



Heatherlands
Primary School

‘Churchill Chats’



We seem to have arrived at October very quickly this year, although the weather is just beginning to turn chilly following our amazing sunny summer, September seems a dim and distant memory.

Children and school staff are now fully re-engaged in school life once more; happy, with learning across our classrooms in full swing. The early years children, new to school, have settled into Heatherlands brilliantly and they look like they have been here forever. We are very proud of them, their teachers and the parents and carers who have helped us get off to this brilliant start.

Personally, I have always been a big fan of October because as a child I loved harvest festival; the stacks of tins, the special loaf of bread at the front stage in assembly, and the autumn songs including ‘the Farmer Come to Scatter the Seed’, a particular favourite of mine.

October is also a time when nature puts a display on for us all as it brings out its vibrant colours associated with autumn leaves and scatters the gift of conkers. You may have noticed our school playground and paths appear to be knee deep in conkers (I exaggerate a little perhaps!)

October is also the month of my birthday, although I remember as a child being disappointed as it usually rained on my birthday. I lived in Wales, so perhaps it was just inevitable, but the excitement of being in school being made to feel special when the class sang happy birthday and holding that anticipation of wanting to get home to see if more post had come and open any last gifts. Finding £10 in a card from a relative was like winning the lottery. I think perhaps those days have gone forever (along with cash sadly!)

October sees our first parent’s evenings taking place (October 20th & 22nd) which provide that early opportunity to discuss how the children have settled into their new classes and most importantly are they happy and have friends! We also have the start of our Open mornings and our first leadership coffee morning (Oct 10th) with our parents and carers from the early years.

I am also reliably informed that it’s the 70th anniversary of the Guinness Book of Records, and Heatherlands is going to try this year to break a record to get an entry into this special book. I don’t however think the most biscuits and chocolate eaten by a school staff on a Friday will count, but it would be fun trying.

Happy October everyone, I’ve just noticed it’s 86 days to Christmas!

Mr Churchill

Dates for your diary – October 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 5

Monday 29th September 2025
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 2
HOMEWORK due in
Wednesday 1st October 2025
EYFS parents Phonic Wednesday 9 – 9.30am
Thursday 2nd October 2025
Open mornings for new entry parents 9.30am or 11am BOOKINGS ONLY
Friday 3rd October 2025 – Sunday 5th October 2025
PGL weekend – Year 6

WEEK 6

Monday 6th October 2025
EYFS – local area walks
Open mornings for new entry parents 9.30am or 11am BOOKINGS ONLY
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 3
Wednesday 8th October 2025
EYFS parents Phonic Wednesday 9 – 9.30am
Flu vaccinations – PERMISSIONS RECEIVED ONLY
HOMEWORK SET – topic quiz
Thursday 9th October 2025
2-3pm EYFS writing & maths workshop - STUDIO
Friday 10th October 2025
2.30pm EYFS parents ‘Tea with SLT’ - STUDIO

WEEK 7

Monday 13th October 2025
Sibling photos from 8am - STUDIO
Individual photos
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 4
HOMEWORK due in
SEND parents evenings – by appointment
Tuesday 14th October 2025

Sibling photos from 8am - STUDIO
Individual photos
SEND parents evenings – by appointment
Wednesday 15th October 2025
EYFS parents Phonic Wednesday 9 – 9.30am
SEND parents evenings – by appointment
HOMEWORK SET – show what you know
Thursday 16th October 2025
Open afternoon for new entry parents 1.30pm BOOKINGS ONLY
SEND parents evenings – by appointment
Friday 17th October 2025
Values assembly 9am – STUDIO INVITATION ONLY

WEEK 8

Monday 20th October 2025
HARVEST FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY – donations welcome
Year 5 Greek day
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 5
HOMEWORK due in
Parents evenings – by appointment
Wednesday 22nd October 2025
EYFS parents Phonic Wednesday 9 – 9.30am
Parents evenings – by appointment
Thursday 23rd October 2025
Open mornings for new entry parents 9.30am or 11am BOOKINGS ONLY
Heatherlands Voice bake sale 3.15pm
Friday 24th October 2025
INSET DAY
HALF TERM HOLIDAY



Year group inquiry questions – October 2025



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

Questions to ask: Which group are you in? e/g yellow bees, green caterpillars etc?

Can you name some adults that help you in Early Years?

Can you name these sounds? s, a, t, p, i, n

Year 1

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

Questions to ask: Can you label the parts of the body?

Can you find one more/less than a given number within 10?

How many phase 3 graphemes can you recall using your sound mat?

Year 2

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

Questions to ask: How many tens and ones are in (insert own number)?

What does a plant need to grow?

What does a sentence need to have to make sense?

Year 3

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

Questions to ask: Which part of a plant transports water and nutrients throughout the plant?

What is a preposition? Can you use a preposition to describe your family members or objects in your home?

How can I add two three-digit numbers to each other? Can you draw it out to explain it? EG: $456 + 231 = \underline{\quad}$?

Year 4

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

Questions to ask: Where did the Anglo Saxons come from?

What is the purpose of a conjunction?

What is the value of the digit (insert own number) in this number?

Year 5

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

Questions to ask: What are the 5 City States of Ancient Greece?

What is (insert own number) in Roman Numerals?

What would be some similarities and differences between growing up in Sparta and Athens?



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

Questions to ask: Who was Mary Anning, and why is she important in the history of fossils?

What is a fossil, and how are fossils formed over time?

Can you tell me something special about the Jurassic Coast and why people visit it today?



Notices– October 2025

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	7-11-25	Galaxy YR 5
Friday	14-11-25	Victory YR 6
Friday	21-11-25	Kimmeridge YR 4
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

Parents evening dates

Parents evenings for children with SEND are taking place in the Autumn term the week beginning: 13th October 2025. **Please see your class teacher to book a meeting in after school.**

All other parents' evenings will take place on **Monday October 20th or Wednesday October 22nd**. Booking information on Arbor will be sent out to you in the next week to enable you to choose your day and time.

Please contact the office if you are unable to access Arbor in advance of this, thank you.



Every week we are setting up a 'multiplication battle' 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 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

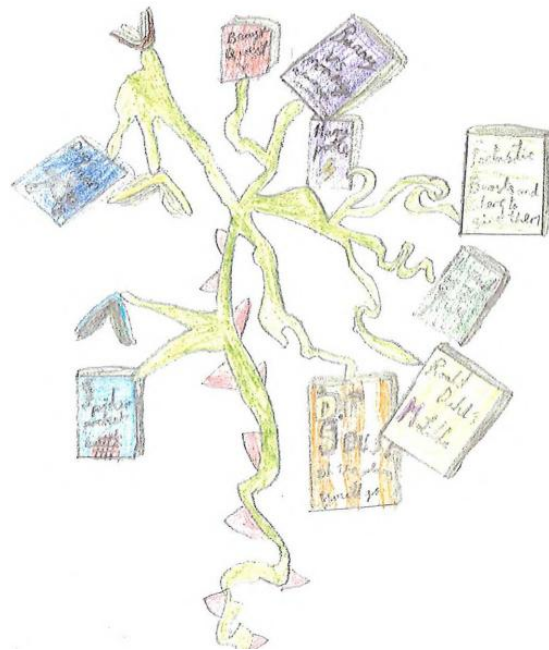
Bug club is a fantastic resource online for engaging with reading alongside 'real' books. Every child has a log in and can read books online at the appropriate level as well as complete online comprehension challenges. Please support your child by reminding and enabling them to use this resource.



Harvest Festival

This year, Harvest festival in school falls on Monday 20th October. We will be collecting tins, packets, biscuits, pasta etc if you have anything you can spare. All food donated will be collected by the Poole foodbank on Tuesday 21st October.

Congratulations to Archie in Year 4 who won the summer reading challenge for our area. His amazing design: 'The leaves of literature' was very creative and we hope to find a way to replicate his ideas in school! Well done Archie.



Reminders – October 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.

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 INSET days and term dates 2025 - 2026

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

From 2025 to 2026

Autumn term: 3 September 2025 to 19 December 2025

- Autumn half term break: 27 October 2025 to 31 October 2025
- 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 - Wednesday 3rd September 2025 – School closed

Inset Day - Thursday 4th September 2025 – School closed

Inset Day - Friday 24th October 2025 – School closed

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



We're really excited for the year ahead and have lots of fun events already in the diary. Please make a note of the following dates:

- Christmas Fair – Saturday 22nd November 11am–4pm
 - Disco – Thursday 12th February
 - Quiz Night – Friday 1st May
 - Summer Fair – Friday 3rd July

We are currently planning the Christmas Fair and are looking for external stallholders to come along and sell their goods. Stalls are £20 plus a raffle prize. If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to email us for further information.

Following last year's success, we've also booked in two Bag2School clothing collections. They will be collecting your unwanted clothes on Monday 17th November and Monday 27th April. Please note: donations can only be brought in on the day of collection, not in advance.

We also now have a new email address: friendsofheatherlands@gmail.com

If you'd like to be involved with the PTA—whether that's helping behind the scenes, supporting at events, or simply 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