



Heatherlands
Primary School

'Churchill Chats'

Welcome back everyone! I do hope you were able to enjoy a lovely family Christmas and are ready to embrace 2025.

Most of us are familiar with January as the month that we firmly make our New Year's resolutions, only for them to fall by the wayside in February. For this reason, for most people in the Western world, January represents new beginnings.

However, January is the month of new beginnings for a more obscure reason; the name **January** itself means "new beginnings". "January" comes from the Latin *Ianuarius* meaning "month of Janus". *Janus* is the Roman guardian god of portals (doorways, gates, etc...) and transitions (beginnings, endings, time, etc...) Many of us would also have heard of Janus as he was said to have two heads because he "looks to the future and the past". Having 2 heads would definitely help when working in a school because, we really do all need 'eyes in the back of our heads' at times when looking after 630 children each day.



As we look towards another year, we are busy making plans at Heatherlands to improve all that we do for the benefit of the children and wider school community. We will over the year, continue to improve our school environment using the limited budget we have available to make the site even better, *so look out for the next set of improvements and developments*. We will also focus on strengthening our curriculum to offer all children the very best learning experiences we can through a commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum.

Finally, we will endeavour to work hard to continue to be the best local school we can be for everyone within the Heatherlands community, especially the children that we serve.

I do hope that 2025 will be a positive, productive and happy year for everyone.

Albert Einstein, said, learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.

Happy January!

Mr Churchill

Dates for your diary – January 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/>

SPRING TERM

WEEK 1

Monday 6th January 2025
BACK TO SCHOOL
Lulworth class SWIMMING 3
Tuesday 7th January 2025
Creature Teachers visit to EYFS
Wednesday 8th January 2025
Creature Teachers visit to EYFS
Open evening for prospective new entrants 3.30 – 4.30pm
Thursday 9th January 2025
Creature Teachers visit to EYFS
Y5/Y6 boys football match V Hamworthy 1.30pm HOME
Friday 10th January 2025
Year 2 library visit - Branksome
EYFS/Year 1 parent reading afternoon 2.45pm

WEEK 2

Monday 13th January 2025
Lulworth class SWIMMING 4
Thursday 16th January 2025
Swanage class assembly 9am HALL
Friday 17th January 2025
Year 2 parent reading afternoon 2.45pm

WEEK 3

Monday 20th January 2025
Lulworth class SWIMMING 5
Thursday 23rd January 2025
Meteor class assembly 9am HALL
Friday 24th January 2025
Year 3 parent reading afternoon 2.45pm

WEEK 4

Thursday 30th January 2025
Maple class assembly 9am HALL

Friday 31st January 2025
Year 4 parent reading afternoon 2.45pm
WEEK 5
Thursday 6th February 2025
Seashell class assembly 9am HALL
Friday 7th February 2025
Year 5 parent reading afternoon 2.45pm
WEEK 6
Thursday 13th February 2025
Comet class assembly 9am HALL
Tuesday 11th February 2025
Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12th February 2025
Year 4 Fairtrade sale 3pm
Friday 14th February 2025
Year 6 parent reading afternoon 2.45pm
Friends of Heatherlands Valentines discos
END OF TERM



Year group inquiry questions – January 2025

As a new year's resolution, the year teams are publishing weekly on their year group web pages. This is to keep you informed of the learning and activities taking place and will replace the monthly mini blogs.



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

Questions to ask: Why is Neil Armstrong famous?
Can you name a planet in the solar system?
What would you take if you travelled into space?
Can you name a nocturnal animal?

Year 1

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

Questions to ask: Can you find items around your house that are made from different materials - wood, metal, glass, plastic, plastic? Can you describe their properties (hard, bendy, shiny)?
What are the 5 main senses and which part of the body is associated with each?
How many old toys from the past can you name? What materials were they made from?

Year 2

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

Questions to ask: Can you write 3 different sentences using the conjunctions: but, because and so?
How is an Arctic hare adapted to its environment?
What clothes might you wear to Brazil and why?

Year 3

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

Questions to ask: What are the pros and cons of living near a volcano?
Who is Nick Rowland and what do you know about him?
What are the four different types of soil we have learnt about in Science?

Year 4

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

Questions to ask: What made Alfred the Great, 'great'?
Why were Viking longships different to other ships?
What is the quick and easy way of recalling your 9 times table?

Year 5

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

Questions to ask: What is longitude and latitude?
What can you tell me about the solar system?

What is parenthesis?

YEAR 6

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

Questions to ask: Why did the Victorians bring in bank holidays?
How could you tell if a piece of writing is formal or informal?
How could you avoid comma splicing?



Year group notices & requests– January 2025

- Year 5 need thick cardboard from cardboard boxes for the week commencing 3rd Feb if anyone has anything spare from Christmas. Thank you



Whole School Notices & Reminders – January 2025



Congratulations to Miss Doe (Year 5 Galaxy) who got married in the Christmas holidays. For information, she will continue to be known as Miss Doe in school; we hope she had a wonderful day.

Reading books

Please can you all have a good look at home for any reading books that belong to Heatherlands. We have spent thousands on our reading scheme but many of these books have disappeared and there are not enough for the children to choose from. Please return any books to school ASAP if you have any. Thank you.

Reading afternoons

Did you know that reading with your school child can significantly boost their success in school as well as their emotional well-being?

Sharing stories not only strengthens your bond but also enhances vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. It's a wonderful way to spark their imagination and curiosity about the world. Plus, it sets a positive example, showing them that reading is fun and valuable.

With that in mind, we invite you to join your children for the next round of reading afternoons, starting in January. Bring your child's favourite book to school to share together or take one from the selection in school, and enjoy the time you share.

The dates for the next half term are:

10.1.25 - EYFS and Year 1
17.1.25 - Year 2
24.1.25 - Year 3
31.1.25 - Year 4
7.2.25 - Year 5
14.2.25 - Year 6

Medication in school

Can we please remind parents/carers to ensure any **essential medication is dropped into the school office** and signed in. Children should not have medication in their bags. At the end of the day, please collect the medication from the office and sign it out. Thank you.

Easyfundraising

Just letting you know that Heatherlands Primary School is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/heatherlands-primary-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1

Thank you so much!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/heatherlands-primary-school>



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.

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.

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



Friends of Heatherlands – January 2025

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped, donated, attended and bought at the Christmas Fair! Also a thank you to United Taxis for sponsoring our sweet bags and to Gaby for making our Christmas themed games, did you see the amazing reindeer!! It was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. We raised an amazing £1500!!!

We had a great response to our Bags 2 school collection day. Lots of you donated your unwanted clothes. We raised £50 from the collection. We will look to do another collection in early spring so hang onto your old clothes.

Thank you to everyone who entered our gingerbread person / house colouring competition. Well done to the winners!!

Planning will commence soon for our 2025 events, please get in touch if you would like to get involved. Our first event will be the school disco on Friday 14th February.

If you would like to get involved, please follow our Facebook page or you can contact us at FOH@coastalpartnership.co.uk

We are always proud to celebrate the children of Heatherlands achievements outside of school. Please continue to send in photos and information for our monthly parent communications to the office email.

Thank you.



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.

As such staff have attended centrally SATs training to ensure year 6 staff can prepare the children the best they can for the statutory tests in May 2025, our science leader has attended the central science conference with leaders from our MAT schools where children's work was explored and celebrated. Our office team have also been able to attend important training to help in their roles, in particular when using management information systems. Mr Churchill and Mrs Lloyd-Christie also joined lots of CLP leaders and the Hampshire school improvement service as part of on- going training around the fundamentals of effective practice and leadership. We look forward to sharing further training and central collaboration in 2025.