



The Heatherlands Way

Autumn 2024 18th Edition

Heatherlands Vision

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter and what a bumper edition it is! As the first term of the academic year draws to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on the achievements of our school community, of which there have been many. From welcoming the new entrants into Early Years in September, to our Key Stage 2 children representing the school

with their festive singing in the local community, (and all the lovely things in between!) what a term it has been. Once again, these wonderful opportunities would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, who go 'the extra mile', so a big thank you to them. Everyone has shown **resilience** during the long term and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and peaceful winter break.

So, sit back with a mince pie and a warming beverage and share the children's learning and accomplishments this term.



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

Celebrating Our Values

This term, we were excited to relaunch our Heatherlands Way badges, which are presented to nominated children at the half-termly values assembly. Once the children receive a postcard at home, they are invited to the assembly and are presented with one of our fabulous 'new look' badges. The children can now work towards collecting each value shield during their time at Heatherlands. We even have a new 'Heatherlands Way' shield that will be presented in the summer term for children who consistently demonstrate all the school values and are a role model to others.

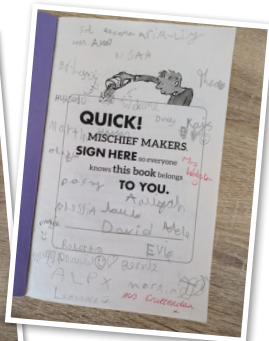


In our recent IQM report it was noted that 'our five values form the foundation for the children to support their future success in education, personal development and social life...(which) confirms that the 'Heatherlands Way Values' are part and parcel of this successful, friendly school.'

Sharing Our Love Of Reading

In Maple class, we had a parent who volunteers in Zambia with the local school children and she organised with Mrs Cruttenden for 'our favourite school book' to be donated to them. We had all signed our names in the front of Roald Dahl's *George's Marvellous Medicine* and hoped they would be as motivated to read Roald Dahl's books as we are. The school is for orphaned and vulnerable children and they were all extremely grateful and happy with the kind gesture!

What's your favourite Roald Dahl book?



Fantastic Fossils

Our Year 6 children all enjoyed a trip to **Kimmeridge** where they were very **motivated** to take part in fossil workshops at **The Etches Collection Museum** and took part in fossil hunting on the beach. One group even got to see the amazing Steve Etches in the workshop, which was inspiring! We learnt lots about Mary Anning and her work in Lyme Regis.

We had some lovely comments from the scientists we worked with and members of the public about how all our children were fantastic ambassadors for the school, demonstrating **The Heatherlands Way**.



Fossil Workshop – The Children’s Review

We had a visitor come into school to talk about fossils. He showed us some magnificent fossils; there were ammonites, belemnites and shark teeth. He demonstrated how a fossil was made which was fascinating. The fossils were very eye-catching. There was even fossilised poo and an egg which was very extraordinary! There was also a huge leg bone which was phenomenal.

He also showed us his first fossil from when he first started collecting - it was crazy being able to see real dinosaur footprints! He explained how plants are able to fossilise just as well as animals, just as long as it died in watery areas. The visitor had brought a couple of dinosaur toys to show us what the animals really looked like and explained what part of the body the fossil was from, which made understanding much easier.

The fern plant fossil was really pretty and definitely our favourite!

Isabel and Emilia

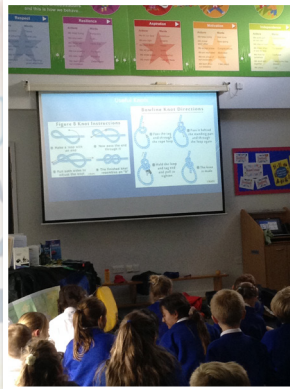
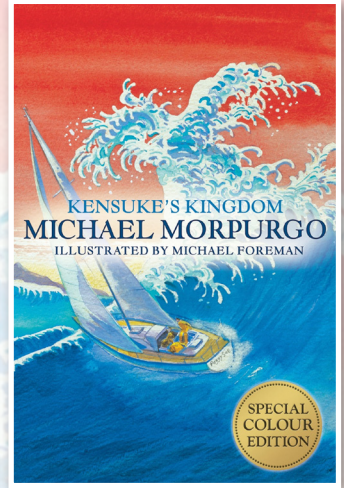


Sail Away

To support the Year 5 writing and reading text 'Kensuke's Kingdom', Miss Brown **motivated** the pupils by running a sailing workshop for the year group. We discussed lots of the language associated with sailing, which we come across in the book and got to look at some of the safety features a boat had. We talked about how people needed to be really **resilient** when sailing as it can be very difficult. We discussed all of the clothing that sailors need to wear and Mrs Underwood and Miss Collis had a race to see who could put it on the fastest. Obviously, Mrs Underwood won.

Miss Brown brought in a model of a sailing boat and the children were able to identify and name off the parts. They also had a go at tying some knots sailors used and finished by looking at other **aspirational** sailors who have sailed around the world.

It was very interesting to find out about Miss Brown's hobby and really helped with our reading and writing!



Aspiring 'Authors'

During Summer term last year (2023-24), the Year 5 cohort were invited to participate in an exciting Young Writers (History) competition: 'ANCIENT ADVENTURES'.

This opportunity invited young, **aspiring** authors to write a mini-saga about a historic period of their choice. We **HAD** to embrace this challenge...



We submitted our 100-word entries and waited patiently... Amazingly, many children from HPS were awarded publication! We have just received the printed copies. One of these will definitely take pride of place in our very own KS2 library; you must check it out for yourselves!

Congratulations to our published authors.
We look forward to reading your next stories soon!



Stargazers

Our Early Years children have thoroughly enjoyed our latest topic 'Stargazers', and have been **motivated** in their learning about space. We had the most exciting day on their mission into space. Their first part of the journey was to board the space ship and buckle up, before we counted down and blasted off into space.

Our first stop was the moon and we watched the moon landing. Then we had a whistle stop tour of the different planets and watched the astronauts on the International Space Station. It was funny to watch them make a sandwich or brush their teeth.

Back in class we were quite hungry and had our intergalactic space snacks. We tried freeze dried strawberries, banana crisps and made star constellations using pretzel sticks and marshmallows.

After this we were busy in our Let's Learn, creating the solar system, making straw rockets, junk modelling and constructing space crafts as some of the provision. We have learnt lots of space facts we are keen to share.

There are definitely some budding astronauts in the making as the children are **aspirational** and dream big. We had the best day and a big thank you to all the parents for the creative costumes. **The children looked fab!**

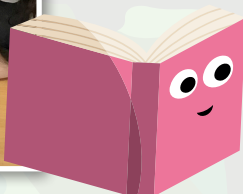


Year 1 and Year 6 Reading Buddies

During our writing lessons, Year 6 have been focusing on traditional tales. As part of our curriculum, the children have explored various storytelling techniques and narrative structures, which has greatly enriched their understanding of literature.

The focal point of our recent lessons has been the classic tale of Little Red Riding Hood. However, to encourage creativity, we prompted our students to retell the story with an alternative ending. This exercise not only fostered their imagination but also enhanced their writing skills, as they were **motivated** to craft unique narratives that diverged from the traditional storyline.

In order to celebrate their hard work and creativity, we compiled these rewritten stories into individual books. The culmination of this project was a delightful sharing session with our Year 1 children, who listened **respectfully**. The Year 6 pupils read their stories to the younger students, fostering a sense of community within the school and encouraging a love for reading among the younger year group. We believe that such collaborative activities are essential in building confidence and enhancing communication skills.



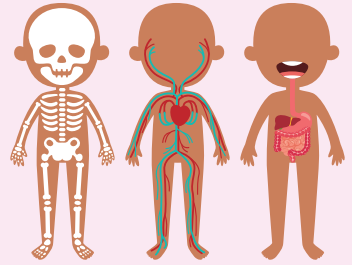
Year 1's Autumn Term in a Nutshell

Wow what a term! We have been **motivated** to work hard and shown **resilience** when meeting new challenges in Year 1!

In the first half of Autumn our topic was called 'Super Me!' and was based on science and art.

We investigated how our bodies work and went on a 'senses walk' to discover what we could see, hear, smell and touch in and around our school grounds. We then learnt about two artists, Picasso and Lichtenstein, who were famous for their work around the world. We used their art to inspire portraits of ourselves.

The next half term has been about history, design technology and science. We learnt about absorption and investigated waterproof materials and then explored history through the development of toys and the materials used to make them. To complete our 'Toy Stories' topic, we even designed and made our own toys using craft supplies and designs of simple toys from history.



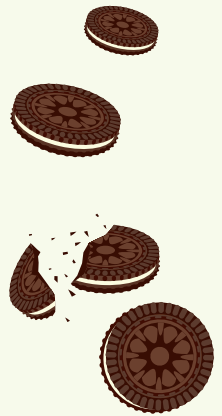
Year 3's Autumn Term in a Nutshell

We have had a jam-packed Autumn term in Year 3!

We started the year with our Ready Steady Grow topic, all about artists and plants. We learnt how to print and use complementary colours in Pop Art.

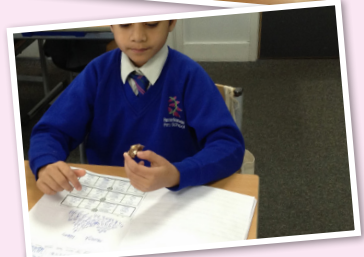
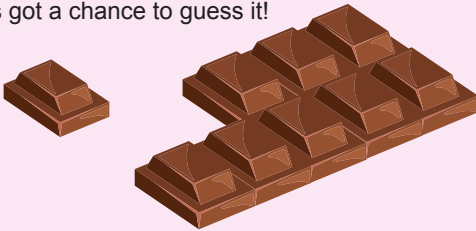
We then moved onto our Shake, Rattle and Roll topic, which was particularly exciting because a geologist came in to speak to us! We have created tectonic plates out of Oreos, and gone on a co-ordinated scavenger hunt around school. We also had forest school this half-term which we really enjoyed. Sycamore class blew our socks off with a brilliant class assembly including dancing, poetry, spelling and more! Maple class wowed us with excellent attendance winning the golden ticket treats such as extra forest school!

Finally, lots of us saw snow for the very first time! The Year 3 staff are proud of how well the children have demonstrated 'the Heatherlands Way'.



The World of Chocolate

For our 'See How Far You've Come' writing this half term, the whole school was focusing on careers. In Year 4 we decided to delve into the world of chocolate! We've written our own poems about sweets, so thought that looking into working for Cadburys would be interesting as they have lots of different jobs. The most popular job we found out about was being a taste tester so we put the children's taste buds to the test! The teachers had made a mystery flavour chocolate bar and the children had to guess what flavour it was. The children showed **resilience**, not giving up using their senses to find out what the ingredients were. They also showed a lot of **respect**, sharing out the chocolate so that everyone got to try it, even making sure that other adults got a chance to guess it!



The End of the Vikings!

For our 'Invaders or Traders' unit we have come to the end of the Viking Era and learnt about the **Battle of Hastings**. We then looked at the Bayeux Tapestry which depicts the battle and we found out that it's 68.3 metres long! So, Swanage class went outside to see how long it would be on the playground and it would stretch from the bottom playground, all the way to the middle of the football pitch! The children showed lots of **resilience** waiting at their 2m marker to see how far it would be, and lots of **aspiration** as it was their idea to find out how long it was in the first place!



Sporting Fixtures Update

A selection of our Year 6 sports leaders attended a Primary Leadership Academy at Poole High where they learnt how to be a productive sports leader and earn their 'Bronze Ambassador' status.

They participated in four workshops where they learnt how to increase participation and a healthy lifestyle around Heatherlands, how to promote positive values in sport and how to be an ambassador and role model advocating for PE.

They worked as a team on many activities but also had the chance to team up with other children from different schools. Our young ambassadors had to decide on which leadership values ranked most important to them and after careful consideration, they decided that communication, teamwork and **respect** were our top three.

They have learnt new skills and games to share with the children at Heatherlands and I'm sure we can all agree that we are all looking forward to seeing how they will put their new skills to good use.

Well done to all children for following the Heatherlands Way in all aspects at this event, you made the school proud.

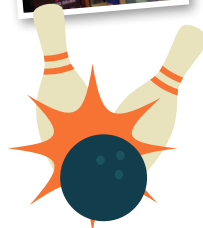


It's a Strike!

Heatherlands, along with other schools in the local area, had the opportunity to take some children in years 3 and 4 to play a game of tenpin bowling at Tower Park. This was organised with Panathlon, which is an organisation dedicated to providing sporting opportunities for children with disabilities and special educational needs in a variety of sports and age groups.

Heatherlands took 11 children and they were all **motivated** about the idea of going bowling with other schools in the local area. We represented Heatherlands proudly and everyone was incredibly supportive of each other and **respectful**. We all cheered and celebrated at other's success while reminding well-mannered to the other school's children.

Good job Heatherlands, can't wait to go again!



Football Trials

Emilia from Victory class went along to four weeks of football trials arranged by Dorset FA and showed great **resilience** and **motivation**. She competed against 130 under 11 girls for a place in the 24/25 team. As a result of all her hard work, she has been selected for the Dorset Girls Emerging Talent Centre Team.

Well done Emilia! We wish you great success!



Pitch Perfect

Our football teams have been busy this half term with lots of training and some big matches. We've had a big focus on our Heatherlands Way values and how they help us be part of a team and community. The training sessions have been based around skills and tactics. We've welcomed coach Mr Thomas in to help us with our weekly training, too.

The girls team took part in a two-match afternoon at Baden-Powell where we lost 0-5 to Baden-Powell, despite having many chances on goal. We then managed a superb 9-0 win over St Joseph's. The girls showed great **resilience** and determination after the earlier loss. Well done, girls!

The boys team produced a magnificent display against the Baden-Powell B team - managing a 5-2 win and it could have been many more. The boys have really developed their **motivation** over the last half term, turning up for training early, helping with organising the equipment and understanding the responsibility of representing our school during football matches. I couldn't be more pleased with this performance - it was really great to watch. Mr Churchill and Mr Arrowsmith were equally impressed and proud on the touchline.

Well done to all our footballers, including everyone who turns up to training every Tuesday, showing great commitment.

Motivated by Nature!

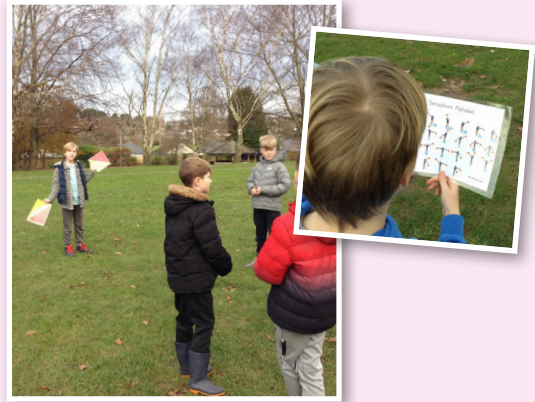
On Friday 6th December, Year 5 enjoyed a day packed with a variety of Forest School activities. We enhanced our **resilience** levels through learning how to communicate using only Semaphore flags!

What is Semaphore?

It's a way of communicating across long distances, by holding flags in different positions to represent letters or numbers.

To send a Semaphore message correctly start by using the 'Attention' position and wait for the 'Ready to receive' position from the other team.

When ready, start each word with the 'Letters' position and use the 'Space' position between each word. Finish the sentence with the 'End of word' position.



Our DIY Christmas Decorations

We also used our artistic flare and school-grown foliage to create our own natural Christmas decorations! We learned about the different types of trees; how evergreens can be used to brighten up our homes during this festive season.

Den Building!

We applied our awesome teamwork skills when constructing our own waterproof shelters too!

Well done, everyone!
Fantastic effort and **resilience**.



The School is Alive... with the Sound of Music!

The children in **Key Stage 1** are really enjoying their new music curriculum with **Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Harrison** each week. Learning is all built around fun musical games with lots of singing and repetition. The children learn about dynamics, pitch and rhythm, building musical skills through games, using puppets and other soft toys. Using their creativity and imagination, the children explore a range of musical experiences.

The Key Stage 2 children have been enjoying their music learning, based all around their current topics. Highlights have included Year 5, who created their amazing Eco Raps and Year 6 have explored romantic music in the Victorian era. We look forward to many more musical experiences in the coming year, starting with our 'Carols Around the Tree' event this Friday after school.



Tis the Season to be Jolly - Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Once again the Heatherlands School choir, led by Miss Collis spread joy around the local area with their singing this month. They have been busy singing at Klass Care, where they even brought tears to the resident's eyes!

They also sang at John's Church, Ashley Road, where £50 was donated to Macmillan as a small token of appreciation.

Then the choir spread more Christmas joy at John Lewis and Partners in Branksome. Lots of the shoppers had smiles on their faces and some of them even did a little jig!

The John Lewis elf kindly gave gifts to the children as a thank you for their time and beautiful singing.

*Once, again, please pass on my thanks to the choir from all the Lunch Club Christmas party today – the children make it so special. I have had so many comments saying how impressive the singing was and how enjoyable. Thanks to you and your team for making it possible. We have made a small donation of £50 to Macmillan as a small token of our appreciation.
Kind Regards, Rosamund*



We are very proud of the choir, with 52 children giving their time and commitment learning songs in their lunch break. They demonstrate the values of **respect**, **motivation**, **resilience**, **aspiration** and **independence** and it is lovely this was recognised by members of the public.

A big shout out to Miss Collis who teaches the choir and organises these events.

Spreading Joy through Art

Artistic pupils spread joy to Dorset families facing cancer this Christmas.

Festive cards designed by children from a Poole primary school will be helping Dorset families living with cancer this Christmas.

Pupils from our school were asked by the Dorset Cancer Care Foundation (DCCF) to create images to adorn their 2024 Christmas cards.

Entries flooded in from across the school's year groups and six winners were gathered to receive prizes and to see their designs which have been transformed into greetings cards.

Each of the winners: Charlie, Eli, Alex, Elena, Grace, and Terri, received a framed copy of their design and two tickets to a Dorset family attraction.



Charlie said: "This is amazing! I didn't think I would win. I painted a snowman because I am hoping we will have snow this year and I can build a snowman."

Alex said: "I feel very proud of myself."

Grace added: "I didn't know what was happening when I was called out of class, then they said I was a winner. It's brilliant! I can't wait to show my family my picture of a gingerbread man on the charity's Christmas cards."

The DCCF, based in Poole, raises funds to provide financial assistance to Dorset families facing financial hardship because of cancer. The charity gives non-returnable grants to help patients pay for costs including accommodation, transport to and from hospital, childcare and counselling.

Jo Saunders, Marketing and Communications Manager for the DCCF said: "We were impressed when we saw the beautiful designs the children had drawn and painted. It was extremely difficult to choose just six winners for our cards, but we did, and they look fabulous."

She continued: "Meeting all the children was such a pleasure. They were extremely polite and interested to see what their designs looked like as actual Christmas cards. We are

confident their cards will prove very popular this year and help us to raise much-needed funds to help many local families."

Heatherlands Primary School Headteacher Julian Churchill said: "We are very proud of the children's response to this opportunity for a really important cause.

"We will now be aiming to sell as many cards for the DCCF as possible in the run-up to Christmas, both at school and at our Christmas Fair on December 6th."

Once again, these children made us proud by demonstrating The Heatherlands Way!

Green Fingers

Gardening Club got off to a cracking start this term as we showed lots of **motivation** to dig up all the weeds and **resilience** against the dark grey skies.

Autumn is usually a bit of sad time of year for gardens but we soon got to work cutting back old plants and tidying the beds. Next off we designed several new layouts for the flower beds and then planted a colourful array of tulips and daffodils. Now all we have to do is wait for spring to see how our designs turn out.

Miss Plumb would like to say a big thank you to Hannah Wright and Jane Ford for coming to help.

If you would like to sign up for Gardening Club, next year, we will start up again in March.



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 know, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters.

