



Heatherlands
Primary School

'Churchill Chats'

February remains a month full of memories for me, partly because as a child it was my mum's birthday and, as she is a twin, it was always somewhat different and special. My mum celebrates her 87th birthday this year and, as they say in Wales, *Penblwydd hapus, Mum!*

February 6th, 2019, was also the date I was appointed Headteacher of Heatherlands. This was both a proud and life-changing moment for me personally. As a child growing up in Cardiff, it would never have crossed my mind that I would one day be leading one of the biggest primary schools in Poole! I was convinced I was going to play football or become a radio commentator. I suppose we find out, eventually, that life is anything but predictable.

February is also a month that signals we are through January, which is always a relief, because I think we all agree that January is a very hard month—particularly as it follows the highs of Christmas.

It also tells us that the milder, better weather is just around the corner. The warmer weather and sunshine always help things feel a little brighter.

February is the month of our half-term holiday in schools—a time for us all to take a break and enjoy some rest and relaxation. However, due to seasonal changes, it is now harder to predict the weather, which can be anything from rain and sleet to bright sunshine. Let us hope that this February half term brings us plenty of sunshine.

February also sees Valentine's Day, when we let people know just how much they mean to us. And being the shortest month of the year simply emphasises how special February truly is. When I talk to Heatherlands children throughout the term, they often tell me just how much they LOVE coming to school. This is really reassuring—it lets us know that we must be doing something right.

Johnson (2026) says that in a world of such uncertainty, February allows us to make love our superpower.

When it comes, have a lovely half-term break, everyone.



Mr Churchill

Dates for your diary – February 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 5

Monday 2nd February 2026
Year 2 Great Fire of London Day
Swanage class SWIMMING 4
Tuesday 3rd February 2026
Heatherlands Parenting Partnership Course 4 INVITATION ONLY
Poppy, Maple and Kimmeridge class Jigsaw visit (am)
Wednesday 4th February 2026
Home learning Topic quiz set
Thursday 5th February 2026
TUCK SHOP 3.15pm
Friday 6th February 2026
Willow class assembly 9am STUDIO
Interhouse cross country competition ALL IN PE KITS
Year 1 and Year 5 parent reading afternoon 2.45pm

WEEK 6

Monday 9th February 2026
Home learning Topic quiz due in
Swanage class SWIMMING 5
Heatherlands Voice Valentines Bake Sale 3pm
Tuesday 10th February 2026
Heatherlands Parenting Partnership Course 5 INVITATION ONLY
Early Years vision screening
Thursday 12th February 2026
Non uniform day
Valentines discos
2.15pm EYFS
Y1/Y2 3.30 – 4.15pm
Y3/Y4 4.30 – 5.15pm
Y5/Y6 5.30 – 6.15pm
Friday 6th February 2026
Values assembly 9am STUDIO INVITATION ONLY
Early Years vision screening
Y4 Fairtrade sale 3pm

HALF TERM

WEEK 7

Monday 23rd February 2026
BACK TO SCHOOL
Tuesday 24th February 2026
Heatherlands Parenting Partnership Course 6 INVITATION ONLY
Wednesday 25th February 2026
Home learning set
Friday 27th February 2026
Year 1 Forest School
2.30pm Year 1 volunteers meeting – road safety

WEEK 8

Monday 2nd March 2026
EYFS Holi celebration
World Book Week 2026
Tuesday 3rd March 2026
Preloved book sale £1 donation
Wednesday 4th March 2026
Class photos
Thursday 5th March 2026
World Book Day Dress Up Day
Friday 6th March 2026
Lulworth class assembly 9am STUDIO
Year 2 Forest School
Year 1 road safety session 1



Questions to ask your child – February 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.



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

Could a polar bear and a penguin ever be friends? Explain your answer
What do you call the animal that hunts and the animal that is the hunted?
Can you name three different animal habitats?

Year 1

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

What is the difference between a human geographical feature and a physical geographical feature?
Can you name one of each?
Can you name the countries and capital cities of the UK?
Who was Grace Darling? Why is she a heroine?

Year 2

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

Which materials are used in everyday objects around your house?
What was it like in 1666 compared to today?
What are the four sentence types? Give an example.

Year 3

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

Which period of the Stone Age is the 'Middle Stone Age'?

- Palaeolithic
- Mesolithic
- Neolithic

If you know that $5 + 2 = 7$, then you know that $50 + 20 = 70$ and that $500 + 200 = 700$.

- So, if you know that $4 + 4 = 8$, then what else do you know?

Look around your home and tell your parents / adults what 'push' forces and 'pull' forces happen in your home everyday. (eg: 'pushing a door open' or 'pulling curtains open')

Push

Pull

Year 4

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

What is the Fairtrade Premium and what is this money used for?

How do you know when to use either 'a' or 'an' before a noun?

What is 6,259 rounded to the nearest 10? To the nearest 100? To the nearest 1000?

Year 5

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

What can you tell me about the planets in the solar system?

What can we do to help reduce our energy usage?

Why does Antarctica only have two seasons and why during some parts of the year is it in total darkness?

Year 6

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

What were some of the main causes of World War II, and how did they lead to the war starting?

Can you tell me about what life was like for children during World War II, such as those who were evacuated?

Who were the Axis and the Allies during World War II?



Information & Requests– February 2026

Year 1 Week beginning 3rd February Year 1 will be making a 'fruity surprise' (fruit kebab/salad) as part of our DT topic which also directly links to our English learning on Handa's Surprise. We will send out an email nearer the time with a list of fruit that will be available for the children to choose from to make their fruity surprise. If your child has any allergies to the listed fruit, please let the office team know. Thank you. Mr Coakes

Year 4 Swanage Class are now enjoying their swimming lessons at Rossmore Leisure Centre each Monday. Please can you remember to send your child into school with their swimming kit, including goggles for all children and a hat for any children with long hair. Many thanks.

In addition, please also ensure that your child is practicing their times tables regularly in preparation for the Multiplication Check in early June. We could tell that many children had been practicing over the Christmas break, so thank you! Keep your eyes peeled for the Sunday battles across Year 4.

Year 5 Year 5 will need thick cardboard and empty shoeboxes by the 6th February as we are making wind turbines on 13th February. Please can you begin to save this for us.

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.



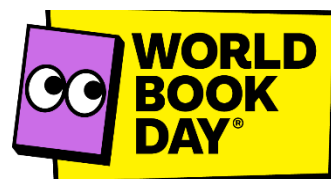
Whole school notices & reminders – February 2026

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.

With that in mind, we invite you to join your children for the last of the current planned reading afternoons. 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 remaining dates for February are:

6.2.26 – Year 1 and Year 5 from 2.45pm

Young Voices at the O2.

Well done to the Young Voices choir who performed at the O2 arena along with 8,000 other children from across the country. The children represented Heatherlands brilliantly and showed great resilience on what was a very long day of rehearsals and performances. Thanks to all the parents and carers who supported and those who came along to watch. We hope you also had an amazing time.



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 – February 2026

Heatherlands Disco - Thursday 12th February

We are very excited about our up and coming Valentines disco!!

Early Years – 2.30pm-3pm *Early Years do not need to complete a permission form or pay*

Year 1 & 2 – 3.30pm-4.15pm

They will be taken to the disco by a member of staff, parents do not need to collect them from school first.

Year 3 & 4 – 4.30pm-5.15pm

Year 5 & 6 – 5.30pm-6.15pm

Further information will be sent out closer to the time about drop off and collections. This year the disco will take place in the hall for two-year groups at one time.

Please use the link below to complete the permission for your child to go. Payment can be made via the link or by handing cash into the office.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSds-fTuhs0qN2saj9yfnW0XldumbQDDbRR5ZmZl1IGMuDm74A/viewform?usp=sharing>

♥ **Contact Us** If you can help at the disco, please click the times on the form or email 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.

