



Heatherlands
Primary School

'Churchill Chats'



“March” is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. However, we traditionally think of it as the beginning of spring, as March brings the vernal equinox and the return of Daylight-Saving Time! We even start to get into the garden and attempt cutting the once soggy lawn.

March is traditionally a very optimistic month following the gloom of January and cold of February. Some of the highlights of March are as follows:

March 4 is Shrove Tuesday, which is the final feasting day before the Christian tradition of Lent begins on the following day. Ash Wednesday on March 5th marks the start of Lent. March 8 is International Women’s Day, which is a day that not only celebrates the achievements of women and the progress made toward women’s rights. *Having over 627 girls in our school, we very much support achievements of girls and women at Heatherlands.* March 9 is the start of Daylight Saving Time, which begins at 2:00 A.M. that day. If your area observes it, don’t forget to “spring forward” and set the clocks one hour ahead, or you may find yourself an hour late to everything! March 17 is St. Patrick’s Day. According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick’s Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity. March 20 brings about the March equinox—also called the vernal or spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere—marking the beginning of spring. In the Southern Hemisphere, this date marks the autumnal equinox and the beginning of fall. On this day, the Sun stands directly over Earth’s equator.

In school, March always brings a variety of highlights as we move towards the traditional Easter break. The highlight of March in school is always World Book Day where this year it should be bigger and better than ever before. The children love to get dressed up as their favourite characters and celebrate all that is great about books and reading. *At Heatherlands we certainly love reading so look out of this special event on March 6th.*

Mr Churchill

Hello March

M ay the early spring,
A waken your soul and
R emind you to
C elebrate the season with the
H ope and Joy it brings



OurMindfulLife.com

Dates for your diary – February 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 8

Monday 3rd March 2025
BOOK WEEK
Visiting author book sale from 3.15pm in Year 3
Wednesday 5th March 2025
Escapeline assembly/workshop Year 6
Thursday 6th March 2025
WORLD BOOK DAY/DRESS UP DAY
Lulworth class assembly 9am HALL
Pre loved drop & shop
Friday 7th March 2025
Year 2 Forest School Friday
Year 4 road safety session 2
Year 1 & 2 parent/child reading afternoon 2.45pm

WEEK 9

Monday 10th March 2025
Homework facts due in/COMMUNICATION WEEK
SCIENCE WEEK
Year 6 MOCK SATS week
Year 4 & 5 MOCK multiplication check week
Early Years parents evening 1 (booking only)
Tuesday 11th March 2025
Escapeline assembly/workshop Year 5
Wednesday 12th March 2025
Homework projects set due in 24 th March 2025
Early Years phonic Wednesday
Thursday 13th March 2025
Early Years parents evening 2 (booking only)
Friday 14th March 2025
Year 3 Forest School Friday
Early Years vision screening day
Year 3 & 4 parent/child reading afternoon 2.45pm

WEEK 10

Monday 17th March 2025
Year 1 & 2 MOCK phonics screen check

Year 6 height & weight checks
Thursday 20th March 2025
Early Years vision screening morning
Friday 21st March 2025
Year 4 Forest School Friday
Year 5 & 6 parent/child reading afternoon 2.45pm
WEEK 11
Monday 24th March 2025
Home learning projects due in
Y3 trip to Upton Country Park (Sycamore/Willow)
Tuesday 25th March 2025
Y3 trip to Upton Country Park (Maple)
Y5 Shakespeare in Schools festival at The Lighthouse
Wednesday 26th March 2025
Early Years phonic Wednesday
Friday 28th March 2025
Year 5 Forest School Friday
Homework projects open afternoon from 3pm
WEEK 12
Thursday 3rd April 2025
Reports for KS1 and KS2 children sent home
Break up for Easter at 1.15pm



Year group inquiry questions – March 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: Can you name three jungle animals?
 Why do camels have long eyelashes?
 What do scorpions do in the dark?

Year 1

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

Questions to ask:

Can you name and locate the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom using an atlas or globe?

What are considered the 'Big 5' animals in Africa?

Where is the Eiffel Tower? Which city is it in?

Year 2

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

Questions to ask: Can you make a list of human and physical features you might find at the beach?

What is the weather like in Poole compared to Namibia?

What are the steps you need to take to complete your goal?

Year 3

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

Questions to ask: Would a bumpy surface create less or more friction than a smooth surface and why?

Can you name any inventions from the Iron Age and remember why they were important?

If you were speaking to a king or queen, would you use formal or informal language? Can you give some examples?

Year 4

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

Questions to ask: What is the impact of Fairtrade on Fairtrade farmers?

What are human and physical features?

Who is the Iron Man?

Year 5

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

Questions to ask: What can we do to protect the world from climate change?

What is the greenhouse effect?

What is Lichen and what does it show?

Year 6

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

Questions to ask: What was the name of the Prime Minister during World War Two?

Can you recall what happened during The Blitz?

What are the four chambers of the human heart called?



Year group notices & requests– March 2025



Phonic Wednesdays in EYFS are: Wednesday 12th March and Wednesday 26th March. Hope to see you there if you can make it.

This half-term, the children will be learning about of Holi, the ‘Festival of Colours’, which is an important festival in the Sanatana Dharma calendar (formerly known as Hinduism). On **Friday 14th March** the EYFS children will have a colourful party, of paint throwing and Indian food tasting. More details will follow but be prepared - it gets messy!!!!



Year 3

Upton Country Park Trip reminder. Please ensure you have completed the Google form to give your child permission to attend the trip.

- Sycamore and Willow Trip 24th March
- Maple Trip 25th March

Year 4

Just a reminder to all parents to make sure that you return the form for your child to go to Brownsea Island after the Easter holidays. If you can help on the trip, make sure you identify this on the form and your child's class teacher will get in contact with you closer to the time. If you have any questions about the trip, please speak to your child's teacher.

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.



Whole school notices & reminders – March 2025

Parents evenings

Early Years parents' evenings will be taking place on Monday 10th March and Thursday 13th March. Bookings will go live on 24.2.25. All other parents' evenings will take place in April/May after reports go home. Booking information will be sent out in advance.

World Book Week

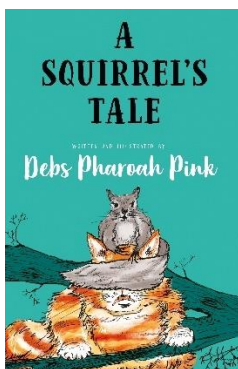
We are celebrating World Book Day 2025 on 6 March. This year we are asking you to **Read Your Way** celebrating the reading that your child chooses to do in their free time without judgement.



Visiting authors

We are really excited to welcome 2 visiting authors to Heatherlands on Monday 3rd March.

Debs Pharoah Pink will be visiting Year 3 and Andreina Cordani will be visiting Year 6



Debs will also be selling her new book 'A Squirrels Tale' from the year 3 classrooms afterschool for £8.99. The book is for 4-8yr olds and is available to anyone who would like to buy a signed copy (cash or card!)



On Thursday 6th March we will have our 'dress up day', where the children can dress up as a character from their favourite book. **£1 recommended donation to Friends of Heatherlands.**

We are also excited to welcome back Vanessa from the 'Pop up book shop', who will be running a '**pre loved book drop & shop**', for the children during the day. <https://popupbookshop.net/schools-nurseries/at-my-school/heatherlands-primary-school/>

To support us with the '**pre loved book drop & shop**', please have a look at home and see if you have any books you would like to donate to the school. If you have any children's books you would like to donate, please bring them into school and we will be happy to let another child choose from these books to take home.



Every week we are setting up a 'multiplication battle' for the children to compete in year groups against each other on Emile. <https://emile-education.com/app-downloads/student-log-in-access-app-or-online/>

Every child from Year 2 up has a log in and are used to using the programme to learn, practice and test their times tables.

Battles will start on a Friday and last until the following Thursday, giving plenty of time for everyone to take part. Please support your child by reminding and enabling them to take part. Every child who enters the battle receives a certificate and the 'multiplication masters' in each year group for the battle get a badge and certificate.

Thank you for your support.

<https://emile-education.com/log-in-to-emile-resources/>

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

<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.

The side gates into school will now be closed after the 8am pick up from the front gates. If you are late for a Breakfast Lounge pick up, please drop your child off at the office. Thank you.

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 – March 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Valentine's disco a great success. The FOH team for organising, the parent helpers for playing 'bouncers', the two fab DJ's, the teachers and staff that came along and showed off their best dance moves, the children for coming along and of course the parents for bringing them. We all had a great time!!!

Next up we have our Quiz night on Friday 25th April. Tickets will be on sale soon, look out for further information in the following weeks.

Planning for our Summer Fair on Friday 11th July starts this month. We will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 18th March 7.30pm at The Barking Cat. Please do come along if you would like to be involved in the planning, have any ideas or can support us in any way. The more people involved the bigger it will be!!!

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



Staffing news

After 18 years as Site Manager of Heatherlands, David Coleman has decided to hang up his keys and retire at the end of the spring term. His last working day with us will be April 3rd.

Dave, as he is known to us, has been responsible for helping to maintaining the large site and ensuring it is a safe place for children to learn. Dave has worked with leaders over the years to really improve the school site with key developments such as the early years outside area, the Valley and Space Net to name but a few.

We wish Dave well, as he winds down just a bit because he has assured us he has plenty of jobs he has to complete at home and return to his love of music and playing the guitar. Small known fact, Dave was once in a pop group and played on Top Of The Pops!

As we say goodbye to Dave, I am delighted to share that we have appointed Mr Sam Flint as our new Site Manager. Sam who currently works for BCP will be joining Heatherlands around Easter time. Please feel free to engage with Sam and say hello, I know he would welcome that as he settles into a new role and community.



Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP)

Heatherlands has a close working relationship with our school partners and multi academy trust (CLP) which helps the school to stay at the forefront of what is happening both locally and nationally to help secure best practice for the children and community it serves.

As such, many school staff has engaged in central training and supported visits to Heatherlands from partnership schools to explore what do well here, in particular in the early years which is recognised as having areas of strong practice. This was recognised by CLP and the Hampshire improvement service during accountability visits.

Over the past 5 years, Heatherlands has built a trusting and productive working relationship with CLP, which is essential at a time of real change and challenge in the education sector, in particular with our access to expert HR, finance and school operations management.