



HEAGE PRIMARY

Autumn 2 Newsletter



This term has been full of exciting opportunities for our pupils, with a strong focus on personal development and enriching the curriculum through a wide range of experiences. From inspiring school trips to hands-on activities, we've worked hard to make learning engaging and memorable for every child. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents and staff for their incredible support and dedication throughout the term—it truly makes a difference.

As we approach the festive season, we wish all our families a joyful and restful holiday. We also want to wish Mrs Cottrell and Miss Haynes all the best as they will be leaving us today - they will be greatly missed by the whole school community but I have a feeling we will be seeing them again soon. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Mr Stevenson and Miss Downes, who will be joining our team in January, they will be in touch with via Dojo to arrange a time for you to come in and meet them.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, 5th January, ready for another fantastic term ahead!

SPORTS COMPS

Our pupils have had a fantastic term of sport! Children from Years 1-4 took part in a handball competition, showing brilliant teamwork and great respect towards the other schools involved. Our Year 5/6 basketball team also shone, proudly securing 3rd place. We enjoyed a wonderful sports festival too, where pupils tried a range of activities, including boccia. A huge thank-you to all the parents for transporting and supporting the children at each event, and to everyone who took part in our sports clubs this term. We look forward to even more exciting competitions and clubs next term!

MUSIC CONCERTS

Rock Steady

Our fantastic members from Rock Steady performed their banging concert on Friday.

Songs included were: We Will Rock You, Roar, Another One Bites the Dust, Human and Last Christmas to finish off!

All the children are progressing brilliantly. We can't wait for the Easter concert now! There are still some spaces available in some groups. Please contact Rock Steady if you would like your child to join in. <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents/>

Clarinet and Flute

We had the absolute pleasure of listening to more wonderful musicians this week. Children who have clarinet or flute lessons, with Amanda, were able to showcase their skills to parents and KS2 with some wonderful Christmas tunes. I often hear them playing on a Tuesday and it was great to see it take the form of a concert. Well done, you are an inspiration to many.

HOUSE POINTS AND HOUSE/VICE CAPTAINS

Our House and Vice Captains have been brilliant this term- they have risen to every challenge so far and have shown they are excellent role models to their peers in school. They have helped in so many ways in school including deciding on the raffle charity, Rainbows, as they knew that someone in our Heage family needed this charity recently and we needed a way to say thank you for looking after them. Rainbows have been notified and are beyond grateful. We love them being the advocates for the other children in school!

We also announced this week that Hardwick were the House Winners for Autumn but the other three houses, Kedleston, Haddon and Chatsworth were not far behind. As a reward for Hardwick gaining the most Dojo points (which includes attendance) they will be having a non-uniform day on the first Friday back.



HEAGE PRIMARY

Autumn 2 Newsletter



KS2 CONCERT

I am totally lost for words with the KS2 concert - for those of you who were lucky enough to see it, you will know what I mean. Their performance related to the learning they have undertaken about Charles Dickens and the way the songs and acting linked to Scrooge gave it that extra Christmas feeling.

We had so many positive comments about the children and their talents and so many thanks given to the staff. It means the world to our children and staff to be recognised for their strengths and how they go above and beyond. A big thank you to St Luke's for letting us host our wonderful performance in their church - it really was magical.

There were many jaw dropping moments from and of course some 'happy tears' of pride as I stood back and soaked in the sheer joy our children (and staff) gave to our Heage family this week. This one is going to be tough to beat next year! Well done KS2 and all the KS2 staff - amazing!

NATIVITY

I need to start by quoting a parent who e mailed in. ***'This has been the best nativity I have seen in 7 years!'*** This is only my second at Heage and I am honest when I say I think it's the best I have seen in my entire career. What made it really special was seeing the confidence and resilience of our youngest children, some still only 4 years old, and those children who found it tricky last year. It was a roller coaster of emotions, crying at the snowflake song and giggles at the robins. It really is the best time in a school. It takes a lot of hard work from staff and from the children but they did it with ease. We have some budding actors in our midst - I can see Heage going to watch them on stage in years to come. A big thank you to all involved for making it so magical for the children and our families.

FOREST SCHOOL

It has been another busy half term for all the classes taking part in Forest School. Froggatt class have experienced their first fires and enjoyed tasting some pancakes and chocolate bananas. They have also been very busy making some Forest crafts to decorate the Christmas tree in the church for the tree festival. Did you spot it?

Year 3 have been whittling sticks to make spears for their Stone Age Day. They also had their first go at making sparks with the flint and steels. Year 6 made the most of their final Forest School sessions at Heage by whittling butter knives which they tested out on toasted crumpets and used some lashing techniques to make star decorations. They also demonstrated their incredible teamwork skills when rigging up some amazing shelters for use in some of the wettest Forest School sessions I have ever known!!

All classes have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions this term and displayed true resilience when the weather was less than kind demonstrating that there really is no such thing as bad weather as long as you are dressed appropriately. A real hardy lot!





HEAGE PRIMARY

Autumn 2 Newsletter



SCHOOL TRIPS

Year 4 are looking forward to visiting Magma Science Adventure Centre in Sheffield this January! It's going to be an incredible opportunity for our budding scientists to explore hands-on exhibits, discover the wonders of science, and ignite their curiosity about the world around them. We can't wait!

Year 5 had an exciting and inspiring trip to the National Space Centre to support our science topic on space. We explored the Rocket Tower and discovered stories from past space missions, including the slightly less glamorous details of how astronauts use the toilet in space! We then watched 'A Journey Through the Solar System' show in the incredible planetarium, where we zoomed past planets and learnt fascinating new facts. We also investigated the different planets and reflected on what makes our own planet Earth so special. Hearing about future plans to explore Mars left everyone full of ideas and dreaming of where space exploration might take us next. What a fantastic trip!

Year 2 had a fantastic and memorable trip to Eyam, where they learned all about the history of the plague and how it has helped shape and improve life today. The children were full of enthusiasm and curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and showing a real interest in the village's powerful story. Their behaviour was outstanding throughout the visit, and they were excellent role models for our school, representing us with pride. It was a wonderful day of learning that will stay with them for a long time.

Year 6 went to the Galleries of Justice this half term and we certainly have some budding judges and barristers out there. The children absolutely loved this trip and I think it will be a firm favourite for years to come. We have some children who have said that because of this trip they are thinking of a career in Law. Some have even spoke about University! What an amazing and inspiring trip of for them to go on.

KS2 Theatre trip to see Oliver

Last week school paid for the whole of KS2 to take a trip to the theatre to watch the amazing performance of Oliver! What a treat that was. So many of our children have never experienced the theatre and their reactions and feedback were priceless. The children behaved appropriately for the theatre and really listened to the adults with regards to expectations. We could not be prouder of how our children conducted themselves - they truly do show our values outside of school too! It was also great for our own Oliver star, Rowenna, to be in the audience rather than on stage. We are hoping to replicate this trip next year as I hear it could be Aladdin!

FS2 and KS1 Theatre trip to see The Little Mermaid - It's not only KS2 that get to go to the theatre. FS2 and KS1 also visited the theatre this week and saw an amazing performance of the Little Mermaid. Again, we felt so proud of our children for being respectful and so wonderfully behaved throughout the whole performance.





HEAGE PRIMARY

Autumn 2 Newsletter



VISITORS

We are always keen to get visitors into school to talk to our children and this is something we are working on this year. We have already made some contacts at Bowmer and Kirkland along with other fabulous people who will be coming in to showcase future job choices for our children - helping them to aim high and see what is out there for them in the big wide world.

We had two surprise guests this half term! Pudsey and Santa! Pudsey visited us during Anti-Bullying week and tried his best to take part in our Odd Socks Day and the REAL Santa surprised us on Thursday by setting up his Grotto in the Studio. The children were treated to a hot chocolate and even received a fabulous gift. The PTFA kindly helped Santa with his gifts as his elves were super busy! Thankyou PTFA, Radio Derby and Belper and Duffield Rotary for making it a special half term.



DRAMA

Another wonderful enrichment opportunity has been sought for our children in the form of Drama. We know we have many budding actors at Heage and when the wonderful Mrs Shuttleworth facilitated a Drama club it was very well attended. We have now been approached by Learning through Drama and letters have already gone out about attending this Drama club after Christmas. Mrs McAnulty has liaised with the lady from LTD and we are hoping to start on the first Monday back. Please check e mails and Dojo for confirmation of this.

There is also an opportunity for our children to attend LAMDA which will focus on oracy and confidence. Information about this has also been sent out but please contact hettie@learningthroughdrama.co.uk

TRANSFORM TRUST

We have been working alongside Transform Trust this terms in many ways in preparation for the 1st February. We have had lots of professional development for staff which is enhancing teaching and learning in school and we have also been informed of lots of opportunities for our children in the coming months. We will be having new signage - which was needed - this will include the Transform Trust logo in the corner but Heage Primary will be the most prominent feature!

We will be keeping our own identity and as mentioned previously the only major difference that will be noted will be extra opportunities for the children along with the staff receiving, very much welcomed, professional development which will directly impact our children and their education. Some of the Transform Team will be in on Thursday 8th to talk to myself and Mrs Roberts about all the wonderful things that have been happening at school and what our school vision is for the future. The staff team are very excited about the future and the extra support we will have.



HEAGE PRIMARY

Autumn 2 Newsletter



REPORTS

Yesterday, you will have received your child's end of term report. This has been sent via e mail. Although we had an overwhelmingly positive response to communication we felt that we wanted to take it to the next level to ensure we really are working together to ensure each and every child has the best chance in their first years in education. The reports are designed to be short but informative. Teachers are more than happy to discuss the reports with you if you want further clarification. Please e mail into the office and put FAO of the class teacher and the class teacher will respond as soon as possible before to arrange a meeting in the new year.

NO OUTSIDERS

Next term, we will be beginning Andrew Moffat's No Outsiders programme as part of our personal development offer alongside our RSE and PSHE curriculum. This approach helps children understand the nine protected characteristics of the Equality Act—such as disability, race, religion, gender, and family structures—through age-appropriate stories and discussions. The aim is to celebrate diversity, promote respect and inclusion, and help every child recognise that everyone is welcome, valued and unique. By learning these principles, children are better prepared for life in modern Britain, developing the skills and confidence to live harmoniously alongside others in a diverse society. Prior to teaching the children we will be inviting parents will into school to look at the picture books we will be using. We will be adding these dates to Dojo in the new year along with a letter with more information.

ADVERSE WEATEHER

As we know, Heage can have it's very own micro climate and this can prove tricky in snowy and icy conditions. It is very rare that we ever have to shut school but we had to do this last year for one day. This was due to the school grounds being unsafe and the staff capacity to get into school. We will make every effort to open school when it snows as we are bound to by law. However, on an occasion where we cannot open we will do the following: let parents know via Dojo, the website and e mail before 7am. The process involves talking to the caretaker and SLT trying to get in to assess the site and make it as safe as possible. We also consult with cluster schools in what they are doing and also have to wait for staffing confirmation to ensure ratios can be met. As you can imagine all of this is done within a short space of time and therefore we ask you to be patient as we go through the process and also make sure staff are safe too.

NEXT HALF TERM

I have no doubt in my mind that next half term will include a full calendar. Please keep your eyes on the website and Dojo as we will be adding events as we go along and as we have access to more opportunities for the children and yourselves.

Spring 1 starts on **Monday 5th January**

Break up for February half term on **Friday 13th February**



HEAGE PRIMARY

Autumn 2 Newsletter



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Our Children During the Holidays

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and it remains just as important during the school holidays as it does during term time. If you ever have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please act quickly. During office hours, you can contact Derbyshire Social Care on 01629 533 190, and for urgent issues outside these times—including evenings, weekends, and bank holidays—call the emergency out-of-hours team on 01629 532 600. If a child or adult is in immediate danger, always dial 999. By working together and knowing who to contact, we can help keep every child safe and supported throughout the festive season.

ATTENDANCE

Why Attendance Matters

Well done to Haddon who achieved best overall attendance this term with 97.54%!

School Attendance this term: 96.9%

National Attendance this term: 95.3%

Local Authority Attendance this term: 95.5%

Every school day counts! Good attendance helps children build strong learning foundations, develop friendships, and feel confident in their progress. Missing lessons can make it harder for children to keep up and can affect their long-term achievement. We understand that children may be ill at times, but please avoid taking holidays or days off during term time, as these are classed as unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can lead to a penalty notice from the local authority. We will also contact you should we notice that your child has a lot of time off ill and look at ways to support you ourselves and through other external agencies. We will always work with you first to improve your child's attendance, if there is no improvement, we have a statutory obligation to issue fines.

Please refer to your child's end of term report to see where your child is on the attendance chart - at school we expect it to be at least good unless there is a medical issue we are aware of.

From August 2024, fines start at £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. Continued non-payment can result in court action and much higher fines. By working together to keep attendance high, we give every child the best chance to succeed—thank you for your support!

