



End of School Year 25-26

NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs Hallam

As we reach the end of this incredible school year, I want to say how truly proud I am of all we have achieved together. Our enrichment opportunities have been even stronger than last year, and the impact is clear – children's outcomes continue to rise, and we are hopeful that we are now performing above national expectations. Attendance remains a real strength, and while we still need to work together to reduce term-time holidays, I am grateful to every family who supports us in keeping children in school and thriving.

I am endlessly proud of our staff, who have shown remarkable dedication to their professional development and to our children, always striving to provide the very best. We will be saying goodbye to some colleagues and are genuinely sorry to see them go, but we are delighted to welcome back Miss Smith and thrilled that Miss Panter will be staying with us in Year 3. Mrs McAnulty will be stepping into her new role as SEND Lead and will share information in September about booking meetings and how we will continue to strengthen SEND provision.

This year has been a testament to what can be achieved when staff, children and parents work side by side. Your support in helping us improve the school environment has been invaluable, and I am deeply thankful. As we look ahead, our expectations will remain high, our ambition unwavering, and our commitment to every child stronger than ever. Please take time to read the rest of the newsletter for important updates and changes coming next year.

Have a fabulous summer.



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Transform Trust Children's Awards

This was our first year taking part in the Transform Trust Children's Awards, and it was an unforgettable experience. Held at Derbyshire County Cricket Club, the event brought together pupils from across Derby and Derbyshire to celebrate the remarkable qualities that make children shine. Although our nominees knew they had been put forward, neither they nor their parents knew which category they were being recognised for — adding a wonderful sense of excitement and surprise.

The awards celebrate kindness, equity, creativity, respect and our very own Super Heroes. It was fantastic to see our children honoured for these values. A huge well done to Evie (Super Hero Award), Arlo (Kindness), Esmee (Equity), Olivia G (Creativity) and Imogen M (Respect). Each award was so well deserved, and we are incredibly proud of them all. It was a truly special event, and we already can't help but wonder who we will be nominating next year.



Birthday Non-Uniform in 26-27

Birthdays are such a special time at Heage — the day each child came into the world and made it a better place — and we want to celebrate them in a way that feels just as special. After discussions with our new Year 6 School Parliament, we are delighted to share that from next year children (and staff) will be able to come to school in non-uniform on their birthday. If their birthday falls on a weekend or during the holidays, they can enjoy their non-uniform day on the Friday before. We hope this small change makes their big day feel even brighter.



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Community Action Week

As part of Community Action Week, we hosted a special tea party for elderly members of our local community. Every class helped prepare by creating decorations for the school hall, including bunting, flowers and decorative jars, making the space warm and welcoming. We sent out invitations and were delighted to welcome almost 30 residents.

Our Year 5 children served tea, coffee, cakes and sandwiches before spending time chatting with our guests — they made us incredibly proud. FS2 visited to read a poem, Year 4 shared their fantastic writing about Heage, and Year 1 sang a beautiful song. It was a truly special afternoon celebrating kindness, community and the importance of bringing generations together.



Forest School in Y2

Year 2 have loved Forest School this term.

They have shown fantastic resilience and teamwork through den making, nature art work and being fantastic tidiers of the mud kitchen!





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Year 4 Showing Resilience at Black Rocks

Year 4 had an amazing day at Black Rocks and Cromford Canal, taking part in scrambling, rock climbing, abseiling and canoeing. They demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience and determination throughout the day, supporting and encouraging one another every step of the way.

There was plenty of laughter (and a few splashes!) as the children challenged themselves, developed new skills and embraced exciting experiences. We were particularly proud of those who stepped out of their comfort zones and gave every activity their best effort.

A huge well done to all of the children for their positive attitudes and perseverance.



Heage Primary Allotments

Mrs Clark and our Eco Crew have had a long-held vision of creating our very own school allotments, and this term they finally brought that dream to life. With the help of parents and children who generously gave up their Saturday to dig, build and plant, the space has been transformed into a beautiful growing area full of potential. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed their time and energy, and we cannot wait to see what wonderful things the Eco Crew grow over the coming year.





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Heage Bake Off for Go Beyond



Our Heage Bake Off was an absolute triumph, with over 40 healthy cakes and bakes entered – each one made with creativity, care and a real focus on nutritious ingredients. We were even treated to a special visit from Paul Hollywood (otherwise known as Mr Hallam!), who taste-tested every bake and, with the help of class teachers, selected the winners through a completely anonymous judging process.

The children embraced the challenge brilliantly, proving that you can “have your cake and eat it” when it’s made with clever, wholesome ingredients. One incredible cake even included four different vegetables – and yes, it was a winner! A huge well done to Dennis, Skyler, Isobel, Issy, Eric, Rowenna and Harriet, who each received a £5 Amazon voucher for their fantastic creations. All money raised will be donated to Go Beyond, a charity providing life-changing breaks for children facing serious challenges. They offer safe, supportive residential experiences that help children build confidence, resilience and joy – something we are very proud to support. What a brilliant celebration of healthy baking, imagination and Heage spirit.



PE Funding Next Year



The national PE and Sports Premium has been reduced this year, meaning schools will receive less funding. Although this will limit some extra clubs and external coaching, our commitment to high-quality PE remains the same. We will continue to prioritise active, engaging lessons and opportunities that support children’s health and wellbeing, while planning carefully to make the best use of the funding available.



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Goodbye
Good Luck

Farewell to Y6

As we say farewell to our incredible Year 6 children, we do so with enormous pride and genuine affection. This cohort began their primary journey at the height of Covid, facing disruption and uncertainty that shaped their earliest years — yet they have grown into resilient, confident and compassionate young people who have embraced every challenge with determination.

Their leavers' play, *Diary of a Heage Kid*, was a perfect reflection of who they are: funny, talented, hard-working and absolutely superb.

Every child shone, and the effort, teamwork and commitment that went into the performance made it a truly special moment for us all. As they move on to secondary school, we will miss them deeply, but the legacy they leave — their kindness, spirit, humour and the many memories they've given us — will stay with Heage for years to come. We are so proud of each and every one of them.



The Studio Upgrade

We are delighted to share that the studio will be getting a completely new floor over the summer, giving the space a fresh, modern feel ready for all the brilliant activities that take place there. To allow the work to be completed safely, the studio will be out of use for the first two weeks back in September, and we will continue revamping the space throughout early autumn.

The floor is being fully replaced to ensure it remains a high-quality, safe and versatile area for our children. During this time, there will be no Rock Steady sessions for the first two weeks, but we know the improvements will be worth the wait. We are excited to see the finished result and look forward to sharing the new space soon.



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Year 6 Representatives & School Parliament

A huge congratulations to Lola B and Isabelle T, our newly elected Year 6 School Parliament representatives. Every child who presented did so brilliantly, and the resilience shown by those who weren't chosen was truly admirable – they should all feel proud. The vote was entirely led by the children, and Lola and Isabelle were selected because their peers felt they could represent their voices with confidence and integrity.

They will play a huge part in strengthening pupil voice next year and helping to drive the school forward. A special thank you to Ruby and Alannah, who have already begun coaching them and passing on their wisdom from this year's Parliament. We are incredibly excited to see what our new representatives achieve.

Two children per class have been voted in to be part of Heage School Parliament next year. We wanted to make our parliament bigger and better, so we will have children from every class, including Reception once they have settled in. It is wonderful to see how many children are committed to making a difference for our school.



House Captains

Our House Captains for Chatsworth, Haddon, Hardwick and Kedleston have been outstanding this year. They have led with enthusiasm, kindness and maturity, showing real pride in their houses and setting a brilliant example for all pupils. Whether supporting events, encouraging younger children or representing the school with confidence, they have been a credit to themselves and to Heage.

We will be advertising for new House Captains in September, and our new Year 6 pupils can already begin thinking about whether they would like to apply. It's a fantastic opportunity to take on responsibility, develop leadership skills and make a real difference across the school.



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Y1 Smoothies

In DT, Kinder have been learning about the difference between fruits and vegetables. They have described fruits and vegetables, explained how to identify them, named a range of places they grow, and explored their basic characteristics.

They then prepared fruits and vegetables to make smoothies, working as a team to make selections — and finally enjoyed drinking them!



Rock Steady Concert

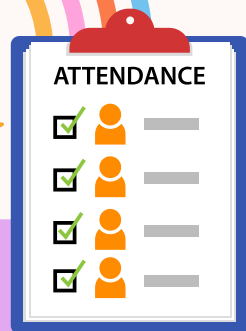


We had another amazing Rock Steady concert with performances from our bands: The Pop Rockers, The Funky Bananas, The Cool Chick Intenders, The Red Wolves and Midnight Fruit Salad. It was a perfect goodbye to Midnight Fruit Salad, as all but one of the band members are in Year 6. Everyone performed brilliantly. If you would like to enquire about your child joining Rock Steady next year, please contact Mrs Price at info@heage.derbyshire.sch.uk.



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Attendance

Attendance continues to be a key priority, and we want to thank families for supporting their children to be in school every day. This year, our overall attendance has been 97.1%, which is a fantastic achievement – but next year, we are aiming even higher, with a target of 98%+.

The DfE is clear that children should be in school unless they are genuinely too unwell to attend, and minor illnesses such as a sore throat, tiredness or feeling “under the weather” should not prevent them from learning. Strong attendance is directly linked to stronger outcomes, and every day in school truly makes a difference.

As a reminder, term-time holidays cannot be authorised, and families may receive a fixed penalty notice if absences meet the threshold set by the Local Authority. If you are ever unsure whether your child should attend due to illness, please refer to the guidance on our school website.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children are present, learning and thriving – it has a real impact on their future success.

Safeguarding



As we head into the summer break, please remember that safeguarding remains our highest priority, even when school is closed. If you ever have a concern about a child’s safety or wellbeing over the holidays, you can contact Derbyshire Starting Point on 01629 533190 for immediate advice and support. Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility, and reaching out early can make all the difference.



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Uniform for 2026-2027

As we look ahead to September, we want to remind families of our expectation that all children return in **full Heage school uniform**, including **proper school shoes – not trainers**. We appreciate that many children may have grown out of shoes and clothing by this point in the year, but starting the new term in correct uniform helps create a strong sense of **belonging, pride and togetherness** across our school.

We do not expect branded items, as we want to keep costs down for families.

More detailed uniform information can be found on our website.

Our PTFA also runs a **'Barely Used' uniform sale**, offering clean, good-quality items for a very small donation – PTFA contact details are also available on the website.

Please remember that **no hair braids** are permitted; any added during the holidays will need to be removed before the first day back. Only **small stud earrings** may be worn, and these will need to be taped during PE. Parent/Carers are to provide the tape.

Full information on uniform expectations, including PE and Forest School kit, can be found on our website.



Dates for your Diaries



Please make a note of these in your own personal diaries/calendars

School starts for children on Tuesday 8th September at 8.55.

Gates will open at 8.45am

INSET (Teacher training days – 6 due to Transform Trust)

Friday 4th September

Monday 7th September

Friday 23rd October

Friday 27th November

Monday 7th June

Monday 26th July