queen's Hat by Steve Antony. They will learn to compare the lives of the Queen and Guy Fawkes. Their topic will also start with a special Day. The children will take part in a Royal Tea Party at school on 31st October.



YEAR 2

Giraffes class have had a busy half term and have again adapted well to being in Year 2. The children have happily and readily taken on many new challenges and are completing lots of learning each day. Forest School has been a big hit this half term. They have enjoyed various activities in our forest area. We are very lucky to have this at Heelands. After the holidays Year 2 children will be Time Travellers. Their special day will involve activities all about the Moon. They will also learn about significant people both past and present.



Fabulous Readers

Well done to all our fabulous readers. Miss Daley and Mr Fraser held a Tea-Party on the last day of term for all the children who have read regularly at home! Good work and keep it up!



Why is reading at home so important?

Children with access to 25 books at home complete an average of 2 more years of school than children from homes without any books.

Reading is a critical skill for succeeding in most school subjects.

Kids 4-5 years old gain 6 months of reading ability by being read to 3 to 5 times per week.

A child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7800 hours at home.

Research shows that just 20 minutes a day spent reading with a child helps them develop critical reading skills.

Learn more:
smartreading.org/parent-resources

What we've been up to...

On Wednesday 11th October, all the children took part in our Harvest Assembly. Parents and Carers joined us to listen to some wonderful readings and songs. Following that, the children all had a harvest meal together in the hall.

We would also like to say thank you so much for the very generous donations to support MK Food Bank.



On Friday 13th October, we welcomed our families in again to listen to the children recite their poems that they learned on National Poetry Day. Parents and carers then joined us in classes to read stories with their children.

It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all!

