



## Heelands School Spring 2 Newsletter 2019



Dear Parents and carers,  
last half-term we had the brilliant Planetarium visit and were wowed by class assemblies from Zebras and Giraffes where they shared their extensive knowledge about space and the solar system. The Co-operation and Self-Belief Values Visits and Parent Consultations were very well-attended, and well done to Monkeys for winning the Co-operation Values certificate! We have another busy half term ahead, as you'll see below.

### Mrs Bonham

We are very pleased and proud to tell you that Mrs Bonham has been appointed as an Early Years Quality Improvement Practitioner for the local authority and will be working for the Early Years Advisory Team alongside her role at Heelands - don't worry she isn't leaving us! Liz is one of only four EQUIPs in Milton Keynes and her wealth of knowledge and expertise in early years will be used to support and improve practice in schools and settings across the city.

### World Book Day

As World Book Day always falls on a Thursday it's not an easy day for us to join in with as we have dance in the morning with Wendy our specialist teacher, it's Forest School Day for year 2, and class teachers have their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time. Reading and books play a huge role every day in our school, teachers plan their topics around key texts or authors - for example Year 2 are currently studying Roald Dahl - so World Book Day will be discussed in every class on Thursday but nobody needs to be dressed up as Spiderman!

### Red Nose Day

The Red Noses have already completely sold out so thank you for already supporting this great charity. On Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> it will be non-uniform day, feel free to have crazy hair and wear your Red Nose accessories - bring £1 to join in.

### Downs Syndrome Awareness day

On Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> we'll be celebrating Downs Syndrome Day by wearing odd socks to school and rumour has it there'll be cake involved somewhere...

### EYFS Research project

Our school has been chosen to take part in a research project for the government's Standards and Testing Agency who are carrying out research to understand how children in reception engage with touchscreen devices and digital question formats to determine how appropriate they are, I'm sure it will be an interesting project to be part of.

### Attendance and Absence

Our attendance for the Autumn term was extremely good at 96%, we've reached national average for the very first time so well done everyone! We've had a slight drop in Spring 1 but we are still doing well at 95.4%. For the past two years we've had chicken pox and a sickness bug in the Spring term but they haven't hit us so far. We began using anti-bacterial gel in the classrooms this year so perhaps this has played a part in keeping the children healthier, let's hope it continues! It was brilliant to have two classes last week with 100% attendance!

### Governor Vacancies

We have several governor vacancies at the moment, governors meet six times a year and play an important role in the ethos and development of the school. If you are interested or know anyone else who might be, please contact the office for further details or have an informal chat with myself or Helen Stephenson and Allegra Day, our parent governors.

### Easter Holiday

You will see in the grid below that we return from the Easter holiday on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> which unfortunately is the day after Easter Monday. Maintained schools do not set their own term dates, we are bound by the local authority's decisions, hence we sometimes are given strange dates like this one. Next school year, we have one inset day set by the council and schools will have the freedom to choose the other four so we will liaise with our feeder schools and hopefully agree on the same dates.

### Diary Dates

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

Return to school	Tuesday February 26 <sup>th</sup>	
Art Day	Tuesday March 5 <sup>th</sup>	
EYFS Research day	Wednesday March 13 <sup>th</sup>	
Comic Relief Red Nose Day	Friday March 15 <sup>th</sup>	
Downs Syndrome Day	Thursday March 21 <sup>st</sup>	
Science Week	w/c Monday March 25 <sup>th</sup>	
Last day of term	Friday April 5 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Easter Holiday</b>		
Return to school	<b>Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	
Values Visit - Challenge	Wednesday April 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15