

Heathlands Newsletter

Summer Term 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

There have been so many positives to look back on over the 15/16 school year and I hope you will enjoy reading about some of them in this newsletter. There have been some standout successes: two Outstanding Ofsted inspections for Heath House and an Outstanding Health and Safety inspection – well done to the staff involved. We improved the premises by completing the Art extension and fitting out a new library. After four years of almost constant building work we now have just some minor things to do over the summer holidays to improve the science lab, staff room and one lower school teaching area. We will also be installing new interactive screens in three teaching rooms, a new ICT server and better WIFI to keep up with modern technology.

Teachers have worked hard to implement new government initiatives e.g. curriculum change and different assessment systems but the children will remember the special events: a wonderful Shakespeare production, Heathlands Harmony choir at the Royal Albert Hall, the Into Film project to name a few. The secondary aged pupils had a fantastic activity week in Wales learning a range of new skills and our girls won the national 5-a-side football trophy yet again. There is so much to celebrate and all these things make school days special.

I was really pleased to see The Friends of Heathlands, our PTA, being re-launched. All parents are welcome to get involved in with fundraising events and social activities. The BBQ on our family learning day was fun for all and please don't forget to buy the new Friends of Heathlands cookbook. In September we will publish dates of events/activities for the 2016/17 school year and other ideas about how to get involved are on our website – there is a lot to look forward to!

We hope all Heathlands families have a restful summer break. For some colleagues this will be an especially exciting time as we have three Wedding Belles! Our very best wishes to Miss Aitken, Miss Walker and Miss Goodwin who are all getting married this summer. We hope the sun shines and all goes well on the big day!

Enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Deborah Jones-Stevens



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents/Carers do not need to re-apply for Free School Meals, because Hertfordshire County Council will automatically renew them over the summer holidays. If you are no longer entitled to FSM you will receive an email or letter directly from the Council.

Lower School

Summer Term 2016

It has been another busy term of learning with a whole range of exciting learning activities and opportunities for the pupils. **Topics** covered this term have included Fruit and Vegetables in Foundation, African Adventure in KS1 and the Ancient Greeks at KS2. For the **Queen's 90th birthday celebrations** several of the pupils made birthday cards to send her and they were very excited to get a special thank you letter and photo back. We hope everyone has a good holiday. As always we hope your child will keep a holiday diary and we very much look forward to reading them on your child's return to school.



LS1,2 3 and 4 were very excited to have Ashley Kendall, the **CBBC** presenter of **Magic Hands** come to school. The children watched and talked about the programme and the BSL in it and some were videoed giving their views. They also took part in a special workshop. We

Once again we welcomed the



marvellous **Krazy Kat theatre company** who brought their production

called "The Very Magic Flute".

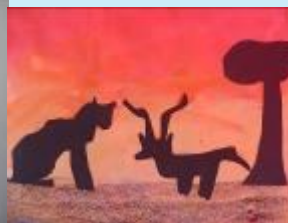


he came to present certificates to pupils involved in the IntoFilm project.

A number of pupils have been demonstrating their **green fingers** this term. From growing sunflowers from seed, cress or radishes as part of a science experiment to several classes taking part in the McCain potato challenge. We have seen the plants grow and flourish, aided by the rain! LS1 have also been learning what to do with vegetables when they are fully grown.



KS1 pupils have been learning about **Africa**. This has included map



work skills, dressing up and lots of hands on activities to help the children develop their understanding of African culture. They did art and DT with African themes and LS2 and 3 were lucky enough to visit Whipsnade Zoo, funded by the rotary club, where they saw African animals. The whole department also took part in an African drumming workshop which was greatly enjoyed by all.





We offer a range of lunchtime and after school **clubs** throughout the school year. This term clubs have included gym, golf, Science club and sewing



among others.



We have had a number of exciting **sporting events** this half term. LS6 went to learn archery and take part in a competition for local schools and KS2 took part in the Primary Deaf schools football tournament with Heathlands teams coming first, second and third.



An important part of the curriculum is to encourage children to think, wonder, ask questions and work together to **investigate** and find answers to their questions. Here are some photos of LS7 investigating capacity and LS4 investigating the



strength of different types of paper towel. What questions could your children ask and investigate in the holidays?

Join in with the **Big Friendly Reading challenge** at your local library this summer.



<http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



KS2 have been learning about **Ancient Greece**. As well as learning about life in Greek times they have also learnt about various Greek Myths in literacy. All the groups also did topic related DT and every class made their own Greek Amphora (vases). Several groups also did Greek cooking and made Greek temples. Areas covered included Democracy, Athens v Sparta, Greek Gods and Goddesses.



Congratulations to LS5 who won the **Hertfordshire Advertiser Schools award** projects category for their fundraising for Sign to Sing. **Here is Sienna's report of the evening.**

"On Wednesday evening LS5 went to the School awards. I felt excited and nervous. When I feel very hungry so I went to get food but I saw posh food. I ate fresh strawberry and delicious cucumber. It was funny when I copied woman singing on the guitar also me, Sara, Ermins and Summer dance a ball dance. When it's time to go insider it was very bright with lot of colours lights. When the judges say LS5 are winners. I felt very proud. I felt happy because all adults lose. We won a certificate and a trophy. At the end of the day we took photographs with the certificate and trophy.



Mrs Jones-Stevens talked to the lady on the radio and Mrs Jones-Stevens was on the radio too. When we are going to home the lady gave us each a bag with lots of work things and toys and a sweet. The people who were hearing clapped to me and I felt really proud." - 27.6.16



Upper School

Summer Term 2016



Wales Trip

The upper school adventure trip to Wales allowed students to develop new skills in sports such as rifle shooting, abseiling, canoeing as well as



providing fantastic opportunities for integration. The after lunch football matches with hearing schools at the camp site was a great way to develop communication.

Roar for Raw Meat

He listens for zebra with
pointed ears,
On dry, rough ground.
He licks in the sun,
Quickly he eats.

By Gagan

Year 7 have also been learning about poetry and how poets use alliteration, onomatopoeia and adverbs to create effect. Each student chose their favourite animal and then wrote a poem using the devices they had studied.

The Wonderful Wolf

She is watching the
moon
With red eyes.
On the black grey rock,
She is killing a bird.
Angrily she eats.

By Jade

Year 10 visit to Uxbridge College

Our Year 10 students visited Uxbridge College in June. They met with staff from the Deaf Education team at Uxbridge and were given a tour around the college. The students were impressed at how big it was and the variety of courses on offer. The students enjoyed eating their lunch in the big canteen. Thank you to the staff at Uxbridge College for a lovely welcome and tour.

It is important that parents/carers of our current Year 10 students start

planning for the transition into Post-16 education. If your child is going into Year 11, in September, it is important to visit several Post-16 establishments and to make a few applications. Early preparation helps to secure funding and to ensure the required support is available.



Thinking Maps

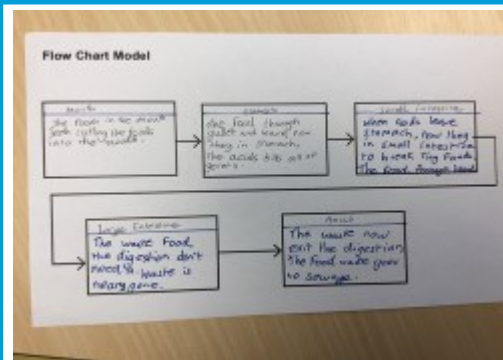
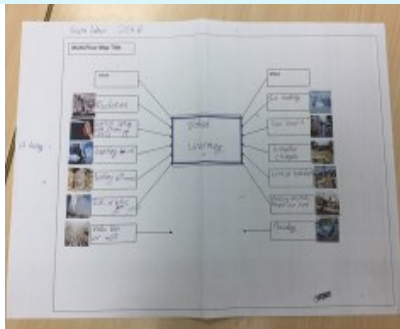


Our teachers here at Heathlands like to try out innovative educational approaches to support language development and learning. The science department has been piloting the use of Thinking Maps; these are visual teaching tools, such as Circle, Bubble, Double Bubble, Flow, Multi-Flow, Brace, Bridge and Tree maps. The maps create a common visual language to help students organise information and learn content in all science disciplines. The use of the Thinking Maps has really helped students with developing a range of thinking processes, including literacy skills. Here are some examples of the work produced.

Multi-flow Map

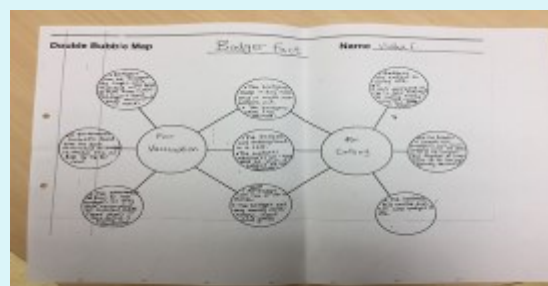
The multi-flow map is used to show cause and effect relationships

Jason used the multi flow map to help him to understand what causes global warming and its effects on the environment.



Flow map

George used a flow map to help him to understand what happens in the digestive system.



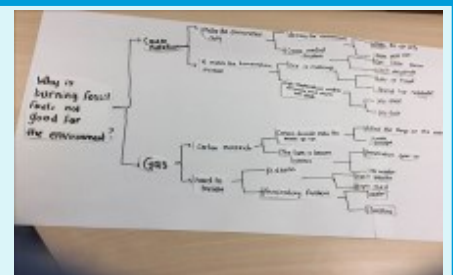
Double Bubble

The double bubble map is used to compare and contrast. Vidhu participated in a class debate about

whether we should cull badgers or vaccinate them in the hope of controlling the spread of bovine tuberculosis.

Five whys

Reema wanted find out why burning fossil fuels isn't good for the environment, she used a technique called Five Whys, which was developed in Japan to quickly find out more about the root of a problem.



We were delighted to hear that a student who left Heathlands in summer 2015 has been selected to play for the Great Britain men's U21 deaf football team in the European championships in Poland later this year. This is a big achievement since he is still only 17 and we wish him and the team success.

You can keep track of news and results from the GB U21 team at www.britishdeaffootball.com

Year 7 Transition Day

New year 7 students came into school on 7th July and had a fun day doing lessons of technology, science and drama. They were able to meet their new friends and some of their teachers. Some of the current secondary students and house captains helped with the practical work.

Oaklands Animal Care Course

Year 10 students have had a successful year on a college link course on animal care. They learned about caring for a variety of different animals. This learning experience gave students inclusion opportunities through access to the college canteen and events such as the end of term college BBQ where there was also an opportunity to ride in a racing car and ride on a Segway.



Year 7 have been learning how to follow and write instructions. They each planted a flower and used shape-coding to write a set of instructions. The new plants are making the most of the sunshine and are growing nicely in the garden at school.



Religious Education

US3 visited St Albans Abby as part of the ASDAN RE unit, Signs and Symbols. It was a great day, with learners getting really involved through different activities including dressing up, singing, lighting candles, role playing the last supper and splashing holy water from the baptism font.



Farewell to Year 11

The summer term always means saying a fond farewell to Year 11. Earlier this month, we celebrated the students leaving school by having a Prom at Beales Hotel in Hatfield. All the students looked gorgeous in their finery and it was a lovely night with students and staff reminiscing on funny and poignant memories.



We all wish good luck to our Year 11s, for their next

stage of studies and remember our school motto! - Become the best you can be.



Heath House

Summer Term 2016

We cannot believe another year has flown by so quickly it seems like only yesterday that our new year 7 students were dropped off looking nervous and now they are fully fledged, confident Heath Housers! It has been a busy year and with two Ofsted inspections in one year staff are in need of a good rest. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful parents for helping us through the year from looking after the guinea pigs, joining us for dinner and attending our parties —Thank you. One of the definite highlights of our year was hearing some of the feedback you gave the Inspector. It made us feel proud to know that you feel your children are in good hands when they stay with us and we will continue to provide an outstanding provision going into the next year.



The family party this year was pirate themed with a treasure hunt. The children loved this and enjoyed taking their parents around the hunt. Face painting was hugely popular as was the BBQ which was superbly cooked by Mr Hazrati, Justin and Tom.



Our focus this year was to develop students' skills in money management. This is part of our independence work to prepare young people for adult life. All of the children were given targets depending on their need and skills, staff gave lots of opportunities for young people to develop these skills and monitored them as they did. All the children made good progress and will continue to develop other independence skills in the coming year. Over the holidays you can help develop money management skills by taking your child shopping, giving them a holiday budget or planning a trip out such as going to the cinema.

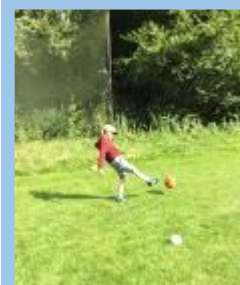




Ensuring the children and young people have a range of activities is key to us at Heath House. This term we have made the most of our week and plan activities with the children. We have been swimming regularly, attending youth club, playing foot golf and weather permitting playing games outside.



Our beavers, cubs and guides have been working hard to gain badges again this term and are enjoying the experience of mixing with other children. In September some of our beavers will move up to the cub pack. Scouts has begun this year with some students having a few taster sessions, we hope this will continue in September.



This term Nick led a camping evening outside. The children erected the tent, cooked and ate outside. After marshmallows and scary stories the children slept outside. They all enjoyed this experience and were not too tired for school the next day. We hope this will enable the children to get their camping badges.

We wish you all a great summer holiday and hope you have lots of fun planned. We will see you all in September ready for the next school year.

We are all off to put our feet up in the sun.

From Sarah, Tom, Annie (Rhianon) and Nick.



BSL Centre Summer Term 2016

The summer half term is one of the busiest times for us in the BSL Centre. We have exams weekly and learners begin to realise the end of their course is nearing. Some are looking forward to returning in September to continue developing their BSL skills, others are thinking about how to utilise their skills. Which ever direction our learners choose we have enjoyed

Our parents group has grown this year welcoming new faces and supporting the regular family members. Some have been taking their BSL level 1 assessments, they will continue to finish the course in the new academic year. Those who are regular had enjoyed developing their linguistics of BSL knowledge.



This year we have delivered 6 BSL level 1 courses. Two of these have been at two schools, St Luke's and Batchwood. The pupils have enjoyed learning BSL level 1 for young people. The other four courses have gone well at the centre, three adult courses and one young persons.

BSL level 2 has been delivered over three courses this year, learners have been sitting exams over the last few weeks. Our Thursday evening class was very popular this year. Some learners will be returning in September to study BSL Level 3.



BSL Level 3 was delivered over two courses, learners have their final assessments over the next week. Learners have enjoyed learning about Deaf culture and the History of BSL.



We have been really busy with BSL level 4, delivering 3 courses this year. Learners have broadened their linguistic knowledge and learnt how to self analyse and improve their productive skills. Self analysis requires learners to film conversation clips and then look at their skills, picking out linguistic elements that require improvement.



A first for us at the BSL Centre was a lesson delivered to a learner in Barcelona. One of our Level 4 students was away at a conference and didn't want to miss her evening class. Skype was set up and the lesson continued as normal. It worked really well and was just as fun as being with the rest of the class in the room!

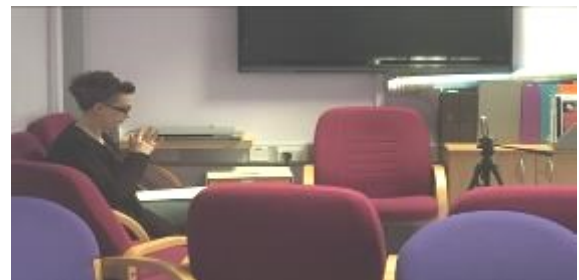
Level 4 has been an enjoyable course to teach with the learners I have had this year.

One student said, *"Enrolling on the BSL level 4 course has meant that I have developed my skills and gained confidence with my signing. I have been able to meet new people and have some me time, which as a new mum has been precious."*

The Thursday Level 4 students have really worked together and developed friendships. This has been key to supporting each other through the course.



Students are able to develop their BSL skills in a variety of ways, including receptive practice, translating information from BSL to English or English to BSL and conversational work.



If you would like more information regarding courses at the BSL centre, please look on Heathlands website. www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk or email us— bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk

We have a variety of courses available from September.



Parents' Page

Summer Term 2016



Family Learning day

On Friday 1st July we had our first Family Learning day. Lots of parents came to join in with the children and staff to learn something new. From button holes to baking pizzas everyone found an activity to enjoy! Thank you to the Friends of Heathlands who provided the parents' BBQ, the burgers looked scrumptious!



Thank you for having us was a really lovely afternoon. Best part was seeing two children in sing and sign really getting into having a dance and enjoying music made me day xx

Had a lovely day today & opportunity to meet the parents

Cookbook



It was great to see so many recipes flood in to create our first Heathlands Cookbook. There are nearly 100 recipes altogether from all different cuisines. Buy yours now! Only £8.50 if you pre-ordered on the cookbook website or £10 each should you want to buy one (or two or indeed three)! They will make great presents, see the sample copy available at the school

Friends of Heathlands

Heathlands App



Remember to download the app to keep up with news from the Deaf community.

Just click the link on the Heathlands website.



FOH ran a fantastic BBQ and helped out on Sports day serving cold drinks to thirsty parents! Both hearing and Deaf parents are welcome. Communicators are always around to help. Email friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk for more information.

Heathlands Newsletter

Summer Term 2016



Autumn 2016 Term Dates

Inset Days	Thursday 1st September - Friday 2nd September
Term Starts	Monday 5th September
Half Term Holiday	Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October
Occasional Day	Monday 28th November (No pupils in school)
Term Ends	Wednesday 21st December @ 12.30pm

We wish everyone a relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing the students back on
Monday 5th September.