

What's on next week ...				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Assembly focus on Remembrance Multi Sports After School	Dance After School	Assembly Old Fashioned Manners	Music for Otters	Celebration Assembly 2.45 School Disco!

Dates for diary: Non Uniform day on 1st December!

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a very busy 2nd half of term! We have hit the ground running this week with both Hedgehogs and Otters have introduced their new topics in the engaging and exciting way the children clearly love!

As I was showing another newcomer around we entered to The Otters to find it was in disarray, the children returned from playtime to find their classroom turned upside down! Not only that, there were huge footprints on the floor! The sense of excitement was electric...the children were completely immersed.

This is the aim of our curriculum, we are determined to make learning purposeful, fun, creative, challenging and move the children's learning on at pace.

Mrs Worth, Otters' teaching assistant, said "it was amazing, the look on the children's faces when they came into the classroom expressed their shock—from that moment on they were hooked!"

This term, both classes will also have the opportunity to explore the universe...no, we haven't quite managed to secure the first primary school flight to space, but we do have a mobile, dome planetarium visiting the school! We can't wait for the chance to explore the night sky—what an experience! This links in with Hedgehogs night sky topic and Otters science focus.



Otters'
mysterious visitor
caused havoc
and resulted in
some incredible
writing!



Tegan, Simran, Rian and Ella were our stars of Twitter and Facebook last week, as we very happily received our hi-vis vests from Barratt homes. It has been fantastic to see the children walking to and from school, standing out from the dull autumn gloom in their brilliant, bright vests! Thank you Barratt Homes!

Spotlight on Excellence...



If you have been following Twitter you will be equally addicted to Hedgehogs "Phonics TV" as myself. The pace at which the children are learning their letters and sounds is rapid, in many ways thanks to the way in which phonics is being taught in the classroom. Using techniques such as making a TV show really helps to embed the learning, engage the children and make it memorable. A strong understanding of the basics is key for all future education—please help by supporting the learning at home, asking the children what they have learnt, looking at the sounds in words. Take a look at this great resource to help your child read at home: www.teachyourmonstertoread.com

Check out Phonics TV, new instalment due today!

Myths and Legends....

*A selection of comments and misconceptions
we sometimes face*

**'It doesn't matter if I don't ring school first thing if
my child is ill!'**

You must let school know if your child is unwell, or not attending for any other reason. If we do not find out why a child is absent by 10.00 we will consider that child as missing from education and will not know if they are safe and well. This will mean we will have to visit the home and check all is ok.

Safeguarding children is our priority, if they are not in school and we do not know why we have an obligation to check they are safe and well. Please pick up the phone

Holiday Absence

Parents please note:

Leave which is taken for the following reasons will not be authorised:

Availability of cheaper holidays

Availability of desired accommodation

Poor weather experienced in school holidays

Overlap with beginning or end of term

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development and for this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible and we all need to play our part.

Why attendance matters:

Less than 5 days absence = 98%+ attendance
14 days absence (approx.) = 93.5% attendance
20 days absence (approx.) = 90% attendance
More than 30 days absence = 88% attendance

Playground Progress

As you have no doubt noticed the brand new Tarmac we promised would be laid over half term is still not down! We have been told that they still do not know what the problem was with the first batch, once they know the new Tarmac will be laid and we can progress with putting lines down to mark sports courts and play areas. We also have more equipment winging its way to us to make playtimes even more fun!

I am sure you will agree, now the field has been ploughed and seeded it is a huge improvement to the look of the whole grounds and we very much look forward to a beautiful school

School Dog

Having conducted a lot of research around the benefits of having a school dog to the wellbeing, academic progress and mental/emotional health of children this is something we are considering at Heathcote.

During a discussion with a group of our pupils (not a formal council yet, but on the way!) we looked at ways we could help those children that struggle, the comfort and support of a pet was mentioned by all the children. Well trained, calm dogs can provide real opportunities for children in school, learning about responsibility and building confidence in reading just two of the many positives.

Of course decisions like this are not made lightly and are a whole school decision, all stakeholder should have a say. This week we have included some information about the benefits of having a school dog for you to consider.

Academic Year 2017-2018

Autumn Term 2018

Staff Inset Day

Friday 20th October

Half Term (1 week)

Monday 23rd October

Parents Evening

Monday 13th November

Parents Evening

Tuesday 14th November

Christmas Fayre 3.30

Friday 15th December

Nativity School Hall 2.00

Tuesday 19th December

School Finishes for Christmas

Friday 22nd December

Spring Term 2018

Staff Inset Day

Friday 5th January

Children Return to School Monday 8th January

Half Term (1 week)

Monday 19th February

World Book Day

1st March

Parents Evening

19th March

Parents evening

20th March

Easter Event

Thursday 29th March

School Finishes (Easter) Thursday 29th March

Bank Holiday

Friday 30th March

Summer Term 2018

Children Return to School Monday 16th April

Bank Holiday

Monday May 7th

Staff inset day

Friday 25th May

Half Term (1 week)

Monday 28th May

Staff Inset Day

Friday 22nd June

Parent Meetings

Wk beg 25th June

Sports Day 2.00

Monday 2nd July

School Finishes (Summer)

Friday 20th July

Walking in and out of School

We ask our children to walk WITH parents whilst entering and leaving school at all times in order for children to avoid rushing into the road or knocking over toddlers and younger children etc.

Please do NOT let your child / children run ahead of you from the infant playground at the end of the day.

Uniform and Kit Reminder

Please ensure your child has a named PE kit in school each week. We will send a letter home to let you know if your child has not got the appropriate PE kit in school and is therefore unable to take part in a PE lesson. Not only is it a legal requirement to take part in PE/Games lessons on a weekly basis, we also feel very strongly that all children need to take part in physical activity to promote a healthy and happy life...as I am sure you all agree!

A gentle reminder that no big hair bows or earrings should be worn in school.