



The Heatherlands Way

Autumn 2025 21st Edition

Heatherlands Vision

From the excitement of the Year 6 PGL trip at the very start of term to the sparkle of our Christmas performances rounding it all off, this term has been bursting with moments to remember. Our school choir have sung carols far and wide (well... as far as John Lewis!), we've been inspired by a visiting Paralympian whose message of **resilience** will stay with us, and we've welcomed our newest little learners as they take their first steps into school life.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed welcoming a wide range of visitors into school - from a geologist who unearthed fascinating facts, to musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, to experts in cybersafety and cryptography who helped deepen pupils' understanding of the digital world.

As if that weren't enough, our budding scientists have been busy investigating, experimenting and asking big questions. Meanwhile, in History, pupils enjoyed a lively Greek Day – sadly, they didn't manage to bring the sunshine with them!

Meanwhile, our Eco Council has continued its brilliant work championing sustainability across the school - leading initiatives, raising awareness, and reminding us all of our shared responsibility for the planet.

Respect

Respect	
Actions	Words
We take turns	Please
We wait patiently	Thank you
We walk quietly	Sorry
We open doors for others	Excuse me
We reply to others	Pardon
We make eye contact	Good morning/ good afternoon

Resilience

Resilience	
Actions	Words
We keep trying	Persevere
We stay calm	I can...
We know we can do it	Have a go
We are positive	Try again
We take risks	Patience
We learn from our mistakes	Determined

To top it all off, Hiro, our much-loved school therapy dog, celebrated his birthday this term and even had his very first school photo taken - much to everyone's delight!



It has certainly been a busy, joyful, and purposeful term packed with learning, laughter, and community spirit.

We hope you enjoy reading the highlights as the term draws to a close, and we wish you and your loved ones a safe, happy, and restful break.



Shake, Rattle and Roll

We kicked off the second half of the Autumn term with a bang, and Year 3 were buzzing with excitement about our topic: 'Shake, Rattle and Roll'. We started our topic with a fantastic visit from a geologist who shared his expertise about all things rocks. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to show **aspiration** in learning about various types of rocks and their formations. The highlight of his visit was a hands-on limestone experiment. The geologist also brought along some fascinating rocks from a university geological dig. The children were eager to identify and learn about each specimen, and they did a superb job, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork! They were so **respectful** of the valuable and expensive rocks.

We also enjoyed 'Outdoor Classroom Day' with an exciting rock hunt around our school grounds. The children relished the chance to explore nature and find different types of rocks, showing **motivation** in their learning by making connections between what they've learned and what they could observe in their environment. They were also **resilient** when they were struggling to find the rocks, they kept trying!

In class, we dove deeper into our topic by discussing whether the structure of the Earth resembles more of a peach or an egg. To illustrate this, we undertook a fun dissection of both! The children were fascinated to discover the 'crust', 'inner core', and other layers, comparing the two structures in a way that was both engaging and educational. We also learnt about tectonic plate boundaries using Oreos, to make convergent, transform and divergent boundaries. The children showed **independence** in this task by creating the boundaries themselves by twisting and breaking the Oreos to demonstrate this. Finally, we had another special guest, who did a rap workshop for us all about rocks. Each class's rock rap was unique and full of lots of facts related to our exciting topic! Here is a sneaky preview of the Willow class rap.

Inside volcanoes there is magma

Splatting out with lots of anger

Bodies and bones are found in fossils

From bears to fish to axolotls

Rivers of swiftly flowing lava

When it cools it gets harder

The earth has crust, also mantle

Which burns as hot as a candle!



Big Questions and Open Minds in Year 5

In October, Year 5 had the fantastic opportunity to engage with an inspiring talk from a Humanist speaker. Our children were eager to learn about different religions and worldviews, recognising the importance of **respecting** the beliefs of others. The session was both enlightening and thought-provoking, sparking lively discussions among the children.

Our guest speaker shared that Humanists do not adhere to any religion but are guided by strong principles regarding right and wrong. Interestingly, they celebrate occasions like Christmas and Halloween, yet they do so without the religious connotations typically associated with these festivities. Instead, Humanists focus on the values of reason and compassion, striving for a fulfilling and meaningful existence - referred to as the 'good life'.

It was inspiring to hear how Humanism encourages individuals to develop their own moral compass while promoting **respect** for others' beliefs. Our children were left **motivated** to reflect on their values and understand the diverse perspectives that enrich our society. This experience not only fostered a sense of **respect** in our classroom but also nurtured a commitment to **resilience** and **aspiration** as we strive to create an inclusive community.

We look forward to more opportunities that deepen our understanding of the world around us!



PGL: The Trip We'll Never Forget!

Being at PGL was a wonderful experience.

There were so many awesome adventures. Let me just start off with the food we had: three meals a day – for breakfast we had a full English breakfast! For lunch we had a big variety of options like Chinese cuisine, salad, pasta and lots of other goodies. For dinner we had so many options: steak, chicken, pasta, garlic bread and on Sunday we had a full roast dinner. It was delicious.

Next, let me inform you about the heights at PGL! One of my favourites was the giant swing because the whole group helped to pull the swing to the top which was over 10 metres high! The instructors helped us pull a specific rope and I was petrified when we pulled it because the swing just flew right through the sky - it was jaw-dropping.

Onto the next interesting fact to tell you... my very favourite thing of the trip... the accommodation. The dorms were luxurious and we got to choose at least one person we wanted to share with. Furthermore, there was a gift shop - I know you are thinking we were very spoiled! In the gift shop there were so many souvenirs to choose from. There were pencils, rubbers, keyrings, sweets, toys, bracelets and many more interesting and fun things.

So now just one more thing to tell you about - I saved the best till last! The COACH! Yes, you guessed it. The very best part of the journey was the games we played with our friends. I would highly recommend the PGL trip to everyone!

Noah and Mel



Year 1 Autumn Adventures

Year 1 have had a wonderful Autumn Term and have settled brilliantly into Key Stage 1. They have shown **motivation**, **resilience**, and **aspiration** in every area of their learning.

We began with our Super Me! topic, exploring our senses, looking at portraits, and studying artists such as Pablo Picasso and Roy Lichtenstein. The children enjoyed becoming 'Art Detectives' and created fantastic self-portraits inspired by their styles.

In maths, the children worked hard on number bonds to 10, explored 2D and 3D shapes, and used practical resources to build their understanding of addition and subtraction. Their **independence** and curiosity shone through.

We learned about real-life heroes Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, discussing how they showed **resilience** and **respect** in their roles. The children also embraced seasonal learning through autumn artwork and exploring how the world changes at this time of year.

After half term, the children took their learning outside with Outdoor Science Day and their first Forest School session. During Anti-Bullying Week, we wore odd socks and reflected on how we can show kindness and be a good friend - celebrating that we are all unique.



Our topic Toys Through Time has been a real hit, as the children explored toys from the past and created their own old-fashioned toys during Let's Learn. This linked beautifully with science, where we investigated materials, melting ice to rescue trapped bears, and discovering which objects float or sink.

A highlight of the term was meeting Paralympian Chris Hunt Skelley. His story of determination inspired the children to have big **aspirations** and to always try to be "the best version of you."

As we prepare to design and make our own toys, we are proud of how much Year 1 have achieved. **It has been a busy, exciting term full of learning, laughter, and growth - and the children certainly deserve a well-earned rest!**



Greek Day: History Brought to Life

Year 5 had an eagerly anticipated Greek Day, where they transformed into ancient Greeks with costumes that showcased their creativity and **respect** for history.

The day started with a small group activity involving acting, where children engaged with scripts that included Greek tales and legends. This fostered teamwork and **resilience** as they collaborated to bring the scripts to life.

After the morning's exciting start, the children gathered for a Greek food taster session. This allowed the children to learn more about what Greeks eat, stemming from their **aspiration** to understand different cultures. They discovered the types of foods the ancient Greeks would have eaten at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. For breakfast, everyone enjoyed overnight oats, adding their choice of toppings, such as berries, bananas, honey, or a sprinkle of cinnamon. This encouraged **independence** as they selected their own toppings to create a meal that suited their taste. Lunch was a delightful experience featuring homemade tzatziki served with bread and carrots. They concluded the meal with a vibrant Greek salad, where they chose their favourite salad items, tasting feta cheese along with oregano and olive oil - showing **respect** for diverse culinary traditions.

In the afternoon, the children focused on their clay pot designs, further immersing themselves in Greek history. They planned, labelled, and incorporated traditional Greek patterns into their creations, showcasing their artistic **aspirations**. With a variety of tools at their disposal, they scored patterns into the clay, demonstrating **motivation** and **resilience** throughout the process.

The care taken in crafting handles showed their commitment to producing a quality piece of art. By the end of the day, each child proudly created a beautiful Greek pot.



The Rainbow Fun Club

Our wonderful Young Carers group enjoyed a fantastic pre-Christmas get-together last week. They decorated cookies (and happily devoured them!), spent time chatting with friends, and generally had a brilliant time. Each child received a goodie bag kindly donated by the MYTime Charity and topped up by us with some colouring and craft.

Their teachers said they returned to class absolutely buzzing!



Road Safety Week

As part of Road Safety Week The Den children learnt all about how to stay safe when crossing the road. Then we put these new skills into practise by walking from school to Alexandra park where we had to cross lots of roads. One of the roads had a pelican crossing which was very exciting! The children behaved impeccably and could talk about their learning whilst walking to the park. Then naturally, we stopped in the park for a snack and a play. Miss Stephens even went on the zipwire!



Mission: Cyber Security

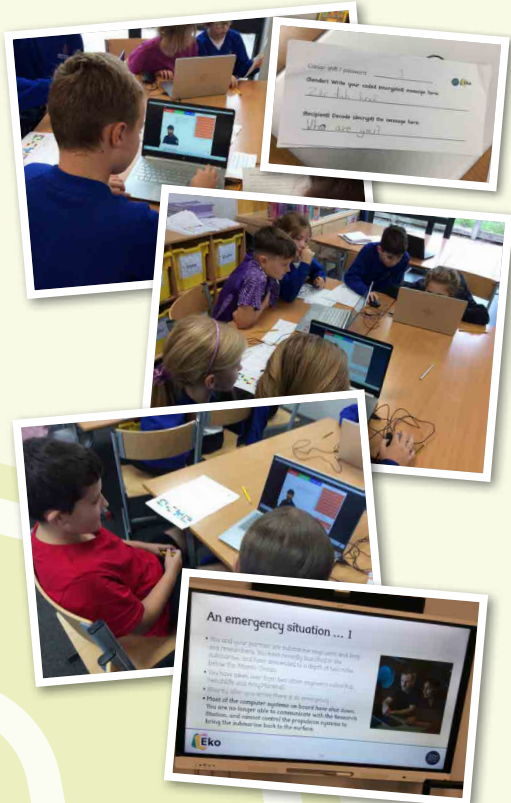
Recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Anderson, an EKO STEM Ambassador, to our school to host three engaging cyber security workshops for our students. This experience provided the children with the invaluable opportunity to work collaboratively on a variety of activities focused on the importance of cyber safety and cryptography.

One of the highlights of the sessions was the introduction of the Caesar Shift cipher. The children learned that by shifting the letters of the alphabet a certain number of places forward, they could create their own encrypted messages. For instance, if 'A' becomes 'B' when shifted one place, it turns into 'C' when shifted two places. After crafting their messages, the children exchanged them and worked to decode their peers' messages, demonstrating remarkable **resilience** and teamwork throughout the process.

As the workshops progressed, the children were presented with an encrypted message created using the Caesar Shift, which they needed to decrypt. Using laptops, they were **motivated** to explore various options to unravel their messages. Together, they decoded a joke that asked, "What pudding does a cat like to eat?" The answer, as they discovered, was "mice cream." This activity sparked a valuable discussion about the significance of encryption and decryption in our modern world, especially considering how much information is transmitted over the internet. Understanding cryptography is increasingly vital for keeping our information secure. Children demonstrated great **respect** with this new information.

The conversation then shifted to password security. The children learned about the common pitfalls of password creation, discussing frequently used passwords such as "password," "abcdef," "secret," "dragon," and "monkey," which are alarmingly easy for hackers to crack. With a renewed sense of purpose, the children engaged in decrypting a secret message using these commonly exploited passwords, spurred on by their curiosity and **motivation** to learn.

Following this exploration, we addressed how to create a robust password. The children recognised the importance of avoiding single-



word passwords, given the efficiency of computers in testing every word in the English language in mere seconds. They learned to combine letters, numbers, and both upper and lower case characters to create stronger passwords using multiple words. Our discussions on online safety resonated well, as many students **aspired** to be more secure in their digital lives.

The grand finale of our workshops was the exhilarating Submarine SOS challenge. EKO, known for their submarines, presented us with an exciting task where children needed to enter a safe to retrieve a key. Working in teams, they had to hack the code using all the knowledge they had gained, competing to find a six-digit code to unlock the safe. The enthusiasm was palpable, with every child eager to be the fastest to crack their code. **Overall, the day was a resounding success, fostering both learning and teamwork in an engaging environment.**

Making Music with the BSO!

Year 6 had an incredible opportunity this week to collaborate with musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, thanks to our fantastic music hub partner, SoundStorm.

The children began with an inspiring lyric-writing workshop led by Hazel Gould, where they showed wonderful creativity, **motivation**, and **aspiration** as they crafted ideas and shaped their own musical phrases. They then teamed up with award-winning composer James Redwood to help create a brand-new composition. This exciting piece will be premiered by the BSO at their Explore the Orchestra concert in May next year - a truly special achievement!

Throughout the project, Year 6 impressed our visitors with their enthusiasm, teamwork and artistic talent. They showed great **resilience** when experimenting with new ideas and pushing themselves musically. Several remarkable young musicians and lyricists were spotted - well done, Year 6!

What a memorable experience!



Heatherlands Sports Round-Up

Indi's Dance Achievements

Indi has had a successful term in her dance journey, achieving her IDTA Ballet Turquoise Rosette and Tap Red Rosette awards, which she has proudly added to her Beige Ballet Rosette. She has shown great **motivation** in practising regularly and learning new skills, and her **resilience** has been clear in the way she kept going even when the steps became challenging.



Well done, Indi - these awards are a lovely reflection of how hard you have worked!



Sports for Champions

Today, Year 5 were joined by **Chris Hunt Skelley. He is a para-Olympic gold medallist in Judo.** He won his gold medal in Tokyo and his Bronze medal in Paris. He delivered an assembly talking about how he has had to demonstrate **resilience** throughout his sporting career and life. He shared how his visual-impairment and deafness has impacted his sporting career and explained how his **resilience** led him to win the gold medal.

Then we completed a workshop with Chris involving a circuit of four exercises: spotty dogs, press ups, squats and star jumps. We had lots of fun. He told us to bring the energy and we certainly did!

This visit was part of Sport for Champions and together we have raised around £3000 for the charity and our school. We have had a great day meeting Chris and many of us have enjoyed our fundraising efforts.



One of our children went home and proudly told his dad, ***"I met the Paralympian judo gold medallist, who has a vision impairment just like me."*** His mum shared how inspiring this was for him, and what a great role model Chris is - and we couldn't agree more!

A special shout-out to Miss Collis, who joined Chris and the children for all the workout sessions and gave it her all. She kept up brilliantly - even if she was a little achy for the next few days!

Heatherlands Take on the Pentathlon!

On the 19th November, children from Year 5 and 6 took part in the pentathlon challenge against other schools. They had the opportunity to try a range of activities including bean bag throw, Bocciablast, curling, flight path, bowling and target basketball.

The children showed wonderful **motivation** as they approached each new sport with enthusiasm, and great **resilience** when activities became challenging. They demonstrated **respect** throughout the event - supporting one another and encouraging pupils from other schools. The team were proud to score the highest in the flight path activity, a result that reflected their **aspiration** and determination to do their best.

“It was so fun, I wish I could do it every day,” was one of the children’s reflections. Well done, Team Heatherlands!



Girls' Team Triumph!

The girls' team absolutely smashed it in their recent matches. They played three fantastic games and came out on top in two of them.

- **First match:** Total domination with a 6–1 victory over Manorside!
- **Second match:** Another brilliant performance, winning 3–1 against Ocean!



Their confidence, teamwork and determination shone through - even in the freezing cold. We couldn't be prouder of their **resilience** and the fantastic way they represented Heatherlands. A huge thank you to Miss Bumford for her training and to Mr Flint for driving and refereeing.

If you see the team around school, please give them a big congratulations - they truly deserve it!

Go Heatherlands!



Going the Distance

We had an incredible time at our second cross-country event of the year at Chapel Gate - and for the first time, Year 3 and Year 4 joined in! It was fantastic to see so many children taking part and giving it their all. The atmosphere was electric, with cheers ringing out as our runners pushed themselves to the finish line. A massive shout-out to Hollie Butler for her amazing 4th place finish - what an achievement!

A huge thank you to Mrs Grady for her brilliant help with the logistics, and to all the parents who came along to cheer and support the runners - it really made the day special.



The Heatherlands Voice: Ideas in Action

The Heatherlands Voice have had a fantastic term, showing **aspiration** in their ideas, **motivation** in their fundraising efforts, and **independence** in organising events that support our school community. They have demonstrated **respect** by listening to others' views and celebrating the achievements of pupils across the school and shown real **resilience** as they planned and led a range of activities - from bake sales to raffles and competitions. Their enterprising spirit is making a real difference, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved this term.

Doing the Bake Sale was a really fun experience because we got to sell loads of yummy cakes. As a Heatherlands Voice it was our first big fundraiser and it was a brilliant time. We had planned it for weeks before and I was so looking forward to it the whole time. Being in the Heatherlands Voice has been my dream. We were really proud of ourselves raising money for the 'Den'. Harvey



During the Christmas fair we raised money for school by running a raffle with some exciting prizes linked to the Narnia stories. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and well done to those families who won an exciting prize. Maya

We supported Anti-Bullying week, this year by running a 'Design a Anti-Bullying Superhero'. Heatherlands Voice judged all the entries across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Well Done to Oscar in Seashell Class Creating 'No Bullying Boy' and Noah from Meteor Class who created 'Friendship Man'. Well done to everyone who entered your entries were brilliant and it was very difficult to choose a winner! Nishat



Doing the Tuck Shop sale was an extremely fun fundraiser to be part of. Once a month, on a Thursday afternoon, all the Heatherlands Voice have enjoyed setting up a sweet station to sell a wide variety of delicious sweets. Many people loved the Harribos but ours were the marshmallows. This is a brilliant sale with many more to come. All profit is helping to buy resources for the 'Den'. Nathan

Going Green with the Eco Council

Respect for the environment is so important because it helps to preserve the beauty and diversity of our planet.

We have a new group of very keen Eco Council member who have been getting stuck in with tasks around school. We started by setting up a weekly classroom and yoghurt pot recycling rota.

Then we made signs for the external doors around school to encourage everyone to close them to reduce the amount of heat lost during particularly cold days.

Now we are working on a BCP initiative, called Climate Action Plan, which is the council's strategy to tackle climate change. Over the course of this academic year, we have set ourselves the challenge to become more sustainable and reduce the decline of biodiversity in the school grounds.

Check out our new high viz jackets too!



A Sprinkle of Seasonal Magic

Christmas with the Aliens!

Our EYFS and Year 6 performance of “Christmas with the Aliens” was an absolute delight and a wonderful way to finish the term. Despite coughs, colds and the end-of-term tiredness setting in, the children showed fantastic **resilience** and **motivation**, giving it their all right up to the final performance.

A special mention must go to the Year 6 children, whose enthusiasm and support for our youngest performers was truly heart-warming. They embraced their roles brilliantly and were patient, encouraging and kind as they helped the EYFS children shine on stage.

With confident narrating, joyful singing, and those comedy moments that you just can't script, the whole performance was a real celebration of effort, teamwork and togetherness.

Well done to everyone involved - you made us very proud!



Wonderful Winter Wreaths

On Thursday 11th December, we judged the entries of our festive wreath competition.

There were over 60 entries which was amazing! It was clear that children and their families were **motivated** and worked so hard and really shown off their creativity! Prizes were won across the school for the most interesting, joyful and ingenious designs.

Well done to everyone who took part, you should all be proud of your creations and I hope they have now been hung somewhere special!



You'll Never Guess Who Came to Visit...



Here's a clue...

He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

Father Christmas and his jolly elf came to visit and generously gave each child a book to enjoy. No sooner had he left the room than the children were already **motivated** to dive into their new stories.

A huge thank you to the Friends of Heatherlands, who gave Santa a helping hand in purchasing the books.



Lanterns to Light Up Poole

Year 1 were very excited to take part in the Lighthouse Lantern Project this term. Schools and groups across Poole were invited to decorate lanterns that will be displayed throughout November, leading up to the special Lantern Parade on Poole Quay.

The children loved decorating their lanterns and showed **motivation** as they carefully added colours and patterns to make each one unique. They demonstrated **respect** by working together and taking care with the resources, knowing their lanterns would be enjoyed by the whole community.

At the launch event, our lanterns joined many others from local schools, creating a bright and cheerful display. Year 1 were very proud to be part of this project, especially as the lanterns help support Lewis-Manning Hospice Care, a charity that looks after families who are going through difficult times.

The children showed great kindness and **resilience** as they learned how their artwork could help bring light, comfort and happiness to others.

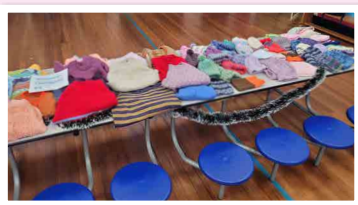
Well done, Year 1 - your lanterns shone beautifully across Poole!



A big thank you to Wessex Wishes

Wessex Wishes, a charity that supports local children facing challenges, have kindly donated warm hand-knitted jumpers and hats, funding for play therapy, and raincoats for our children. They also generously gifted every child in the school a Christmas selection box to enjoy over the holidays.

Wessex Wishes have continued to support our school in so many thoughtful ways, and as a thank you, we held an after-school event and raised almost £400 to show our appreciation and help "pay it forward."



THANK YOU

As we come to the end of a wonderfully busy term, we would like to extend a huge thank you to the Friends of Heatherlands - our committed and motivated PTA - who tirelessly work to raise funds that support every child in our school. Their dedication, creativity and generosity make an enormous difference to daily school life.

This term alone, they have funded:

- The new superhero wall
- Decking timber for planters
- A mini greenhouse
- A potting bench table
- Advent books
- A book for every child from Santa
- Battery operated tealights for EYFS children's lanterns
- Electricity sticks
- A wooden table and bench for the EYFS Outdoor Classroom

We are incredibly grateful for everything they do. Their support helps us create inspiring, nurturing and exciting learning experiences for all of our children.

If you would like to be part of our active and friendly PTA, the Friends of Heatherlands, we would love to welcome you. Please pop into the school office for more information.



Heatherlands



A big thank you to all staff and children who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. We couldn't do it without you and appreciate your commitment to the 'Heatherlands Way'. Please let Mrs Allen or the school office know if you would like to contribute to future newsletters.

