



**Heatherlands
Primary School**

'Churchill Chats'

'Believe in the magic of Christmas because love is the true spirit of Christmas, tis the season to be jolly and be merry and shine bright'. (Mark Twain)

Well, we have nearly made it to the end of the autumn term. Although we have been very busy, it has been a term where children have settled quickly into their new year groups and have been making progress towards one of our school improvement priorities, handwriting!

From the outset in September, we have worked to ensure all children have access to an exciting and broader curriculum, designed to both engage and enrich them, whilst continuing to focus on what we know is the most important part of our job, preparing them for life and the skills they may need along the way. The Heatherlands Way and our values play an important role in this, which was noted recently with the visit from gold medal winning Paralympian, Chris Skelly. He reminded the children about the importance of resilience and aspiration, two essential school values. The children really enjoyed his visit and showed him respect by listening and engaging throughout his time at the school.

We also saw our Christmas Fair taking place last Saturday, which was a huge success having moved to a Saturday for the first time in our history. I am pleased to share that the fair raised over £3,000 which was twice our normal total. This money will be put to good use to improve the school experience of all our children. Thank you all for your support and much needed pennies!

In a few weeks' time we launch the traditional Nativity which is shared with a slight 'space' theme. The early years children have been working hard and are looking forward to the opportunity to present their skills and talents to a wider audience of friends and families – there is always something quite magical about a nativity, so if you are coming, get those tissues and cameras at the ready!

On December 18th, we are holding our traditional 'Carols around the Tree' after school and request that you join us to end the school year in song. Remember, you don't need to be able to sing, just come and have a bit of fun and a mince pie.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Heatherlands community for your continued support and co-operation which we see daily in getting the children to school on time, in their uniform and when helping us to keep the entrance safe by respecting the no stopping signs for cars. As a school we appreciate we don't always get it right, nothing can be perfect, but we endeavour every day to do the very best for all our children and to ensure they enjoy coming to school, feel safe and are prepared to play a part in wider society as they move through their school journey.

So, as we break for the Christmas holiday, it provides everyone with an opportunity to take a break and spend some quality time together as a family. I hope all our families across the school community of Heatherlands have a restful, peaceful and fun filled holiday, in a challenging and uncertain world, we all need just a positive distraction, if only for a few weeks.

Nadolig Llawen (Merry Christmas), as they say in Wales.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday January 6th, 2026, ready to take on whatever challenges and opportunities the spring term may bring!

Mr Churchill

Dates for your diary – December 2025

These dates and times are a guide for parents to ensure that you have all the information you will need this month. There may of course be amendments or additions nearer the date/time due to unforeseen circumstances, but we aim to inform you of any changes as soon as we possibly can. Some of the dates will not be relevant to you as they are specific to different year groups/groups of children.

We will send a communications email on/around the 1st of every month and hope that it is of use to you all. This information will also be published on the school

website: <https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/emails-letters-reminders-from-school/>

AUTUMN TERM

WEEK 13

Monday 1st December 2025
Lulworth class SWIMMING 4
Year 5 PGL parent meeting 2.30pm STUDIO
Thursday 4th December 2025
Year 3 – Year 6 Cross country 2 – 4pm Chapel Gate
Friday 5th December 2025
Year 5 Forest School Friday
Mayflower class assembly 9am STUDIO
Boys football match 2.45pm V Upton HOME
Year 5 PGL deposit DEADLINE

WEEK 14

Monday 8th December 2025
HOME LEARNING PROJECTS DUE IN
Lulworth class SWIMMING 5 LAST SESSION
EYFS nativity DRESS REHEARSAL for siblings
Tuesday 9th December 2025
Year 6 Height & Weight checks 9 -12
Year 6 choir to John Lewis 11am
EYFS nativity 2pm TICKET ONLY
Wednesday 10th December 2025
EYFS nativity 9.30am TICKET ONLY
Choir to St Johns Church 11.30am
Thursday 11th December 2025
3.15pm Incredibles Cake Sale HALL outside entrance
Friday 12th December 2025
Year 6 Forest School Friday
Sycamore class assembly 9am STUDIO
HOME LEARNING OPEN AFTERNOON from 3pm
Wraparound care Xmas party 3.15 – 5.15 HALL BOOKED ONLY

WEEK 15

Wednesday 17th December 2025
School Christmas dinner BOOKED ONLY
Thursday 18th December 2025
Christmas Jumper Day
EYFS Candlelight Carols & Christmas market 3pm OUTSIDE CLASSROOM
Carols round the Christmas Tree 3.30pm TOP PLAYGROUND
Friday 19th December 2025
Values assembly 9am STUDIO INVITATION ONLY
Rock Steady concert 10.30am STUDIO INVITATION ONLY
School closes at 1.15pm for Christmas



Year group inquiry questions – December 2025



<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/early-years/>

Questions to ask: Who was Neil Armstrong?

Which planet do we live on?

What was the name of the artist who painted the picture 'Starry Night'?

Year 1

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/year-1/>

Questions to ask: Can you find some everyday objects around your house and sort them into their materials?

Can you roll a dice and subtract the number you roll from 10? Now try 9, 8, 7.

Can you write a question about King Charles III and the toys he may have played with as a child?

Year 2

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/year-2/>

Questions to ask: What is a tertiary colour?

How are animals adapted to their habitat?

How can we use 'and' in a sentence?

Year 3

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/year-3/>

Questions to ask: Tick any statements which are true.

- A fossil is the remains or trace of a living thing
 - Only animals can turn into fossils
- It takes thousands of years for a fossil to form
 - A fossil can be formed in two weeks

Which unit of measure would you use when measuring somebody's height? Why? Explain.

- Millimetres
- Centimetres
- Metres

What do we call a boundary where two plates are pulled apart from each other? Can you demonstrate with an Oreo cookie?

- Convergent
- Transform
- Divergent

Year 4

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/year-4/>

Questions to ask: Imagine a Viking village. Tell me about all aspects of what life would have been like.

What is a main clause and what is a subordinate clause?

7 x 7? 6 x 7? 7 x 8? 8 x 8? 7 x 9? 12 x 8? 11 x 11? 12 x 11?

Year 5

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/year-5/>

Questions to ask: What is longitude and latitude? What is the purpose of this?

Can you cut your food into halves, quarters, thirds, eighths, tenths?

Can you show me some symbols that you would find on a map legend?

Year 6

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/year-6/>

Questions to ask: How did life differ for rich and poor people during the Victorian era, and why do you think those differences existed?

What inventions or changes from the Victorian period still affect our lives today? Can you give examples?

If you lived as a child in Victorian times, what would your daily life look like? How would it be different from today?



Notices– December 2025



We will be carrying out a phonics/reading assessment week beginning 8th December. Please continue to read (daily) with your child to help build their confidence to spot graphemes in words when blending and also to develop fluency and comprehension skills. Don't forget to use Bug Club and Phonics Play as an online resource to support with blending.

Please see below the schedule for **class assemblies for 2025/2026.**

The assemblies are all taking place on a Friday morning, bar one (Coral class).

Please come and join your child's class and the rest of their year group as they share their learning, from 9am to around 9.20am in the Studio.

Day	Date	Class
Friday	28-11-25	Meteor YR5
Friday	5-12-25	Mayflower YR6
Friday	12-12-25	Sycamore YR 3
Friday	16.1.26	Mary Rose YR6
Friday	23-1-26	Comet YR 5
Friday	30-1-26	Swanage YR 4
Friday	6-2-26	Willow YR 3
Friday	6-3-26	Lulworth YR 4
Friday	13-3-26	Seashell YR 2
Friday	20-3-26	Waterlily YR 1
Friday	24-4-26	Maple YR 3
Friday	1-5-26	Starfish YR 2
Friday	8-5-26	Dragonfly YR 1
Friday	15-5-26	Poppy EYFS
Thursday	4-6-26	Coral YR 2
Friday	12-6-25	Rose class
Friday	3-7-26	Kingfisher YR 1
Friday	10-7-26	Cherry EYFS



Every week we are setting up a 'multiplication battle/task' for the children to compete in year groups against each other on Emile. <https://emile-education.com/app-downloads/student-log-in-access-app-or-online/>

Every child from Year 1 up has a log in and are used to using the programme to learn, practice and test their times tables.

Battles will start on a Monday and last until the following Sunday, giving plenty of time for everyone to take part. Please support your child by reminding and enabling them to take part. The top ten children in each year group will receive a certificate and the 'multiplication masters' in each year group get a badge and certificate. Thank you for your support.

<https://emile-education.com/log-in-to-emile-resources/>

Bug club

Bug club is a fantastic resource online for engaging with reading alongside 'real' books. Every child has a log in and can read books online at the appropriate level as well as complete online comprehension challenges. Please support your child by reminding and enabling them to use this resource.





Reminders – December 2025

Parking

A polite reminder that parents should not be parking directly outside of the school gates on the yellow zig zags or in front of any resident's driveways. We have already had a few complaints. We do place cones to ensure the school gate is kept clear. This is to ensure the children entering via Library Road are kept safe. Please see attached BCP 'Parents Parking Promise'.

Uniform

Please ensure you have labelled all your child's uniform, PE kit, hat, coat etc. We always seem to have an enormous amount of lost property with no names and nowhere to store this. We frequently clear this and have to throw a lot away! The lost property bins are stored outside the school office near the bike shed.

Homework

Homework is set weekly inline with our homework schedule (see attached). All homework is set on the year groups pages of the school website <https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/year-group-information/>

Please also find attached the homework guide for further information. Bug club log ins will also be sent home in the next few days. <https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/homework-guidance-developing-metacognition/>

Space net

The space net which is situated on the lower playground is **not** for use before or after school. The children have timetabled slots during the school day which is monitored by specific staff for health and safety reasons.

Afterschool clubs

Please contact the office or the organiser directly if you wish your child to attend any of these clubs. <https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/afterschool-clubs/>

Breakfast Lounge & Explorers

The school provides wrap around care from 7.45am - 8.45 am and from 3.15 to 5.15pm. This needs to be booked and paid for at least a week in advance. Please book via Arbor or contact the office for further information.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office via phone 01202 743918 or email: heatherlands.office@coastalpartnership.co.uk if you have any questions.

The office opening hours are **8am - 4.15pm.**

The school website also contains a lot of relevant and useful information: www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk



Heatherlands Superstars

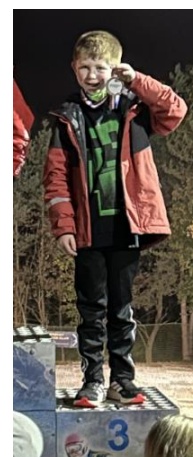


National Schools Outdoor open Champs - South 9th Nov 2025
Individual Results

Well done to Ewen in Starfish class who recently came 3rd in the National Schools' Outdoor Open Champs at Aldershot on 9th November; here's an update on how he got on:

Ewen was racing against 8 other children in the under 8's category. It was a close fought battle for 1st, 2nd and 3rd with less than half a second between the three boys. Ewen managed 3rd overall but was only a fraction of a second between 2nd and 3rd.

He has been selected for the national schools squad and will continue to race at Snowtrax and in Snowsports South series, and maybe next year he will be selected again.



Sports for Champions

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Sports for Champions Day. The children were so resilient and respectful and really enjoyed meeting Chris Hunt Skelly. As a result, we raised a huge **£3042**, and the money we receive from this will be spent on accessible sports equipment. Well done everyone!





Heatherlands INSET days and term dates 2025 - 2026

<https://heatherlandsprimaryschool.secure-primariesite.net/key-information-incl-holiday-dates/>

From 2025 to 2026

Autumn term: Christmas holiday: 22 December 2025 to 2 January 2026

Spring term: 5 January 2026 to 27 March 2026

- Spring half term break: 16 February 2026 to 20 February 2026
- Easter holiday: 30 March 2026 to 10 April 2026

Summer term: 13 April 2026 to 22 July 2026

- Summer half term break: 25 May 2026 to 29 May 2026
- Summer holiday: from 23 July 2026

Bank and Public holidays 2025 to 2026

- Christmas Day: 25 December
- Boxing Day: 26 December
- New Year's Day: 1 January
- Good Friday: 3 April
- Easter Monday: 6 April
- May Day bank holiday: 4 May
- Spring bank holiday: 25 May
- Summer bank holiday: 31 August

Heatherlands INSET Days 2025 - 2026

Inset Day - Monday 5th January – School closed

Inset Day - Monday 13th April 2026 – School closed

May Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May 2026 – School closed

Inset Day - Friday 19th June 2026 - School closed





Thank you to everyone who brought in bags of clothes for our clothes collection. **We raised £78!** Our next one will be in April, so get saving!

We had our Christmas Fair on Saturday 22nd November and WOW what an amazing turnout!! We took a gamble moving it from a Friday to a Saturday, but it was the right move and a great event. We had over 450 adults plus many more children through the door and **raised £3120.60**, which is double what we raised last year!!

The Friends would like to say a massive thank you to all the stall holders, the parents and staff who set up, ran stalls and helped tidy away. Also, to the parents who helped prep in the run up to the event. Everyone who donated items for the stalls. And most importantly to everyone who attended with their extended family!!! It truly was a great day.

We would like to say a special thank you to the following companies who donated vouchers for our raffle:

Moors Valley, Avon Heath, Fresh Air Club, Stewarts, The Barking Cat, Lollipops Café, Farmer Parlmers, Bournemouth Aviation Museum, North Fort, Snow Trax, Swanage Railway, Tank Museum, The Junction Broadstone and Jungle City.

We have some exciting events to bring you in 2026 so please join us to start planning for the school disco and the Summer Fair. We will have a meeting on Tuesday 13th January, 7.30pm at The Barking Cat. Everyone is welcome!

Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to fundraising in 2026!

❤️ **Contact Us:** friendsofheatherlands@gmail.com

If you'd like to be involved with the PTA — whether it's helping behind the scenes, supporting at events, or spreading the word — we'd love to hear from you.

💎 The more help we have, the bigger and better our events will be! 💎

Thank you for your continued support,
Friends of Heatherlands