



## Heelands School Autumn 1 Newsletter 2021



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new school year and a particularly warm welcome to the new families joining us. It's been lovely to meet our new Monkeys, they're a super bunch and we look forward to getting to know them. Who knows what this year has in store but we hope that we'll be able to return to our usual school routine of visits, assemblies and productions throughout the year.

### The new start

The amount of work that had to happen over the holidays was phenomenal. Year 1's shared area, classrooms and cloakroom were completely refurbished, the old light fittings were replaced throughout the school and a new toilet block installed. We were awash with contractors throughout the six weeks and staff worked incredibly hard, coming in through their break to make sure everything was perfect for the start of the new term. At times last year it felt as though we would never be back to normal so it is absolutely brilliant to be back in our usual bright and lovely space. Many thanks to everyone for making it happen.

### Keeping in touch

We send parents information by text and email newsletters to you, but the system only allows one phone number or email address per family so make sure we have the best contact details for you. One problem that came to light with the hot lunches was that if the email address of the parent who applied for the school place and the email address that parents put on their contact form were different, then messages didn't always go where they were expected to! Our text and email service lets us know if messages are not delivered so Mrs Phillips then always checks the contact details and lets you know of any issues.

Our Facebook page is a useful way to message parents, it runs differently to a normal page in that I rarely see messages that parents post but if it's a query often another parent or member of staff may step in with some help. You'll see lots of videos and photos on there of what the children have been doing, the school website holds all the vital school information like newsletters, dates and policies but for the fun and exciting things in school, head to FB!

### School lunches

The new, hot school lunches are very popular and free for infant aged children, so if you've not yet ordered go to the link below.

<https://www.wisepay.co.uk/store/generic/template.asp?mID=451605&ACT=nav>

## Values Curriculum

Our Values curriculum is based around six values chosen by parents, staff and governors that support our children to become good citizens. Whenever pupils demonstrate the value they are given a glass pebble which they put into a special jar in Friday's assembly. The winning class gets a certificate at the end of the half-term. Each week teachers choose a class Values Champion who wears the Values medal for the coming week.

We usually launch each new Value by inviting parents into school but sadly it is still too soon to have such a large number of parents in the school building. Our first value is Friendship and you can support your child's understanding by talking about what makes a good friend and reading books like 'The Rainbow Fish' together to reinforce the message.

## Term-time holidays

A reminder that schools cannot authorise any holidays in term-time, absence will be marked as unauthorised and the local authority may issue a fine for holiday absence or lateness.

## Emergency contact numbers

It is a legal requirement that we have more than one emergency contact number for every child. Please ensure that your contact numbers are always up to date.

## Diary Dates

Please keep these dates in a safe place, we will send you further information about individual events nearer the time. All the events below are planned with a great deal of optimism and will be dependent on the Covid situation at the time.

Event	Date	Time
School Nurse, screening checks Yr1	Wednesday September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00
Open Morning - for prospective parents	Wednesday October 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-11.00
Harvest Assembly	Wednesday October 13 <sup>th</sup>	TBC
Parent consultations	Tuesday October 19 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday October 20 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 - 7.00 3.30 - 5.30
School Nurse, hearing checks Yr1	Wednesday October 20 <sup>th</sup>	
Last day of half-term	Friday October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
Back to school	Monday November 1 <sup>st</sup>	
Theatre group - Beauty and the Beast	Thursday November 11 <sup>th</sup>	
Yr 1&2 Linford Wood Environmental Visit	Tuesday November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Am & Pm
Christmas production	Wednesday December 15 <sup>th</sup>	TBC
Last day of term - Party & entertainer	Friday December 17 <sup>th</sup>	

Best wishes,  
Lesley Barnard  
Headteacher