

Happenings at Heage

Sporting Stars

So far this year, some of our pupils have represented the school brilliantly in a series of athletics events held at Alfreton Leisure Centre. Years 1 and 2 showed fantastic enthusiasm and teamwork, giving their best in every event and cheering each other on throughout the evening. Years 3 and 4 impressed everyone with their determination and resilience. Finally, Years 5 and 6 demonstrated great sportsmanship and strong performances making the school proud with their effort and positive attitude. It has been a wonderful start to the sporting year.

We have some exciting sports competitions and afterschool clubs coming up next term. Tag Rugby afterschool club for KS2 on Fridays and Basketball afterschool club for years 5 and 6 each Wednesday. As we head into the colder months, please remember to wrap up warm and be prepared for the unpredictable winter weather!

Years 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 have a handball tournament, where they'll get the chance to show off their teamwork and quick reactions. There is a basketball competition for years 5 and 6 and finally a fantastic multi-sports festival later in the term, giving pupils the opportunity to try out a range of fun and challenging activities.

We are working on an easier way for you to sign up for clubs via Dojo or Parent Pay - more information will be shared after half term when we have had a closer look. We want to make it as easy as possible for you and the children but also for us as staff.

Mrs Darnell (PE Lead)

Harvest

Froggatt, Kinder and Windgather classes performed at our annual harvest celebration at St Luke's church, an event that helps to foster our links with our local community, as well as reinforcing many of our school values. The children gave enthusiastic renditions of the songs we had learnt - 'If You're Grateful', 'Thank You, Farmer' and 'Oats and Beans and Barley Grow' (special shout out to Saffron for being the farmer in the latter) - as well as two action rhymes. Reverend Rachel spoke to everyone in attendance about the importance of showing respect and thanks at harvest time, to those who provide us with our food, as well as kindness and compassion, by sharing what we are able with those who are less fortunate. (The donations that many of you made were very gratefully received by the Padley YMCA in Derby). It can be rather daunting to perform in front of a large audience, especially for our youngest children, but they showed great teamwork and resilience and did a fantastic job! **Miss Haynes - (RE Lead)**



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Apple Afternoon

Picture this...

Clear blue skies, a gentle smell of wood smoke and apples roasting on the fire, squeals of excitement as the longest peel unfurls and smiling faces as they tasted some delicious freshly pressed apple juice. That was the scene at our Apple Event earlier this term! Thanks to Mr Sandford-Blackburn giving up his time and use of his apple press, we held the most glorious after school event to use up some of our apples in our orchard. We raised nearly £200 which will go towards the development of our new garden which is the Eco-crew's Big Project for this year. Thank you to all who supported this event – let's hope we have enough apples next year to make this an annual event!!

Mrs Clarke (Sustainability Lead)

School Parliament

Our fantastic Year 6 School Parliament representatives, Alannah and Ruby, recently visited Bagthorpe Primary School to take part in a Transform Trust pupil leadership event. They joined pupils from several other schools to explore what it means to be a great leader and worked together on a range of exciting team-building and discussion activities. Alannah and Ruby represented our school brilliantly, showing confidence, enthusiasm, and kindness throughout the day. They returned full of ideas about how to make a positive difference in our own school community and have been tasked with several jobs for the next meeting in November. A true credit to Year 6 and to our School Parliament.

**Miss Riggott
(School Parliament Lead)**



Children's Leadership

We are making significant headway with our pupil leadership and as a staff team we are working together (with the children) to work on what these roles mean for them in school. We now have House Captains, Vice Captains Eco Crew (we will be needing new FS2 recruits after Christmas) Wellbeing Heroes, Sports Council, Mini Leaders and I know in individual classes the children have responsibilities too. Giving children these roles not only increases their self-confidence it gives them a sense of belonging and responsibility to their school. Well done to all of those children who have reached out of their comfort zones – I know this will increase more over time for others as it becomes the norm at Heage.

Forest School

The Autumn term is a very magical time at Forest School. Nature is so amazing at this time of year and provides us with plenty to use in our play and learning. Froggatt Class have been coming to the woods for the first time and have been enjoying the mud kitchen, playing games and using the beautiful leaves to make crowns. Year 3 have been really engaged with conkers to make crafts, conker rockets and creating 'conker-runs' with guttering, tyres and anything else they have found in the woods. Our Year 6 children have been busy learning to make mini fires and a house for a hedgehog to hibernate in over winter.

The weather has been on our side so far but what will the next half term bring? It may get colder but it won't be any less fun, that's for sure!

Mrs Clarke (Forest School Lead)

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INSET dav

Although we are not fully with Transform Trust until February 1st (fingers crossed) all staff were able to access Trust training. The training was about accessibility for all of our children. Staff went out to other schools who were hosting different forms of training that were relevant to their roles in school. Staff received training on digital adaptations, emotional regulation, the power of play, transcription in Y1 and inclusive teaching. Staff had the opportunity to listen to expert speakers and also reflect and what we need to do to enhance the learning of all of our children. So much for us to think about and work together on as a team to benefit the people who matter the most.



Young Heroes

It seems like an age ago that Reggie and Mason were VIP's at Shottle Hall for the Rotary Young Hero Award. The Rotary Club host this event every year and schools get asked if they have anyone to nominate. This is very hard to do as we have so many children in school who I know have overcome adversity and tough times but this year it went to Reggie and Mason. I am a big believer that siblings also go through challenges even though it does not directly happen to them. Therefore, both young men were awarded Hero of the Year! Well done boys!

Charity Bakes

It is with great pride that I am able to write about how our parents are a huge part of our school and that it, yet again, shows the alignment of values and ethos we promote in school.

Two Y6 parents with the help of some very willing young bakers put on a bake sale. Half of the money went to Coppa Feel and half is going towards KS2 playtime equipment. This on top of what Mrs Darnell has asked the PTFA for will help our children no end at play and lunch.

They have now received all donations and in total have raised £168.30. Hugh, my partner gifted another £150 bringing the total to £318.30, so in total £159 for CoppaFeel and £159 for the children. WOW!!!!

They are currently ordering playground equipment for the children and when they return from Half Term holidays, they will have some lovely new things to entertain them at playtimes.

"We are overwhelmed with the support and generosity of our children and parents and hope that as well as raising money, we have raised much needed awareness of an awful disease that sadly affects 1 in 8 women.

Gemma and Marta (Y6 parents)

I Pads

After a successful bid to the Heage Educational Charity, we are really lucky to have been able to purchase a full set of 30 new ipads along with a charging cabinet. These have been assigned to our Year 4 class, who have been busy getting to grips with using them for Times Table Rockstars, Computing lessons and learning how to use the styluses. I'm sure the children will tell you, it is much easier than firing up our old laptops! Over the last few weeks, Mrs Darnell and Mrs Panter have been introducing the children to using these in other learning times, particularly for maths retrieval practice, which we do each morning! The children have been so engaged! We can't wait to apply to the charity again and hope for another set to get our young people training up the others in school!

Mrs Roberts - Digital Lead



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ELSA

I am very lucky to be a fully trained ELSA in school and able to help many of our children. It has been lovely to have so many referrals from home as well, showing our children that we can all work together to help them make positive changes.

ELSA can help with emotions, self-esteem, friendship skills and separation and loss. I use a bespoke plan, using art, craft, games, stories and much more to tailor a collaborative approach for the children I work with.

Please come and chat to me on the gate or make an appointment if you ever want to discuss ELSA for your child. **Mrs Saint (Pastoral TA and ELSA Lead)**

Remembrance

Mrs Miller will be working with children the first week back on crafts that relate to Remembrance Day. She has kindly arranged for these to be put in church (Fri 7th) ready for their service on the Sunday. If you would like to go and see these crafts please visit the church or join in with their remembrance service.

Mrs Miller and Mrs Clarke have also asked to take the assembly that week. As part of our remembrance assembly they have asked families to email in photos of any past serving members to be included in the assembly encouraging the children to have pride in their ancestors who fought to protect our country. The assembly will also hope to give them a deeper understanding of the act of remembrance. We are so grateful to have such dedicated staff at Heage that go above and beyond the curriculum to enhance the children's personal development. We will be selling Poppies after school each day on the first week back.

Staffing Update

We're delighted to announce the appointment of two exceptional teachers who will be joining our team after Christmas. They visited us on Wednesday and Thursday this week, and we look forward to sharing more details once the necessary paperwork is complete.

We'd also like to share that Miss Evans will be stepping back from her role as a Teaching Assistant for personal reasons. However, she will continue as Manager of The Base, remaining a valued and integral part of our school community. This was a hard decision for Miss Evans as she had already cut back on her TA role but we support her decision fully and we are grateful to still have her incredible expertise within The Base.

Allergies - Important Reminder

Please be reminded that we are a nut and pea free school due to a number of serious allergies within school, including an airborne allergy.

When sending children into school with packed lunches or snacks, please take care to avoid foods containing nuts and peas, in any form. This includes, but is not limited to; nuts, peanuts, Nutella, lentils, peas (all varieties - including sugar-snap peas), hummus and chickpeas and all products containing pea proteins. Thank you

Reminders

We have a new signing in system - ALL parents need to come and sign their child in and out. This is the same for any visitors on site.

We are noticing there are a few families who have become in arrears with school dinner money, please ensure this paid before we return for Autumn 2. This is the same for Base payments. Please contact Mrs White if you have any issues with Paren Pay

Please complete the parent survey sent on Dojo

We do not allow dogs on the school grounds - please be mindful also if you are waiting at the gates as we have had several complaints that dogs are blocking the already narrow pavement

Have a wonderful half term break - I think the children are certainly ready for some down time, I know the staff are. It's been a busy half term and we all know what the next half term is like BUT with kindness, respect, compassion and above all team work it looks like a very promising and exciting half term.

**With much kindness
Mrs Hallam and the Heage Team**