



Heatherlands
Primary School

'Churchill Chats'

As we step into March, there's a real sense of renewal around the school. The brighter mornings, the splashes of bright yellow that the presence of daffodils bring, with first signs of spring lifting everyone's spirits, with the children continuing to bring lots of energy, curiosity and kindness to school each day. *We continue to recognise that the children of Heatherlands remain the strength and purpose and heart of the school.*

Across the school, children continue to work hard to make social, emotional and academic progress in all that they do. School staff remain encouraged by the on-going efforts the children put in each day to try and be better and to demonstrate the school values within their individual learning journey. It is also lovely to see so many children taking pride in their achievements. As parents and carers your on-going support at home—whether through reading, conversations about school, or just simple encouragement—*continues to make a huge difference how children respond and achieve in school each day.*

We know in school, March is always a busy month with some key highlights to include:

- **World Book Day**, celebrating our love of reading and imagination, on **March 5th**
- Preloved book sale on **March 3rd**
- Heatherlands Voice Easter Egg Hunt after school on **March 26th**



Can I take this opportunity to offer a few gentle reminders that regular attendance really supports children's confidence, friendships and learning. We're grateful for your ongoing efforts to ensure children are in school and ready to learn and smartly presented in the correct school uniform and should your child or you need any additional wellbeing support, please do reach out—as ever we're here to help. *At Heatherlands we place great importance on a positive and productive home and school partnership because together is always stronger!*

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, we're already preparing a range of exciting opportunities for our children, including trips, performances and enrichment activities. We look forward to sharing more information as the second half of the Spring Term unfolds.

Finally, just a gentle reminder that the school breaks for its traditional Easter break on March 27th at 1.15, where I hope everyone will get chance to relax to spend some quality family time, get outside and maybe eat just a little bit of chocolate – I know the Easter Bunny is very active in BH12.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support. It's a privilege to work with your children each day and within the Heatherlands wider school community.

Mr Churchill

Dates for your diary – March 2026

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 7

Monday 23rd February 2026
BACK TO SCHOOL
Tuesday 24th February 2026
8.30 – 9am EYFS/KS1 View your child's work/shared reading
Heatherlands Parenting Partnership Course 6 INVITATION ONLY
Wednesday 25th February 2026
Home learning set
8.30 – 9am KS2 View your child's work/shared reading
Year 2 library walk
9am Starfish, 10am Seashell, 1pm Coral
2pm Year 5 & 6 athletics competition
Friday 27th February 2026
Year 1 Forest School Friday
2.30pm Year 1 volunteers meeting – road safety

WEEK 8

Monday 2nd March 2026
World Book Week 2026
EYFS height & weight checks
2- 3pm Parent workshops Relationships & Sex Education STUDIO
Tuesday 3rd March 2026
Preloved book sale £2 donation
Wednesday 4th March 2026
Class photos
Year 5 Shakespeare rehearsal – Lighthouse Theatre am
Year 5 class photos pm
Year 5 Shakespeare performance 7pm Lighthouse Theatre
Thursday 5th March 2026
World Book Day Dress Up Day
Friday 6th March 2026
Lulworth class assembly 9am STUDIO
Year 2 Forest School Friday
Year 1 road safety session 1

WEEK 9

Monday 9th March 2026
SCIENCE WEEK
Home learning due in/COMMUNICATION WEEK
Tuesday 10th March 2026
Year 6 MOCK SATS week
Wednesday 11th March 2026
Home learning projects set
2.45pm Indoor athletics competition
Friday 13th March 2026
Year 3 Forest School Friday
Seashell class assembly 9am STUDIO
EYFS Holi celebration
Year 1 road safety session 2

WEEK 10

Tuesday 17th March 2026
Year 3 trip to Upton Country Park Sycamore class
School nurse drop ins APPOINTMENTS ONLY
Wednesday 18th March 2026
Year 6 Knife crime workshops
Thursday 19th March 2026
Year 3 trip to Upton Country Park Willow class
Friday 20th March 2026
Year 3 trip to Upton Country Park Maple class
Year 4 Forest School Friday
Waterlily class assembly 9am STUDIO
Year 1 road safety session 2

WEEK 11

Monday 23rd March 2026
Home learning projects due in
Year 4 and Year 5 MOCK Multiplication check week
Year 1 and Year 2 MOCK Phonics check week
Year 5 and Year 6 Escapeline assembly 1pm
Wednesday 25th March 2026
Heatherlands Voice easter egg hunt 3.15pm
Thursday 26th March 2026
Year 5 Forest School Friday
Home learning project open afternoon 3pm
Heatherlands Voice easter egg hunt 3.15pm
Friday 27th March 2026
Non uniform day
Values assembly 9am STUDIO by INVITE

Young carers Easter party HALL
Annual reports out for KS1 and KS2 via email
End of term 1.15pm



Questions to ask your child – March 2026

The year teams publish on their year group web pages to keep you informed of the activities taking place and to enable you to ask your children questions about their learning. We also publish homework on these pages and all knowledge organisers are referenced at the top of each year group page. Have a look at our new look school website at

www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk



<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/page/?title=EYFS+blog+posts&pid=250>

Is this animal nocturnal or diurnal? How do you know?



→ What do its eyes/body tell us?

→ When do you think it sleeps?

Odd One Out - Why?



There can be more than one right answer

Can you name a mammal you learned about at school? What makes it a mammal?

Year 1

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+1+blog+posts&pid=247>

Can you name the 4 countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom?

Looking at a map of the UK, can you name any of the surrounding seas?

What happens to the weather in winter? Why are there less plants?

Year 2

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=237&nid=10>

What did people do to try to stop the fire?

How did London change after the fire was over?

How would London be different if a fire like the Great Fire of London happened today?

Year 3

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=238&nid=11>

Why did the Romans build so many straight roads across their empire?

- a) To make travel faster for soldiers and messengers
- b) To decorate the countryside
- c) Because they didn't know how to build curvy roads

Why did the Romans invade Britain?

- a) Because they wanted to explore new beaches
- b) Because Britain had valuable resources like metals
- c) Because they were lost and ended up there by accident

Why did Roman soldiers need to be very well-trained?

- a) Because battles were dangerous and required teamwork
- b) Because they wanted to win prizes
- c) Because they liked marching for fun

Year 4

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=239&nid=12>

How does climate change affect the Fairtrade farmers?

Am I correct? $134 + 356 = 480$. What strategy did you use to solve the calculation?

What type of clause needs to follow a fronted adverbial with a comma?

Year 5

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+5+blog+posts&pid=248>

What can you do at home to help prevent climate change?

Tell me all about Ernest Shackleton, his crew and his expedition on Antarctica.

Can you create a recipe for our dinner for less than £5? Budget your ingredients and then buy them in the store. How much change will you get?

Year 6

<https://www.heatherlands.poole.sch.uk/blog/?pid=241&nid=13>

What do you think it might have felt like for children who were evacuated and had to leave their homes and families behind?

Why do you think Anne Frank's diary is such an important historical source, and what does it help us understand about life during World War II?

How do you think people managed to stay safe and keep going with their daily lives during the Blitz?



Information & Requests– March 2026



PSHE – Jigsaw ‘Healthy Me’ (Spring 2)

During Spring 2, our PSHE Jigsaw theme across the school is **‘Healthy Me’**. Learning is delivered in an age- and stage-appropriate way for each year group through the Jigsaw programme.

If you would like to view the published materials, these can be accessed through the **Jigsaw Parent Access** feature. Your unique access code can be obtained from your child’s class teacher, allowing you to view the RSHE materials for 2026 for the specific Jigsaw puzzle being taught, in this instance **‘Healthy Me’**.

We would also like to invite all parents to a **Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) information meeting on Monday 2nd March at 2:00pm** in the **school studio**. This meeting will outline some upcoming changes to RSHE provision. Further details will be shared in a letter during the first week back after half-term, as we engage with you about the changes being implemented in line with statutory guidance.

Alongside these changes, we will also be emailing out the **‘Healthy Me’ knowledge organiser** for your child’s year group. As always, we value your opinion and are committed to working closely with you in a transparent and reassuring way.

Clarifying the difference between friendship issues and bullying

We are often asked what the difference between friendship issues and bullying is, so we thought we would share the definition:

“Bullying is defined by repeated, intentional harm, featuring a power imbalance where the victim cannot easily defend themselves. In contrast, friendship issues are generally conflict-based, accidental, or equal-sided, involving disagreements where remorse is often shown. Bullying causes ongoing distress, while friendship issues involve navigating social skill development.”



Thank you for all your support with reading at home, times tables and spellings.

Please remember that children need to bring their spelling booklets into school every Friday.

We are sending the children home with their Mathathon scores each week - this is simply to show you how they are getting on. Don't forget to use EMILE for times tables games and practise.

If possible, please send in a healthy snack each day for morning play (fruit, vegetables).

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.

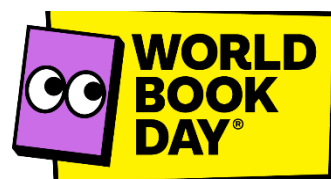
Whole school notices & reminders – March 2026

National Storytelling Week/World Book Week March 2 – 6th 2026 Advanced notice.



In 2026 National Storytelling Week takes place **31 January - 8 February** and is a celebration of the power of sharing stories.

World Book Day will take place on **Thursday 5 March, 2026** and is a worldwide celebration of books and reading. This day will be a book character dress up day.



On Tuesday 3rd March, we will be running a preloved

book event for all children during the day. There will be an opportunity for all children to visit the sale and purchase a book. We do ask for a donation of £1 towards this event and all donations will be added to our book fund which is managed by the 'Pop Up Bookshop' (see attached). If you have any books that you are willing to donate to the school, please can you bring them in as soon as possible. Thank you.

The importance of reading

We'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the vital role that regular reading at home plays in your child's academic progress and overall development.

Decades of educational research consistently shows that children who read frequently outside of school make significantly stronger progress across the curriculum. Regular reading strengthens vocabulary, improves comprehension, supports writing development, and deepens general knowledge. In fact, *reading* is one of the strongest predictors of long-term academic success across all subjects—not just English.

Reading Books Aligned to Your Child's Level

Every child should currently have reading books that match their assessed reading level. This means they *should* be able to decode most of the text independently. Reading independently is important for building fluency, confidence, and stamina. However, children also benefit enormously from reading aloud to an adult whenever possible. This helps them practise expression, develop deeper understanding, and gain valuable feedback.

Supporting Reading Through Bug Club

While we are mindful of screen time, our online 'Bug Club' platform provides a safe, structured way for children to access a wide range of texts perfectly matched to their reading level. The embedded comprehension questions help strengthen children's understanding—an essential part of becoming a confident and capable reader.

A healthy balance of physical and digital reading is absolutely fine, and in the long term it does *not* negatively affect progress. If your child is using a tablet, using it for reading is a genuinely positive choice. The key factor is consistency.

Tips for Encouraging Reading at Home

Here are a few simple ways to build strong reading habits:

- Make reading part of the daily routine—even 10 minutes each day has an impact.
- Listen to your child read aloud, and ask a few questions to check understanding.
- Let children see you reading—children model the behaviours they observe.
- Talk about books together: favourite characters, predictions, new words.
- Re-read familiar books—this builds fluency and confidence.
- Use Bug Club when you need a quick, accessible reading option.
- Celebrate effort, not perfection—positive experiences build motivation.

Regular reading—whether through printed books or Bug Club—provides your child with a strong foundation for success throughout their schooling. Your support at home makes a meaningful difference, and we greatly appreciate the time you give to help your child develop this crucial lifelong skill. If you have any questions or would like advice on supporting reading at home, please do get in touch.

Easyfundraising

As you know, 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 – March 2026

Thank you to all the children, staff and parents who helped our Valentine disco run so smoothly!! All the children had a great time, and they certainly have some great dance moves!!

We'd like to say a special thank you to Mr Arrowsmith for being the Heatherlands DJ for all 4 discos!!! Also to Zoe & Richard for letting us use their disco equipment.

We made £1300!!

Our next event will be our Quiz night on Friday 8th May. This is for adults only so get the babysitters booked!! Tickets will be on sale in early March.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th March, 7.30pm at The Barking Cat. We will start to plan the Summer Fair so please do come along.

♥ **Contact Us at friendsofheatherlands@gmail.com**

If you'd like to be involved with the PTA — whether it's helping behind the scenes, supporting at events, or spreading the word — we'd love to hear from you.

✦ The more help we have, the bigger and better our events will be! ✦



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.