



# The Heatherlands Way

Spring 2024 17th Edition



## Heatherlands Vision

As the Easter holidays approach, you can feel spring is in the air! Even in Early Years the children have taken inspiration from the seasonal changes and painted some observational pictures. Whilst it was a shorter term than usual, we certainly managed to pack a great deal of enrichment activities in, which the children have loved and benefitted from. Some of these have

included field trips, problem-solving exercises, tackling environmental issues and a theatrical production to name but a few.

So, whether you are reading this whilst tucking into a chocolate egg or a toasted hot cross bun, we hope you enjoy sharing our recent adventures at Heatherlands.



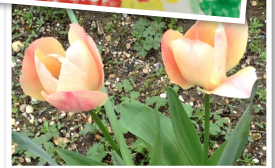
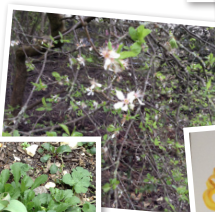

**Aspiration**

Actions	Words
We do our best	Ambitious
We aim high	Dreams
We think BIG	Hopes
We set goals	Goals
We make plans	Successful
We work hard	I will get there



**Motivation**

Actions	Words
We keep trying	Well done
We praise each other	Keep going
We accept praise	Congratulations
We are motivated	Motivation
We are proud of our successes	Success
We learn from our mistakes	I feel proud



## Junior Duke Spotlight

Thea is the first in Year 3 to complete seven of her Bronze Junior Duke challenges, so she wanted to share her experience as she has been so **motivated**.

### What challenges have you completed?

I have completed swimming, art, cooking, domestic, sports, **independence**, and eco challenges.

### What was your favourite challenge?

My favourite challenge was cooking because I cut the butter which was very satisfying. I made apple pastry and mum even let me use the oven gloves to remove them from the oven! I also loved my art challenge where I used papier-mâché to make a hot air balloon. Once it was dry, I painted it and made a little basket for people to sit in. For **independence**, I walked to Waitrose alone! (Mum did come with me, but she stayed a little way behind and I followed road safety rules to decide when to cross the road at the zebra crossings).



### Which was the hardest challenge?

The hardest challenge was the Eco Challenge. To earn this, I had to learn to read the energy meter. This challenge made me realise how much electricity we use each day and now I make sure to turn the lights off to save power and money.

### Why should others complete Junior Duke?

People should complete Junior Duke because it is fun and active!



## My trip to the Young Voices Choir 2024 at the O2

We were very proud of the Heatherlands School Choir who travelled to the O2 in London to sing as part of Young Voices 2024. They demonstrated the Heatherlands Way both in their commitment leading up to this exciting event and, also on the day... and night! The children showed all the school values in their conduct and were ambassadors for our school. Thank you to Miss Collis who has shared the children's commitment and inspired them to believe in themselves and the staff and parents who supported this unforgettable experience.

Over to the children...

On Wednesday 31st of January 2024, I went to the O2 in London to sing with my school choir for Young Voices 2024. Young Voices are a group of 15,000 children who all came together to make the largest choir in the world made of 3000 schools in England.

I belong to Heatherlands School choir and 26 children were chosen to go to O2 in London to perform in a concert. Altogether it took 6 hours to get to the O2 and back. We arrived at lunchtime and walked from the coach park to the O2 Arena. We sat down and had lunch before going inside. At the start we had a 3 hour rehearsal led by our conductor David Lawrence.


At 5pm we had tea and got ready to perform. The O2 holds about 20,000 people so I was a bit nervous.

The real concert started at 7pm and took 2 hours to complete. There were extra songs such as Extraordinary by Natalie Williams, World Book day Song and Readers are Leaders by Mc Grammar. We sang and danced to lots of songs, it was amazing and I enjoyed the dancing. There was a dance crew called Urban Stride who were on the stage.

After the concert we got back on the coach and arrived back at school at 1.15am.

We had a t-shirt and a torch that were only given to people who participated in the singing and we got to keep them. Overall, it was a very fun and exciting day and I would recommend anyone to go.

**By Owen Partridge-Downing**



Proper bragging rights at school. Midnight adventures!

Thank you to all you teachers for tonight! All the hard work paid off! Amelia had the best day. I can't wait to hear more about it when she's more awake. It will definitely be a memory she keeps forever.

The kids performance was A+! Thank you to all the teachers for your hard work.

All the songs when everyone sang, made me feel like I was one with everyone. It will be a memory that will last forever. *Aurora*

I like the Mexican Wave. It was so cool performing in front of lots of people. YV24 is amazing! *Eva*

I was so happy just to be there. At first, I was a bit nervous to go but it was a once in a life time opportunity. Singing is one of my passions! *Bella*



## All the World's a Stage...

Since January, a group of 32 children in year 5 have been working with Mr Arrowsmith and Miss Manzi on a production of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', which they were lucky enough to perform at The Lighthouse in Poole, on Tuesday 19th March, as part of Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation Festival; an event that aims to give young people across the UK the confidence to succeed in life.

The foundation says: "We engage diverse groups, including those with special educational needs and from minority ethnic backgrounds, and are passionate about reaching those living in areas of deprivation. With us, children gain the crucial skills they need to succeed in life."

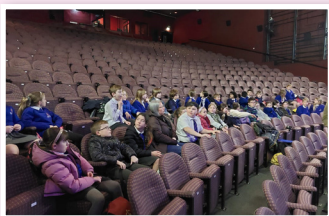
They were given the opportunity to watch several other schools perform before us, and demonstrated enormous amounts of **respect** as an audience, especially supporting the young people with Special Educational Needs bring their plays to life. They worked closely with the staff from the theatre, and one of our children even got to work in the lighting box and run not just our show, but another school's performance too!

The children involved had an amazing experience and showed incredible **resilience** throughout the rehearsal process, learning difficult lines and working together on the staging. They were all **motivated** to make it the best show they could and demonstrated great pride when performing for an audience of over 300 on the night, which included Mr Churchill and all the adults that work in year 5!

Having seen them perform, I am convinced that there are some **aspiring** actors that we will see on the stage at some point in the future!

Well done everyone - we were all incredibly proud!

Also, a big shout out to Mr Arrowsmith and Miss Manzi for their commitment to this project and for making the dream a reality!



The performance of Macbeth with a modern twist by some of our Year 5 group of talented children was nothing short of extraordinary. The show, filled with excitement, kept the audience laughing from start to finish. The young actors and actresses flawlessly portrayed the complex characters, bringing them to life with their captivating performances. The use of exciting vocabulary further enhanced the production. The actors skilfully delivered Shakespeare's language, whilst effortlessly weaving contemporary slang into the script. This clever blend of old and new not only made the play accessible to a modern audience but also added a fresh and unique element to the performance.

The director's vision in combining the traditional with the contemporary resulted in a thought-provoking production. The modern twist added layers of relevance and made the themes of ambition and power even more resonant. The young cast's commitment and passion were evident throughout, leaving the audience with a lasting impression.



## Commando Joe's

Tescos visited to present us with a Golden Grant winning cheque of £5,000 from their Stronger Starts scheme.

We spent the generous cheque on a Commando Joe's Adventure kit which helps to empower young people and give them the life skills they need to thrive. This kit focuses on empathy, **resilience**, kindness and fortitude, helping young people become the best version of themselves. This links well with our school values of **respect**, **resilience**, **motivation**, **aspiration** and **independence**, and the children have been able to make links in their learning.

Let's see what the children at Heatherlands think about Commando Joe's...

Commando Joe's are fun activities for children to learn survival skills in school. Lately, we have been doing missions about The Endurance and how to survive in Antarctica. At the end of each session, we line up in front of little cards, which say things like communication or empathy, but teamwork always has the most children as we demonstrate the value of **respect**.

In Commando Joe's we use lots of amazing equipment such as ropes, cones and gutters. Using our imagination, these become fuel or food and water to help us survive. Everyone has fun and enjoys the lessons we have. The whole school does Commando Joe's, but we have ours on a Thursday afternoon. That is just before PE! It is really sporty and we work in teams of five or six. In the last session, we had to wear a blindfold whilst holding onto a rope and collecting Jenga blocks and cones. Another time we had to pretend to be on Endurance. One person from each class helps our teaching assistants to set up the equipment so we are ready to learn.

### *Sophia and Portia Year 5*



## Big Garden Birdwatch

We were **resilient** and braved the rain to survey the birds and count them for the annual **RSPB bird watch**. Big Garden Birdwatch shows the power of people coming together to take action for nature. We observed a large number of pigeons sheltering in a tree, several small groups of robins and blue tits flying around the pond area and a lot of seagulls flying overhead. The survey asked us to count the number of each species we saw at any one time and by far the most common visitor to the Valley was the pigeon. It is important to **respect** our local area and the birds and animals that live there.

### Miss Plumb



**Full Big Garden Birdwatch results will be released in mid-April**

### Keep your garden birds healthy

Greenfinches are in serious trouble, but together we can help by keeping feeding stations clean to stop disease spreading. This beautiful little bird was a common sight in gardens but has seen a dramatic decline of 63% since 1993. It has now been moved from the Birds of Conservation Concern's green list to the red list. One of the reasons for the decline is because of a severe outbreak of the disease trichomonosis, which can be spread by contaminated food and drinking water. By keeping our feeders, bird tables and bird baths clean, we can help bring this colourful little character back to our gardens, as well as helping to keep our other garden birds fit, healthy and disease free.



### Soft Plastic Recycling

Out of 311,000 tonnes of plastic wrapping that is placed on our shelves, only 6% is recycled.

That's why UK supermarkets have joined forces to collect one of the last plastics that can't be widely recycled at home.

The Eco Council has been proactive and has been enthusiastically collecting soft plastic packaging from hot school meals, Breakfast Club and Explorers after school club. We have already filled two large bin bags, which were taken to Tesco Branksome for recycling.

You too can help at home to recycle your soft plastics. Ensure that the packaging is clean and take it to your local Tesco supermarket. Items that can be recycled this way include:

- crisp packets
- plastic bags
- pet food pouches
- bread bags
- fruit and vegetable packaging
- cereal liners



Thank you for playing your part in recycling as Tesco was able to recover over 80% of the soft plastic returned by customers, keeping it out of landfill.

**Miss Plumb & The Eco Council**

## Fanatical about fitness!

**This year we have had the pleasure to welcome PESSPA Education & Play.** They provide coaching excellence in Physical Education to schools and the community, to create an environment where children can live a healthy and active lifestyle. They have worked with all teachers to contribute towards the excellent PE teaching and encouraged the children to challenge themselves. We have worked with the equipment in gymnastics and the children have loved learning about the technical skills within gymnastics. Well done and thank you to Danny and his team for working with us at Heatherlands.

**Heatherlands football team** have been on fire! The girls have an exciting new volunteer coach from Poole Town FC who comes in every week to coach them. Additionally, we are part of a new 'Play on' pilot from England Football which runs for a period of 6 weeks before the children attend weekend coaching sessions with Poole Town FC. This is a new pilot from England Football to encourage girls to transition from school to club football. We have been given some new kit and resources, which look brilliant, and some fantastic new coaching plans.

The boys have been coached very well from Mr Coakes and they're enjoying the games they have scheduled. The boys are learning to work well as a team and communicate effectively on the pitch. We have some fantastic footballers at Heatherlands and we're lucky to see a lot of them thrive in their school games. The boys have some football matches coming up so keep your eyes peeled.

**Well done everyone, keep up the great work! Mrs Cruttenden**



## HOT OFF THE PRESS

**Good news, we WON the mixed football tournament on Wednesday! Yes, you read that correctly, WE WON!!!!**

We were one of two schools who took a mixed team (although it was a mixed tournament) and the girls played so well with the boys. Not only were we impressed because they won, but also their mannerisms, sportsmanship and enthusiasm towards the whole event.

Thanks to Mr Coakes for organising the team and thanks to Miss Bishop for coming with as first aider and photographer.

## Fanatical about fitness cont...

**Year 5 took part in a cricket competition to earn lots of points for our houses.** We had to use skills including throwing accurately, being in the ready position and communicating as a team to win the most points. It was quite tricky at first but we worked as a team to see what everyone's strengths were. The scores at the end were quite even but I am hoping that my house wins!

**At Heatherlands, we have brought back our intra-school competitions!** The whole school compete in their year groups to win points for their houses with the potential to win the intra-school competition cup at the end of the term. The children are introduced to healthy competition and have the chance to team up with different children in the year groups. This encourages them to gain skills such as sportsmanship, **respect** and **motivation** throughout the year and it is lovely to see everyone cheering on everyone. **Keep up the great work Heatherlands!**



**We had an absolute blast at athletics!** The kids were amazing, we had a lot of fun, we were definitely the loudest and the most supportive school! Out of the four schools, we finished 3rd, but only 10 points behind 2nd and 20 points behind first! So, it was pretty tight.

Well done to all children who attended, they showed great **resilience** through the tricky events and were really **motivated** to do their best. **I couldn't be more proud, well done Heatherlands!**

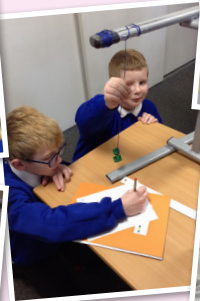




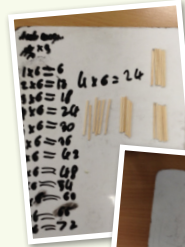
As part of British Science week in March, everyone in school completed some investigations related to this year's theme of 'time'. We also made pendulums and worked scientifically to investigate ways we could alter the time they took to swing; some of us made them longer and some of us made them heavier. As well as this, lots of us took part in a live lesson online where we had to ask famous celebrities and scientists some questions about fair testing. To finish, we were **aspirational** and explored some STEM carers, such as helping with space exploration or becoming a vet.



When the string is longer it goes faster.  
The weight of the ball makes it go faster.  
The weight of the string makes it go faster.  
The weight of the string makes it go faster.



In Year 4 we've been **motivated** learning our **different times tables each month**. Last month we were looking at the 6 times table and focusing on how we can recall, use and understand multiples of 6. One of our lessons focused on representing the 6 times table in different ways. We drew wasps, used counters, dienes, straws and whatever else we could find in the class to represent multiples of 6. Next we're going to move on to the 7 times table and we will be on the look out for interesting ways to count in 7s!



## Escapeline

### - keeping our children safe

**This week our year 5 and 6 children attended a workshop provided by Escapeline.** Escapeline is a charity committed to the prevention of the criminal and sexual exploitation of young people by gangs across South West England. For years, thousands of children have been exploited through the practice of County Lines, in which highly organised urban gangs take over provincial drugs markets. County Line gangs are increasing their operations to recruit local children who are as young as 6 years old from small towns like Poole and Bournemouth rather than the big cities. Sadly, South West England has been particularly targeted.

At Heatherlands Primary, we feel it's extremely important for the children to receive the education around County Lines in order to understand how they can keep themselves safe in the local community. This education for our children was provided by Escapeline in an age-appropriate way, specifically aimed at primary school children. There is a guide for parents and carers which provides compassionate, well-informed and non-judgmental advice and support.

**If you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.**



## Child Exploitation & County Lines

A Guide for Parents, Families and Carers

EDUCATING CHILDREN, FAMILIES  
AND PROFESSIONALS.  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH  
KNOWLEDGE AND STRATEGIES.  
PREVENTING EXPLOITATION.

[www.escapeline.org.uk](http://www.escapeline.org.uk)

## World Book Day

It feels like every day is 'Book Day' at Heatherlands as we enjoy sharing books and reading for pleasure with the children on a daily basis. Thank you to all the families that supported us on World Book Day, as the children's costumes looked amazing and very convincing!

### Great Big Read initiative

We were very excited to partner with Pop-Up Bookshop and the Great Big Read initiative again to fundraise for new books to benefit all children at Heatherlands Primary School. Over the last few years, we have raised a phenomenal £4,750 for extra books through our reading challenges and book fairs!

During the day, the children visited our pre-loved book fair to select a pre-loved title to keep at home! All pre-loved books were kindly donated from our school and wider community, with a large selection of titles to choose from.

### World Book Day - Diversity

On World Book Day, Year 5 looked at diversity within books. 'It is important that all children have an understanding of the world they are growing up in, having learned how to live alongside, and show **respect** for, a diverse range of people.' We became book detectives and looked at our book corners to compare male and female authors and illustrators, as well as the gender of the main characters. We were quite impressed that the books we examined were fairly even and were **respectful** of a diverse range of people. At Heatherlands, we understand that it is important that 'children should be able to recognise themselves and their circumstances so they can see their lived experiences validated and valued'.

We also looked at an alternative to Rapunzel (called Bropunzel) where a man in a tower lets down his long beard and is saved by the woman passing by. It was really funny and made us think of lots of examples in Disney movies.

### Potato Parade

For World Book Day this year, the children were asked to 'Dress a Potato' as a book character. We were delighted with the entries and a big thank you goes to parents and carers for supporting this event.



## Run free, Ralph

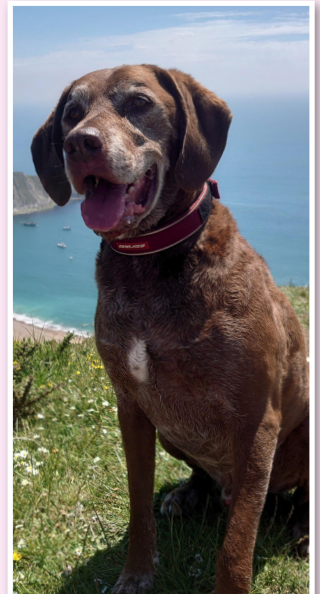
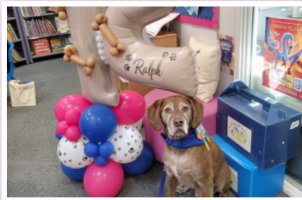
On the 23rd January, Ralph, our school therapy dog sadly passed away after a short illness. Ralph has been a member of school staff for several years and in that time he was able to support children coming into school, engaged with reading and supported the children with their **resilience**.



Whilst the school community handled Ralph's passing sensitively, there was nothing we could do to lessen the pain of losing our furry friend. Ralph was a big part of our school community and was well loved by all who knew him. There was a huge outpouring of love and Keren, Ralph's owner was overwhelmed by the thoughtful words and wishes that were sent to the family.

Ralph was our first therapy dog, and we will honour his legacy by building on his work in the future, but in the meantime, we would like to share a few of our memories of our furry friend, Ralph.

**RIP Ralph, know that you were loved ,  
now run free!**



## Helpful Hounds Assistance Dogs

Hello, my name is Hazel and this is my friend Cherry!

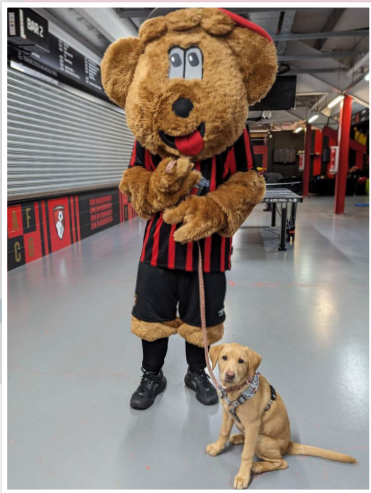
We are registered with the charity Helpful Hounds Assistance Dogs and are in training to become assistance dogs for a child or young person with a physical or mental health condition. As part of our training, we will be visiting Heatherlands Primary School to listen to readers, play in the Valley or just be there for you. We know Ralph did such an amazing job and we would like to learn too. With help from you, and our trainer (Ralph's mum) we would like to be as special as Ralph was.

A little about us, we are both Labradors, I am Hazel and I am 10 months old, I love playing in water, especially muddy puddles! I love learning tasks, such as opening doors and fetching items! Cherry is a little younger and only 3 months old. She loves exploring, jumping around, and loves learning new tasks and tricks!

We both live between Helpful Hound trainers, giving us lots of opportunities and new experiences, such as visiting your school! I will be visiting weekly on a Tuesday and Cherry will have short, less regular visits until she gets a little older.

Helpful Hounds Assistance Dogs is a charity partner with A.F.C. Bournemouth football club, with Cherry as the star dog, so keep an eye out for Cherry and other helpful hound dogs at pre-matches, also you will notice Cherry Bear's t-shirt shares our logo!

We look forward to meeting you all,  
Hazel and Cherry



# Heatherlands Voice News and Events

It is my privilege to work with an amazing group of children, who consistently demonstrate the Heatherlands Way. We meet every Wednesday lunchtime for our weekly meeting. I love hearing their ideas and thoughts about how to make Heatherlands even better for all the children. We have been very busy this year so far and the children want to share their news and upcoming ideas and events.

*Mrs Lloyd-Christie*

## Valentines Bake Sale

We had a very successful bake sale and we raised more than £200 for Helpful Hounds. Thank you all for your delicious cake donations and everyone's support with this event. **Ellie**



## Jimmy's Food Bank

All of your donations are helping to make a difference. By giving to Jimmy's Food Bank, it helps people in need that do not have enough money to buy food. People come every day to get small portions to help their families. The next Jimmy's Food Bank is in the summer term. Heatherlands Voice are very excited to carry on with our journey to help people. **Lilly**

## Friendship Buddies

Heatherlands Voice have created friendship buddies. This is a group of Year 5 children led by myself, Jessica. We are very keen to help children who feel sad or lonely or who have fallen out with their friends on the playground. We have special high viz jackets so children know where to go and who we are. It is great to help others in school. **Jessica**

## Litter Picking

The Heatherlands Voice have been busy every break and lunchtime litter picking, which helps the school to look clean and tidy. We get other children from different year groups to help keep our school looking amazing. **Lilly-Rose**



## Upcoming Ideas and Events

- Pyjama Day (£1 donation) - Friday 26th April - An idea from Evie Roberts in Sycamore class to raise money for the 'Bubble' to help support children with Autism.
- Jimmy's Food Bank Collection (Easter and summer term collections)
- 'Reading with Ralph' remembrance area in the Key Stage 2 Library
- Ice Lollies Sale will be returning in the Summer Term
- Cosy Shack development on the bottom playground

Sponsored Fun Run (date to be confirmed)

Play Equipment Consultation

Judging the EYFS Extreme Reading Challenge on 17th April

A big  
thank you to  
all the parents  
and carers...

Thank you to everyone for buying tickets for the Bournemouth Football raffle.

Thank you to everyone for bringing in cakes and biscuits for our Valentines Bake sale.

Thank you for buying ice-lollies at the beginning of the year.

In addition, a big thank you for everyone's support. *Ollie and Logan*

# 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.

