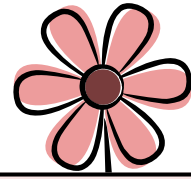


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It's fair to say that this half term is always one of the hardest for the children, you and staff – from the cold, wet weather to those dark winter mornings that make getting out of bed just a little bit harder plus the challenge of snow. But despite all of that, school has been buzzing with energy. We've had so many wonderful moments, achievements, and uplifting events that have brightened our days and reminded us just how special our school community is. This newsletter is just a snippet of all the amazing things that have been happening. Our next half term is a shorter one but we have so many things planned such as World Book Day, Visitors into school, sporting events and much more! Have a wonderful half term everyone.

Sports at Heage

It has been a very busy and exciting half term for sport at our school- from dance and dodgeball in PE lessons to cheerleading, competitions and welcoming Soccerstars into our school, to give even more children the opportunity to enjoy and develop their football skills.

Both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils performed brilliantly in their recent dodgeball competitions. Everyone showed amazing teamwork and honesty, supporting one another and playing with great sportsmanship throughout. The children should be very proud of the way they represented the school and demonstrated our values so clearly.

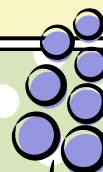
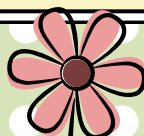
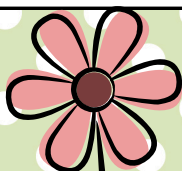
We are also incredibly proud of our pupils from Year 5, along with a pupil from Year 6, who took part in recent rowing events. They showed outstanding resilience and determination, pushing themselves to do their very best and representing the school superbly.

Sports council have met and discussed the new competition kit as well as the sports we offer and how we can promote them.

Looking ahead to next term, we are excited about the afterschool clubs that will be starting, including archery for Key Stage 1 and netball for years 4 to 6, as well as more competitions such as a swimming gala, gymnastics and netball events.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support with afterschool clubs and competitions – it truly makes a difference. I would however love to see more girls signed up to football in the future.

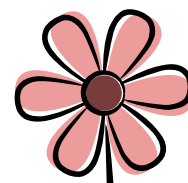
We are looking forward to even more sporting success next half term! 🏆⚽





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The Base

We have had some lovely communication about The Base and how much the children love being there. We want to ensure this continues and therefore expectations of behaviour needs to be the same as in school. We expect the children to treat each other with kindness and compassion. Miss Evans and I have both had to speak to the children recently about expectations. Please support us at home by reminding your children of this too.

This half term the children have absolutely loved taking part in a Burns Night celebration with 'neeps and tatties' for tea followed by learning a Highland Fling.

Next half term we have arranged for a First Responder to come into The Base to talk to children about First Aid. The children are also currently working on Birthday cards for Amelia's Wish after we received an e mail from someone in our local community asking for support. The Base is a truly special place for our children.

A couple of parents have mentioned about an intercom for The Base and electric gates. I have looked into this since I started and sadly, within education it isn't as simple as getting something installed. It is various budget pots that need approval and also list of priority along with ensuring we follow other areas of health and safety for staff and children. It is definitely on the list as I too feel it is important for our wonderful ladies.

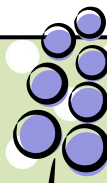
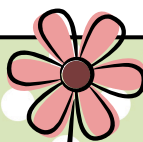
Transform Trust

As you will be aware from previous communication we were due to join Transform Trust on the 1st February, this became delayed due to capacity at DCC. We have been working very hard behind the scenes to support the conversion as this means we can have full access to the level of support and opportunities Transform will bring. We are already benefitting in many ways with school development and we have signed up for events for the children in the future. Fingers crossed it all goes to plan for the 1st March.

Sparkle Walk

On Wednesday 28th January we held our very first 'Heage Sparkle Walk'. And I don't think it will be the last. We were thrilled to see so many of our families take part in the 30 minute walk round our amazing grounds all in aid of Ashgate Hospice. Seeing the field light up with flashing, colourful lights whilst music played made it such a magical memory for all. The feedback from everyone involved has been amazing, and we are proud to have raised almost £800 in support of Ashgate Hospice. ✨❤️

We have been invited up to Ashgate Hospice to donate our sponsorship in person. A special shout out to Miss Riggott for organising the event so well.

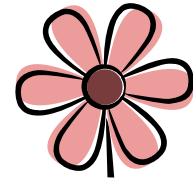




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Governor in the Spotlight

Mr Jon Hodgins our Co-Chair of Governors

I am married with three children and two step children who all went to primary and secondary school in Belper then went on to study a range of different subjects at university.

I grew up in the Lake District but moved to Derbyshire due to my work and have lived in Belper for over 20 years.

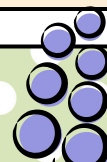
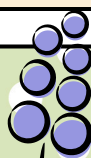
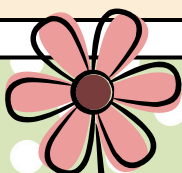
I am proud to have been a civil engineer for 35 years, working for three different major contractors. Local projects that I have been involved in include the new footbridge over the A52 in Derby, the new platforms at Derby Station and the new paving and road layout in Ashbourne town centre. I love being a civil engineer because of the positive impact it has on people's lives.

I have always been a great believer in education and the opportunities it brings. Part of this might be because education runs in my family - my dad was an English teacher, my brothers are Maths and English teachers and my daughter is a Geography teacher. So I am proud and excited to be one of Co Chair of Governors at Heage Primary School and I look forward to getting to know you all better in the coming months along with doing all I can to ensure Heage Primary gives every pupil the opportunity to be their best.

PTFA News

We wanted to take a moment to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported our PTFA events recently. Whether you made a Christmas wreath, bought a raffle ticket or Christmas cards, decorated a bauble or supported the discos, your contribution makes a direct impact on our children's school experience. We are currently liaising with school about what they would like the money raised to go towards to help support and enrich our children's education along with matching the school's priorities.

To help keep all of these events running safely and successfully, we really need a few more hands on deck. You don't need to commit to every meeting—even just one hour of help at an event makes a world of difference. If you've been thinking about getting involved, now is the perfect time! Our next event will be the Easter Bingo so look out for more details and shout outs for volunteers! Contact us at heageptfa@gmail.com

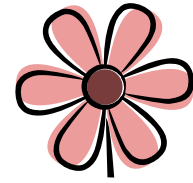




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World Book Day

Mrs Roberts has sent out some communication on Dojo and email regarding World Book Day and our theme. It is going to be such an exciting day. Mrs Roberts has worked hard on ensuring the day involves many aspects of the curriculum along with our school values. I cannot wait to see the children working together collaboratively in their House Teams! It will be great if parents/carers are also able to come in and share a story on this day. I can't wait to see our children as 'explorers'. My outfit is already purchased!

Curriculum Overviews

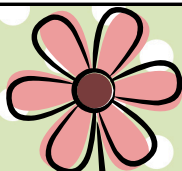
To ensure you are kept up to date with what your child is learning, teachers have been posting on Dojo a curriculum overview - this has been happening for a while now and we hope you are finding it useful when you are talking to your children about what they will and have been learning. You can also find these overviews on the Class Pages on our website.

School Parliament

Our School Parliament have been very busy this half term and their views and opinions on school went to Governors at the last meeting. Governors were impressed with how well the children could articulate the learning that has been happening in school and their understanding of Pupil Leadership and why it is important to us and them.

Ruby and Alannah in Y6 have been attending a variety of meetings with other Trust schools and this half term they visited Nottingham University where they collectively worked on how what they would be putting on the new 'Chilby' screen that is up in the hall. They came away with some amazing ideas. This should be ready after half term.

A big well done to Ruby who was elected to be on the Transform Trust Children's Shadow Board. Two children were chosen out of all the Derby Partnership schools (approx 9 schools). Ruby was chosen based on 'children's participation and engagement in the Children's Parliament setting and how she demonstrated the ability to contribute confidently, work positively with others and share their views clearly. What a wonderful opportunity for her.

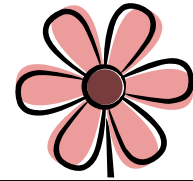




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Forest School

It has been the wettest ever at Forest School this half term, not to mention the muddiest! But, with the right clothes on this is not a problem at all - our Year 1 and Year 4 children have enjoyed the sessions regardless!! Year 1 are always so busy in the woods, especially in the mud kitchen. They have also been using loppers to chop up the Christmas trees, done some blindfold walking (a true test of trust in their partners) and there is always some amazing den construction being carried out. Year 4 have also been making some amazing shelters using a variety of knots, there has been a great deal of imaginative role-play going on and the children have been taking time to notice the nature around them in a way to support positive mental health. This week both classes enjoyed pancakes, with a 'special ingredient' cooked on the fire and pancake races. There are some signs of spring starting to appear so here's to drier days and that magical awakening after the long winter sleep.

Eco-Crew

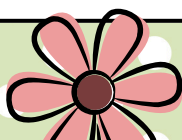
This half term the Eco-crew have been continuing their mission to get every class separating their waste for recycling. They have also been doing some litter picking around school and we took part in our first community litter pick with The Friend of Heage group. Our next most exciting project is our Tree Planting Day. Trees are so important in the fight to combat climate change and we are delighted to be planting 422 trees on our extensive site where we will become part of Derbyshire's Heartwood Community Forest. All the children in school will plant a tree and the Eco-crew will be involved in planting many more! In conjunction with this, in their classes, the children will be gathering photos and doing some writing to go in a Time Capsule saying what our environment and school is like now, in 2026 and predicting or hoping what it will be like in 50 years.

No Outsiders

Thank you those of you who were able to attend our No Outsiders parent session on Thursday, it was great to show you the plans and the books and explain why it is so important we ensure everyone feels they belong in our school. We will be putting the PowerPoint and progression documents on the website over the holidays. We are also interested in how we can more parents involved at future events, if you get a moment please could you fill out this very quick questionnaire to enable us to capture more people next time.

<https://forms.office.com/e/nmw1MSfrHd>

Parental Engagement

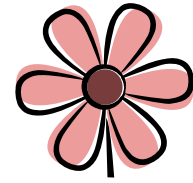




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Safeguarding Our Children During the Holidays

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.

Diary Dates

Please make a note of these dates:

- 23rd February - Back to School
- 4th March - PC Bev Barnes in am
- 5th March - World Book Day
- 5th March - Y5 Mount Cook parent meeting 5pm
- 13th March - Non Uniform Day - PTFA event
- 18th March - PTFA Easter Bingo
- 20th March - Rock Steady Concert
- 24th March - Mount Cook Residential
- 26th March - Break up
- 27th March - INSET day - Staff Training

