



Heelands School News

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 7th December** **Christmas Jumper Day**
Children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper/Festive Clothes/Favourite Outfit in return for an optional £1 donation per family
- 11th December** **Nativity**
Dress Rehearsal at 9:30am
Evening Performance at 6pm
- 12th December** **Nativity**
Community Invited Performance
9:30am
- 13th December** **Nativity**
Daytime Performance 9:30am
- 21st December** **Christmas Party**
Colonel Custard
Children to come to School wearing party clothes or a favourite outfit
- 18th–21st December** **Christmas Jumpers**
Children are welcome to wear Christmas Jumpers or Favourite Outfits for the last week of Term
- 21st December** **END of Term**
School closes at 3:10pm for the Christmas Break
- 22nd December** **INSET Day**
School closed to Pupils
- 08th January** **School OPEN**
Welcome Back!
Start of Spring (1) Term



HEADTEACHER NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Christmas Nativity practising is well under way! The children are getting more confident with their acting, singing and dancing and the staff, so far, are still enjoying the journey. We are looking forward to performing it for you in the weeks to come.

I have given out a lot of Headteacher's Award stickers this week for reading at home. This is brilliant as it means that children are getting lots of opportunities to improve their fluency and they are also loving reading and engaging with stories. There are tips available online for how to engage your child with books at home, including this link from the DfE: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read> We will have a workshop in the new year to support you with this but, in the meantime, if you want any help please do talk to your child's class Teacher or Miss Daley or myself.

On Wednesday, we had an Open Morning tour for September 2023 starters. It was very well attended and I felt very proud showing potential families around our school. Our children and staff are all working so hard to be the best they can be, every day.

It does look like the temperature has dropped permanently now and it is pretty chilly every day for the foreseeable future. Please remember to send your children in with named coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Also, children should still attend school with colds or runny noses, etc. If they do feel worse during the day, we will always call you.

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

Ian Fraser

Executive Headteacher



EYFS - Monkeys

We have had a fantastic week in Monkeys class! We have continued to look at Room on a Broom and the children have really loved this story. We have learned how to sing and sign in Makaton the Room on the Broom song- the children's favourite part is when the dragon arrives!

In Maths we have been exploring 1,2,3,4,5 and will continue this next week.

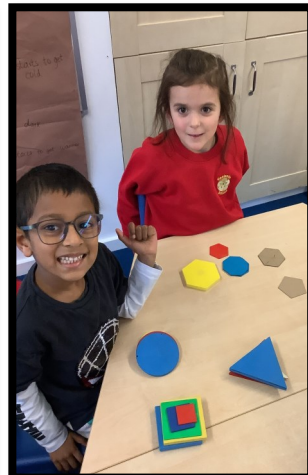
We have been learning how to use a 10s frame to count out amounts with the children - they have been fab at this! We have had ice, spaghetti, playdough, spaghetti painting, drawing, writing, building, wand making, small world play and a Christmas home corner! The children have had a great week! Well done Monkeys.



YEAR 1 - Lions

In Year 1 this week we have been busy learning about 2D shapes in Maths.

We have been learning to name and recognise them, and sort them into different groups according to name, size and colour.



YEAR 2 - Giraffes

We have been working so hard learning all about significant people in History like Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole, Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. We have enjoyed learning about the impact these figures made on the world and how and why they are still remembered to this day.

In Maths we have really developed our addition and subtraction skills using our base ten to help us exchange when we need to.

Finally we have been very busy learning our lines and songs for our Christmas Nativity. We have been excellent roles models showing the younger how to be patient and persevere.



Royal British Legion...

We managed to raise a fantastic **£118.42** for the Royal British Legion through their Poppy Appeal.

Thank you to everyone who supported this Charity.



Festive Raffle...

We will be holding a Festive Raffle on Wednesday 13th December after the last Nativity Performance. We are asking for any kind donations of raffle prizes/vouchers/unwanted gifts which we can put towards this please. Thank you so much for your support. If you own a business and would like to donate a prize we will thank you and advertise you in our next edition of the Newsletter. Any prize donations can be handed to the Office. Thank you so much.



MK Council...

Winter Holiday, Activities and Food Programme #HAF2023



Families in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) will be able to access a range of free activities and food for children, young people and their families from 2nd to 4th January 2024.

Bookings for the 8,000 individual sessions planned for the winter holidays will open on 4th December 2023 through the [online booking system](#).

E-vouchers will be sent out to children and young people identified through the school census that are in receipt of benefit-related FSM via email from hello@holidayactivities.com by 4th December 2023 and will include a link directly to the booking system.

If you are in receipt of benefit-related FSM and haven't received an e-voucher on the 4th December 2023, please contact office@heelands.org after 4th December 2023.

For more information on the programme and cost of living support, please visit: [Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2023 | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#).



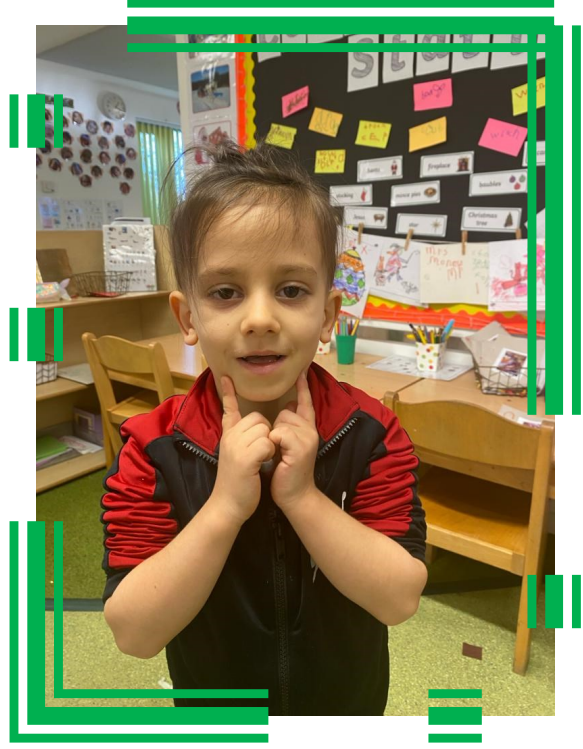
Celebrations...

Congratulations to our Sparkler Children. These assemblies celebrate children's efforts in all areas of work

SPARKLER Assembly



Alice



Fabi

Karter



Lottie

Celebrations...

Assembly VALUES

Congratulations to our children who have excelled in all areas of our 6 core values: FRIENDSHIP, RESPECT, SELF-BELIEF, CO-OPERATION, CHALLENGE and RESPONSIBILITY



Oli

Niamh

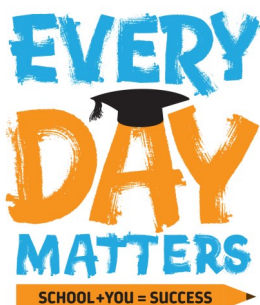


Aahil

Safeguarding...

School attendance and impact of the pandemic

- Poor school attendance has serious implications for children and young people:
 - Lower attendance is correlated with lower attainment outcomes for pupils at both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4.
 - Regular school attendance is also associated with a wider set of social, health and civic benefits, and school-based interventions are shown to have a significant positive impact on pupils who are struggling; as such, school attendance underpins holistic wellbeing for young people.
- National and local attendance data shows there has been a dramatic change in school attendance levels since the pandemic, counteracting all the positive work that had previously taken place.



Attendance	KS2 Pupils achieving expected standards
99%	71%
90%	50%
85%	42%