

Heatherlands Primary School

‘Churchill Chats’

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

Children and school staff are fully re-engaged in school life once more, with learning across classrooms now in full swing. The early years children who are new to school have settled into Heatherlands brilliantly, and they look as though 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 such a brilliant start.

My thanks must go to the Early Years staff and particularly Miss James, who have stepped up to keep everything running smoothly in the absence of Mrs Allen.

Personally, I have always been a big fan of October because, as a child, I loved Harvest Festival: the stacks of tins, the special assembly and the autumn songs.

October is also a time when nature puts on a display for us all, bringing out the vibrant colours associated with autumn leaves and scattering the gift of conkers. You may have noticed that our school playground and paths are adorned with conkers and their shells.

October is also the month of my birthday. As a child, I remember being disappointed because it usually rained on my birthday. I lived in Wales, so perhaps it was inevitable! However, I still remember the excitement of being at school, being made to feel special when the class sang 'Happy Birthday', and eagerly anticipating the moment I could get home to see whether any more post had arrived 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 the gift of cash, sadly!

October closes with Halloween on the 31st. This has become a huge event across the country as the UK seems to have increasingly embraced traditions associated with America. This year, Halloween falls during half term, so my message to those who take part is simple: stay safe and have fun!

As I close, I would like to thank everyone in our community for such a positive start to the new school year. I also want to particularly thank the children who continue to demonstrate the Heatherlands Way each day and make our school what it is: a place of joy, happiness and learning.

Happy October, everyone!

Mr Churchill

Dates for your diary – October 2026

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/all-communications-from-school

AUTUMN TERM

WEEK 5

Monday 28th September 2026
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 2
HOME LEARNING due in
Saturday 3rd October 2026
Poole High Academic tests

WEEK 6

Monday 5th October 2026
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 3
Parent survey window opens
Tuesday 6th October 2026
Prospective parents open morning/tours 9.30am/11am BOOKING ONLY
Wednesday 7th October 2026
HOME LEARNING QUIZ SET
Thursday 8th October 2026
2 – 3pm Early Years parents writing workshop STUDIO
Friday 9th October 2026
PGL residential Year 6
2.30pm Early Years parents 'tea with SLT' STUDIO

WEEK 7

Monday 12th October 2026
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 4
HOME LEARNING QUIZ DUE IN
Individual & sibling photos
View your child's work 3pm
Tuesday 13th October 2026
Individual & sibling photos
Wednesday 14th October 2026
Prospective parents open morning/tours 9.30am/11am BOOKING ONLY
HOME LEARNING SET
Thursday 15th October 2026
9 – 9.45am Early Years parents maths workshop STUDIO

Friday 16th October 2026
Flu vaccinations BY PERMISSION ONLY

WEEK 8

Monday 19th October 2026
Kimmeridge class SWIMMING 5
HOME LEARNING DUE IN
Parents evening 1 BOOKING ONLY
Wednesday 21st October 2026
Year 5 Greek day
Parents evening 2 BOOKING ONLY
Thursday 22nd October 2026
9am Values assembly INVITATION ONLY STUDIO
Interhouse cross country – ALL IN PE KITS
BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
Friday 23rd October 2026
INSET DAY School closed

Questions to ask your child – October 2026

The year teams publish a blog on their year group web pages to keep you informed of the activities taking place and to enable you to ask your children questions about their learning. We also publish homework on these pages and knowledge organisers can be also found here. Have a look at our school website at www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk



https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/page/?title=EYFS+blog+posts&pid=250

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



https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+1+blog+posts&pid=247

Can you name any parts of the body and explain what we use them for?
Can you say 1 more/1less than a number within 10?
Can you say what goes at the start and end of a sentence?



https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=237&nid=10

What are the names of the five oceans in the world?
How could you represent any number up to 100?
What is an expanded noun phrase, and can you give an example of one?



https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=238&nid=11

Which part of a plant transports water and nutrients to the leaves and flowers?
How many 10s are there in 200?
Can you turn 'it is' into a contraction, placing the apostrophe in the correct place?



https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=239&nid=12

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/page/?title=Year+5+blog+posts&pid=248

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?

YEAR 6

https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=241&nid=13

How are fossils formed?
(Challenge: Explain the process step by step.)
How can number bonds help you mentally calculate 340 + 760?
(Explain which number bond you use and how it helps you find the answer quickly.)
Can you name three coordinating conjunctions?

Heatherlands notices – October 2026

All 3 gates now close at 8.45am. This is to ensure all registers can be completed on time and children who are late are recorded by the front office.

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/

Bug club, Emile and Purple Mash log ins should now be in reading journals.

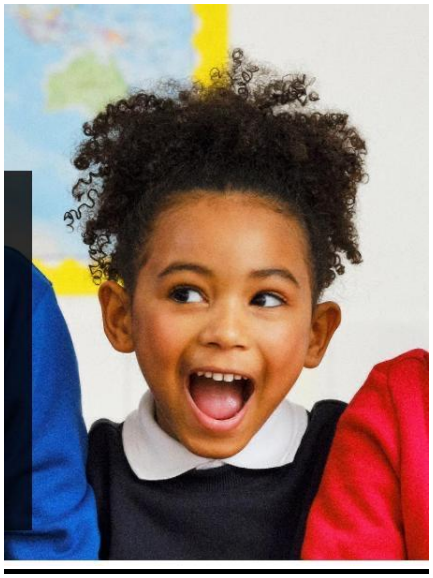
https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+learning&pid=264

Celebrating achievements

We are extremely proud of all the children at Heatherlands, and it is always great to hear about their achievements and successes outside of school. Please let us know if there is something to celebrate and we can add it to the monthly newsletter.

We will also be holding a half-term celebration assembly on a Monday (TBC), where children can bring in their trophies, medals, badges etc and can show these to their peers, telling them all about their achievements. We are looking forward to celebrating with them and will let you know the date soon. This is for the children only, but it will be a wonderful opportunity for them to share their news.

This month we are celebrating Aisha, who is now in Year 2. Apologies for this coming out late, but here she is.



“I just wanted to share Aisha's success and thank the school for supporting her in her modelling. She really does enjoy it. This was for back to school in Tescos.”

Reminders – October 2026

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 box is now accessible on the top playground outside the entrance to Year 6.

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. https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/wrap-around-care-at-heatherlands

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

Friends of Heatherlands - October 2026

Friends of Heatherlands – We're Back!

We're excited to get started with another year of events and fundraising for Heatherlands Primary School!

Our first event of the year will be our **Christmas Fair on Saturday 21st November, 11am–3pm.**

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in having a stall at our Christmas Fair, we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch using the details below.

Children's Logo Competition
We're running a competition for the children to design a new logo for Friends of Heatherlands. Information has previously been emailed out, or you can collect a copy from the school office. There will be a prize for the child whose design is chosen!

We'd love more parents to get involved!
We're looking to get more parents involved as volunteers and would really appreciate your feedback on how we can make this work for everyone.

We've put together a short questionnaire which will only take a couple of minutes to complete: Complete the Complete the Friends of Heatherlands Volunteer Questionnaire

If you'd like to get in touch, please email friendsofheatherlands@gmail.com or feel free to speak to one of us at school pick-up.

We're looking forward to a fantastic year of fundraising and bringing some great events to the school!

Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP)

Heatherlands continues to work closely with our multi academy trust (CLP) to help us to become even better at what we do and to help us to work consistently with our partner schools.

Heatherlands INSET days and term dates 2026 – 2027

https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/key-information-incl-holiday-dates

Autumn term 2026 : 1 September to 18 December
Inset day 23/10/2026 – School Closed
Autumn half term break: 26 October to 30 October – School closed
School re-opens 02/11/2026
School Closes Friday 18/12/2026 at 1.15pm
Christmas holiday: 21 December to 3 January

Spring Term 2027: 4 January to 25 March
Inset Day 04/01/2027 – School Closed
School re-opens Tuesday 05/01/2027
Spring half term break: 15 February to 19 February – School Closed
School re-opens 22/02/2027
School closes 25/03/2027 at 1.15pm
Easter holiday: 26 March to 11 April – School closed

Summer Term 2027 : 12 April to 21 July
Inset Day 12/04/2027 – School Closed
School re-opens 13/04/2027
Bank holiday 03/05/2027 – school closed
School closes 28/05/2027
Summer half term break: 31 May to 4 June – School closed
School re-opens 07/06/2027
Inset Day 18/06/2027 – School Closed
School Closes 20/07/2027 at 1.15pm
Summer holiday: from 21 July