

HEAGE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2

What a term (year) it has been, so much to be thankful for. I am most thankful for the wonderful children we have at Heage and their individuality and what they bring to our school. This year has had so many highlights over the last half term it is hard to put it on two pages.

I am sure you thoroughly enjoyed the Nativity performances along with the KS2 extravaganza at St Luke's - seeing and hearing the children perform is always a huge highlight and I am so proud of each and everyone of them! Lots more of this to come in 2025.

Our whole school trip to the Pantomime was incredible and the smiles on the children's (and staff) faces will stay with me forever - what a wonderful experience for them. We are already in the process of planning next year - something a little different - we love doing things differently!

A big thank you to all our parents/carers for the support you have shown over this last year - I am personally so grateful to my 'new Heage family' who support us to make improvements in school for our children. We are also grateful to the endless offers of support with aspects of school - there is a true family feel at Heage - we pull together for our children and this means alot.

And last but not least the entire Team at Heage have worked so hard this year showing all of our values whilst navigating many changes. Because they have the children at the heart of all they do it makes every step worthwhile, each and every one of them makes us a fantastic team.

I wish all of our children, families and staff a happy, peaceful and calm break. I am already looking forward to all of the things we will experience together in 2025 to continue making Heage Primary the best for us all.

NATIVITY AND KS2 CONCERT

Wow, my first Nativity at Heage certainly didn't disappoint. The children were absolutely incredible - such clear voices and pride in the hard work they had put in. Such a special, core memory for us all! Well done to all.

And as for KS2...I think the whole of Heage heard those wonderful singing voices from St Lukes last week and I was so proud to listen to the children relating the Emperor penguin to our values and also talking about climate change! We have some very passionate young people who I know will want to get involved in our future plans in school. I am seriously thinking the Emperor Penguin could be our school mascot!

I have to also thank the fantastic adults in school for making all of this happen - it's always hard work but it's worth it.

PANTOMIME

Derby Arena did it again with Cinderella. The children were impeccably behaved on the coach, at the pantomime and then on the way back, we certainly stood out for all the right reasons. Watch out for the plans for 2025 - we will be getting info out to you before we even get to Summer! A big thanks to Mrs McNulty for organising such an amazing trip for us all- it is by no means an easy thing to do - coaches, tickets, adult helpers, seating and much much more! You did a superb job - thank you!

CLUBS

It has been brilliant to see so many children taking part in the sports clubs we have after school, the various competitions that have taken place, choir club and many other activities the teachers have put in place at lunchtimes. The children have fed back that they are loving the increased opportunities in school and our Y1 & Y2 children are very excited at Drama Cub starting first week back!

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

We are pleased to let you know that 2025 will bring more opportunities for you to come into your child's class and be involved. We feel this is beneficial for so many reasons, one being that you will really get to know how the children are gaining their knowledge and skills such as phonics, maths and other curriculum areas. It also gives the children a chance to be proud of the work they are doing and maybe even teach you some things. Please see dates below for your child's class.

We will also be holding parent meetings for reading and phonics in the Spring term. Although we only had a handful of parents attend the last phonics meeting, Mrs Cottrell and I feel it would be beneficial to put on another parent session about reading in school including the rationale behind why we change reading books in a certain way and at certain times. We will give several weeks notice for this meeting so you can make arrangements to attend if you would like to know more on how reading/phonics is taught in school and therefore how you can help at home.

SPORTING COMPETITIONS

Thanks to Mrs Darnell for organising so many sporting competitions so far this academic year and thank you to the staff that attend in their own time and of course the parents/carers who facilitate the transport. We have plenty more coming up and to kick off 2025 there is an indoor rowing competition for **KS2 children on Wednesday 22nd January!** Mrs Darnell will gain interest when we return and then send out communication to those who have been chosen. Other opportunities in the Spring Term include:

Y3/4 Dodgeball on Monday 3rd Feb 4pm-6pm,

Y5/6 Dodgeball on Monday 10th Feb 4pm-6pm

Y5/6 Swimming Gala Monday 17th March 9:30-11:30am

Y5/6 Triathlon Wednesday 19th March 4-5:30pm

STAFFING UPDATES

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mrs Miller to Team Heage in January as a TA. Mrs Miller will be mainly based in FS2 but we anticipate using her endless skills throughout school.

PTFA

I cannot thank our PTFA enough for everything they do for our school. You are all very much appreciated for the time you dedicate to school and the thought behind all you do. Thankyou.

DIARY DATES

- Back to School - 6th January
- Open Morning for Sept 25 starters- 9th January
- PSCO Barnes - Visit KS2 - 20th January
- Y6 Assembly - 22nd January 9:10am
- PCSO Barnes - Visit KS2 - 5th February
- Y1 Assembly - 11th February 9:10am
- Y5 Assembly - 12th February 9:10am
- Break Up 14th February
- INSET day - 24th February

Parental Class Engagement dates

More information will be on Dojo the first week back.

- FS2 - 31st January
- Y1 - 23rd January
- Y2 - 24th January
- Y3 - 30th January
- Y4 18th January
- Y5 - 21st January
- Y6 - 18th January

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is everyone's business, even out in the community. Christmas can be a time of great strain for families for a mass of reasons. If over the Christmas break you have any concerns about a child or family please call Starting Point on 01629 535353 for advise or if it is an emergency please contact the police. This doesn't just apply to the children at our school. Likewise if you or anyone you know needs to reach out for support you can call Derbyshire Mental Health Support on 08000280077 - there is no shame in asking for help.

"What is the bravest thing
you've ever said?" asked
the boy.



"Help," said the horse.