

# HEAGE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2

## MESSAGE FROM MRS HALLAM

This term has been very busy and we have yet again we have made some incredible steps forward in Teaching and Learning, Pupil Leadership and much more. I am delighted to say it won't be stopping there – there is much more to come in the Summer Term. Dates for the many things happening will be at the end of this newsletter, on the school website and also on Dojo – we do this so that we can do our very best to ensure no one misses anything. Thank you to all our wonderful families in the school community for your ongoing support as we continue to work on making Heage Primary the best we can be. Have a wonderful break and we are looking forward to an amazing Summer Term.

## WRITING PROGRESS

This academic year we have had a strong focus on writing and improving standards. Staff have had training on the best ways in which to teach writing and this is already proving to be very successful.

Mrs Cottrell – our English Lead – has been very impressed when monitoring in classes and looking in books. She has also been delighted to hear so much positivity from the children about writing, this is a change from this time last year! A Y6 came to me yesterday with his writing and I quote 'I can't believe this time last year I didn't like writing and didn't know what to do, now I can't wait to publish!'

We still have a term to go and we are confident that the outcomes and enjoyment of writing will go from strength to strength as we continue to use best practise.

## PUPIL LEADERSHIP

Growing the leaders of tomorrow is incredibly important to us at Heage. Opening up opportunities for our children to have increased responsibilities within school not only re-enforces their sense of belonging it also gives them skills they will need in the future.

Our House and Vice Captains had to write a letter of application and then attend an interview. The children loved (after being a little nervous) the experience as they got to wear their own clothes and know what it was like to think on their feet. They were all amazing and it was a difficult decision. I have met with the House/Vice Captains and we have plans for Dojo points, attendance, rewards and much more. After the break we will also be introducing Well Being Heroes and an Eco Group. All of these children will be making a difference within school and we are hoping this also impacts the local community. Watch out on Dojo, Facebook and the website for more information on what they are up to!

## COMIC RELIEF

A huge highlight for this term was Comic Relief! What a fabulous day that was filled with colour, laughter, music, orienteering and fundraising. It really felt like the whole school community had come together for a common goal and it brought so much joy. We got to use our new 'boom box' and we had some parents singing along too at the end of the day. We raised a staggering £520 – the children were delighted and it will make such a difference to the lives of others – thank you for being so generous and kind. We will be asking our children in September which charities they would like to raise money for next year so you know in advance.

## INSET DAYS

We have set 4 of our INSET days for 25/26 and we are also looking into 26/27 which will also confirm by the end of this academic year. These will also be on our website.

Academic Year 25/26

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

Remaining INSET TBC

## SUSTAINABILITY

As mentioned above we are growing our Pupil Leadership with Eco Leaders. Mrs Clark has taken on the role of Sustainability lead within school and she is buzzing with ideas and there is lots to do!

First step is RECYCLING, we will be having new bins that will be launched after Easter. As we will be separating food waste from normal waste. This means that all children who are packed lunch will need to take their rubbish home with them. We will explain this to the children after the holidays.

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## UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

On the whole majority of our children come to school in the expected uniform requirements and we thank our parents for making this possible. Uniform is an important part of belonging, showing we are a team and also showing our children that there are rules to follow.

We are sadly seeing more children coming into school in the incorrect uniform such as trainers instead of school shoes, jumpers that are the wrong colour and also PE Kit that isn't as stated in the uniform requirements.

We have also had children coming into school with nail varnish, false nails, temporary tattoos and other hair accessories that are not appropriate for school. This is for health and safety reasons and also it isn't part of our uniform policy. These things should be kept for school holidays/weekends and removed in time for starting back at school.

We deliberately do not specify for branded clothing as we are aware of cost therefore our PTFA have a 'hardly used' service where you can get PE Kit and other uniform items for as little as a £1.

Our PTFA are very discrete surrounding uniform sales however, if you feel you would rather contact us for your needs please e-mail [info@heage.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@heage.derbyshire.sch.uk) FAO of Mrs Saint. Mrs Saint will then contact you and arrange to support.

Uniform requirements can be found on our website.

## KS1 BAGS AND TOYS

Whilst we are fully aware, as many of us are parents ourselves, how lovely it is to start the new school year with a pencil case, new bag etc. We are asking our FS2 and KS1 children NOT to bring rucksacks, and pencil cases and toys into school from September.

The reason for this is that the children only need their book bag, reading record, water bottle and PE kit at the beginning of each half term. If your child brings in a packed lunch this needs to be in a separate small lunch bag as they get put into a box out of the cloakroom. Our cloakrooms are only small and it means that children often struggle for space. We need our children to be independent and this means carrying their own things which is easier when they less to carry.

We are aware that on a Forest School day they will have an additional bag for Woods kit but in the main we need to keep our cloakrooms a tidy and safe place so we would appreciate your co-operation on this.

This will come into effect from September but we wanted you to know now so you can talk to your child about it.

## ENRICHMENT

This term has seen us continue to offer more enrichment opportunities for our children. We feel that we are well on the way to ensuring our children have the opportunities they may have previously missed out on. We will not be stopping here and next academic year will see these trips/experiences develop further along with the aim to have these organised way in advance.

This term Y5 have had an overnight residential to Mount Cook – all the children were absolutely amazing and had the best time – we had very tired faces the next day especially the staff! Next term Y3 and Y4 are off to Cromford Mills and FS2, Y1 and Y2 parents should have received their letter regarding the trip in June – very exciting times! Y3 and Y4 also have a Camp Night at school in the diary, again another opportunity for our children to develop their resilience and other skills needed in later life. Y6 will have their trip to Lea Green which I know will be amazing for them as they embark on the last stint of Primary education. None of the residential would be possible without the staff we have, who are willing to give up their own family time, I am sure you appreciate them as much as I do.

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## PARENTS EVENING

Parents Evening was a huge success again and I am grateful that our parents/carers are able to have professional conversations with our teaching staff.

It is a great opportunity to tell you all the positives but can also be difficult to be honest and discuss possible areas that we feel your child needs to work on. But thankfully we have a great parent body that knows this is part of our role.

Working in partnership with our families is crucial in ensuring our children can be the best they can be day in day out, now and in the future.

If you didn't manage to make Parents Evening, teachers have been asked to contact you at a convenient time so we can ensure you are updated on how well your child is doing along with any support that can be given at home to help.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

This term has seen us opening up our learning environments to get our parents/carers involved with the learning that is happening. We had some amazing feedback on this and Y4 parents were particularly taken back when they had to do the Y4 multiplication check! Lots of parents have said that it has really helped them understand the expectations that are placed on children in schools and how much there is to learn. We will be doing 'Learning Together' sessions again next year – termly and at different times of the day.

As requested by some parents, we will also be sending out the end of year expectations for each year group at the 'Meet the Teacher Session' on **2<sup>nd</sup> July 3.30pm to enable parents to know what the children will be expected to know by the end of the year.**

## SUMMER TERM DATES

22<sup>nd</sup> April – Back to school  
24<sup>th</sup> April – Y6 SATS meeting for parents 5–530pm  
30<sup>th</sup> April – Y3 & Y4 Cromford Mill trip  
9<sup>th</sup> May – Y3 Camp Night  
12<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup> May – Y6 SATs week  
13<sup>th</sup> May – Circus comes to Heage Primary School (PTFA event)  
19<sup>th</sup> May – Y6 Lea Green meeting for parents 5–530pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> June – Y6 Residential to Lea Green  
3<sup>rd</sup> June – FS2/Y1 and Y2 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

10<sup>th</sup> June – Y5 & Y6 Bikeability  
11<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day (more info to follow)  
12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June – Y6 Bikeability  
13<sup>th</sup> June – Groups and Leavers photos  
13<sup>th</sup> June – FS2 (Froggatt class assembly) 9am  
13<sup>th</sup> June – Y4 Camp Night  
16<sup>th</sup> June – Derby Uni Drama group in for Y6  
23<sup>rd</sup> June – INSET Day  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Heage Primary Transition Days (more info to follow)  
2<sup>nd</sup> July – Meet the Teacher Session 3.30pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> July – Last day of academic year  
24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET

\*We will try and keep the dates but some may need to change. In this event we will inform you asap.

### Year 6

Mrs Roberts and Mrs Hallam will be sending out a separate 'on a page' for Y6 parents as we have much more information for you on the exciting Summer Term but for now.....

Parents Save The Date  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 1:45pm  
Children Save The Date  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
4:30pm – 6pm