



Heelands School Autumn 1 Newsletter 2017



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new school year and a particularly warm welcome to the many new families who have joined us, we look forward to getting to know you and your children. Another very warm welcome to Charlotte Burt who will be teaching Year 2 in Zebra's class, Anjelika Tomicki who is joining the midday team and to Maria Saunders who is a new TA in Monkeys working with Mrs Money - Miss Money was married in the holidays but is keeping her professional name in school, I'm sure you will want to join me in sending many congratulations and best wishes to Amber and her husband, Mark!

It was a very sad end to last term when we lost so many staff, happily for them as they all moved on to new and exciting things but sad for us! Right at the very end of term, we also said goodbye to Mrs Humberstone who has moved on to a new role. Steph will be very much missed but we wish her lots of luck in her new job.

Yet another sad goodbye heading our way will be when Krysia Springford, who has led our midday supervisor team for the last 17 years, leaves us at the end of half-term. I'm sure that Krysia won't mind me sharing with you that she said Heelands has been like a second family to her and she has enjoyed every minute of working here. Krysia will be very much missed by all of us but she is looking forward to spending more time with her family.

Term-time holidays

Following the ruling in the Supreme court earlier in the year, Milton Keynes council has directed schools that any holiday in term-time will be marked as unauthorised absence and that we must report parents who take their child out of school to the local authority. We have never done this before but, because the legal position is now clarified, we have to follow the local authority's directive. Parents must be aware that the local authority will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for holiday absence as well as for persistent lateness.

Morning routine

A huge well-done to the new Year 1 children who have all come into school independently this week, saying good-bye to their parents on the top playground - what a confident bunch! This system really helps to keep doorways clear so that children can get into school and parents can see that their child is safely inside. Teaching assistants are on the playground to take any urgent messages and parents are always welcome to speak to class teachers at the end of the day.

Holiday refurb

All of our KS1 classrooms were redecorated over the holiday as well as both toilet blocks which also had new lighting fitted so school is looking particularly lovely at the moment!



Values Visit

For new parents, our Values curriculum is based around six values chosen by parents, staff and governors that support our children to become good citizens. Whenever we see a pupil demonstrate the value, they are given a glass pebble which they then put into a special jar in Friday's assembly and the class with the most pebbles at the end of the value gets a certificate. Teachers also choose a Values Champion in each class who wears the class medal for the coming week. We celebrate each new Value by inviting parents into school to do a creative activity alongside their child, visits are usually at 9.15 but the first one is always in the afternoon. Our first value is Friendship so do come along and join us on Tuesday, October 3rd at 2.30.

Friends of Heelands

Many thanks to the committee for donating the lovely books given to our Yr2 pupils at their leaver's assembly, which was amazing, and for organising the disco, we raised £171!

Diary Dates

Please keep these dates in a safe place, we will send you further information about individual events nearer the time.

Event	Date	Time
Yr1 Parent Information meeting	Thursday September 21 st	2.30
FS Parent Information meeting	Wednesday September 27 th	2.30
Y2 Parent Information meeting	Monday October 2 nd	2.30
Values Visit - Friendship	Tuesday October 3 rd	2.30
Individual photographs	Wednesday October 4 th	
Open Morning - for prospective parents	Thursday October 5 th	9.30 - 11.00
Harvest Assembly	Wednesday October 12 th	tbc
Parent consultations	Tuesday October 17 th Wednesday October 18 th	5.30 - 7.30 3.30 - 5.30
Last day of half-term	Friday October 20 th	
Back to school	Tuesday October 31 st	
Values Visit - Respect	Tuesday November 1 st	9.15
FS Nativity	Wednesday December 6 th	1.45
Yrs 1 & 2 Christmas production	Tuesday December 12 th	6.00pm
Years 1&2 Christmas disco	Wednesday December 13 th	3 - 5.00
Last day of term - Party & entertainer	Friday December 15 th	

If you need any further information about anything in this letter, please talk to any member of staff who will be pleased to help you.

Best wishes,
Lesley Barnard
Headteacher