



Heathlands Newsletter - Summer Term 2018

Yet again we are finishing the year on a high after another Outstanding Ofsted Report. The inspection report says

“Children flourish and make excellent progress as a result of this exceptional school and residential provision.”

Wow! This was a wonderful boost to us all at the end of another intensive year. This achievement is a credit to all members of our school community. The teaching staff are magnificent in their effort and dedication to the children which was clearly recognised by Ofsted.

The part parents play is also vitally important in making Heathlands a special learning community. The recent Summer Fete organised by Friends of Heathlands was a superb example of what we can achieve together. We all have our personal highlights of the year and the Fete was definitely one of mine.

Reflecting back we can also be proud of some spectacular learning events: Science week with Dr Cameron, The STEM learning day, “Unplugged Day” focusing on learning without technology, the success of Heathland’s Harmony Choir at M fest and Cornbury to name a few. Planning is well underway for next year; there will be more exciting events and successes to celebrate.

Enjoy the summer break and we look forward to seeing all students refreshed and ready for action in September 2018.

Deborah Jones-Stevens

Staffing News

Sadly we say goodbye to some colleagues. Sarah Beth Parker leaves us to start her teacher training and Rhianon Jones, a long standing member of the Heath House team moves on to pastures new. Our very best wishes go with them.

We have several new staff members joining us; Verity Robinson will join us as a teacher of English and Patrick Rosenberg will be teaching part time for the term. We also welcome several new members of classroom support staff; Fruszina Lakatos, Samuel Amoako and Claire Depeza. Robyn Coles will be working part time in the BSL Centre

Our best wishes also go to Tom Tharby and Verity Butcher who get married this summer. We hope you enjoy your very special day!



Lower School - Summer Term 2018

It has been another very busy term with some very warm weather. At the time of writing a lot of activities are about to happen; a Primary Deaf Schools' Football Tournament, a residential trip for pupils in Skylarks and Magpies, Lower School sports day and a camping trip for the choir to name just a few. This newsletter can only highlight a selection of the activities that have happened during the term. For up to date news do like our Facebook page which provides regular term time updates of what is going on.



One of the topics taught in KS2 this term has been the Celts and Romans. Three classes went to Celtic Harmony to learn about life in Celtic Britain. They

tried lots of activities such as grinding corn, dyeing with natural materials and building dens. In school the children also learnt about the Roman invasion and settlement of Britain. Doves and Kingfishers were given a challenge to work together in groups and create Roman armour using recycled materials and dress up one of the group.



They looked carefully at the source materials and worked together well, solving problems effectively.



The children were thrilled to have an in the ground trampoline installed in their playground recently, thanks to the generosity of Tesco's bags of help scheme. They are all enjoying this extra way to play and keep fit.

Do encourage your child to keep a **holiday diary** over the summer. We look forward to sharing and reading them when we return.

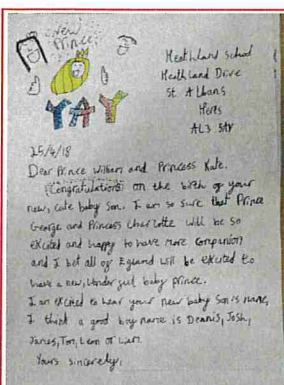
Magpies and Skylarks classes enjoyed a residential trip to the

Young Mariners Centre at Lee Valley Park. The students took part in climbing, archery, sailing, paddle boarding and a range of evening games and activities. Thank you to staff who organised the visit and took the children.





Reading is an essential skill for all ages. We were pleased to welcome the local representative of Book Start who brought book packs for all the children in Foundation. To encourage your child to read over the holidays all local libraries are offering a **free Summer Reading Challenge**. Pupils are encouraged to borrow and read books and achieve awards for doing so. For more information contact your local library.



There have been several royal events this year. A royal baby and a royal wedding. Pupils from several classes have written to congratulate the members of the royal family on their special celebrations. Some of the children were very excited recently to

receive photos of the new Prince Louis. It is always good for children to see their writing get a response.



The summer is when some of the things we have planted start to grow. The children learn to look after the



plants by watering them. The children in Robins are particularly good at growing things, tall flowers and they recently harvested their broad beans.



Starlings and Owls harvested some early new potatoes and



used them in their cooking.



Performance success.

Heathlands Harmony choir have been busy this summer. They performed at 'M' fest and the Heathlands School fete before travelling to perform at the Cornbury Music Festival (alongside headline acts such as Pixie Lott). They were also finalists in the Hertfordshire school awards. The school also had success for our young film makers with two films made by children from Magpie and Kingfisher classes being showcased at the International St Albans Film Festival on the big outdoor cinema screen.

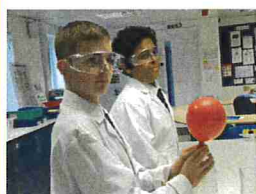




Upper School - Summer Term 2018



We wanted our students to experience the excitement and value of chemistry, and to understand that the chemical sciences are relevant to their everyday lives. We received funds from the Royal Society of Chemistry to enable us to work with Dr Audrey Cameron, who is a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry. The 'Great Deaf Chemical Kitchen Ambassadors' project took place over four school days and involved the Upper School students learning about the principles of kitchen chemical sciences. There were lots of WOW experiments that had a strong link to chemical sciences and this project helped our students to develop their presentation, engagement and team working skills. Our students were empowered to believe that they could be 'Deaf Kitchen Chemical Ambassadors' and presented different experiments through filming.



US8 & US9 went to Red Bee Media. They learnt all about how audio description, subtitles and on screen interpreting works. They had a try themselves and interpreted a children's programme "Small Potato".



In May, Upper School students took part in a STEM Day, investigating the air quality of St Albans. In different groups, they used their STEM skills to collect and analyse data, present their results and make suggestions on how the air quality in St Albans could be improved.



Eco-Schools



We run the Eco-Committee at school because we think improving the school is important and we want to achieve the Eco Schools Green Flag award.

We are only at the start of our journey and have just achieved our Bronze Award this term. We can now start working on our Silver Award.

If you (parents) would like to get involved in our eco-committee (we meet once a half term at lunchtimes) or have any ideas of what we can do to improve the environment next year, please let the school office know and we will be in touch.

Thank you (Eco Schools student leaders)



During Mental Health Awareness Week, our student leaders prepared and delivered lunch time activities to promote good mental health for all secondary pupils to get involved in. These activities included smoothie making, healthy cereal bar making and yoga. One pupil said that they *'really enjoyed the week and felt a lot calmer and happier knowing there was a lunch time activity they could get involved in with friends'*. Well done to the leaders involved for organising the great activities



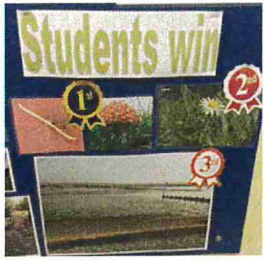
This year has been a very positive year for our student leaders. End of year questionnaires were distributed to all the student leaders about their experiences: 100% agreeing that they have developed some leadership and communication skills and 75% agreeing confidence has improved as a leader. They are aware that they need to do more to further develop their leadership skills. We hope our current student leaders will apply to continue and we also look forward to receiving new applicants.



In early July, Heathlands was proud to welcome schools from across the country to compete in the National Deaf Schools Athletics Sports Day. Well done to all the students who participated, particularly to Exeter Deaf Academy whose team won. Some students from US4 wrote what they felt about Sports Day...

Sports Day is a good time for motivating students to exercise. As the sports day happens many students are not ready. After sports day, many of students are more active and fit. As teenagers, they like to rest and watch some TV drama or going out with friends. We need to encourage them to be active and, sports day are a good motivation. Some teenagers like competition; they also can make friends in the day while many schools will come to compete. There are 5 schools altogether that came in sports day- Heathlands, Elmgreen, Knightsfield, Oaklodge and Exeter. Sports Day is a special full day PE. The event should be carried on because, it's... FUN! Some students are complaining that their schools had few sport lessons and not much of equipment. Sports Day is complete with track and field events such as long jump, high jump and shot put.





This term the school council organised both a Nature Photography Competition and a Dance Competition. Both students and staff showed off some impressive photography skills with Molly Garfield-Lichy winning the students' prize and Mrs Turner winning the staff prize.



Careers and Work Experience Update

This term has seen our work related events and visits continue to ensure that our students get a real taste of life after Heathlands. We welcomed staff from Uxbridge College who spoke to the Year 10s about applying for college and choosing the right courses. US6 prepared and delivered a BSL taster lesson to the Rotary Club who would be accompanying the lower school annual trip to Whipsnade Zoo. Some of the members stayed on to talk to Upper School classes about the benefits of volunteering.



US7 students spent 3 days work experience at Harpenden police station shadowing a police officer and doing a range of different activities to increase their understanding of the work at a police station. Richard Weinbaum, an ex-student and current governor of the school gave a talk to students about his career and the benefits of choosing an apprenticeship compared to going to university.



During the annual review days Years 9 and 10 had a packed schedule of events both in and out of school: Money Mechanics workshops delivered by the RAD; T-shirt design and making and visits to Red Bee Media and Whipsnade Zoo to look at possible careers in these



There will be three new classes starting in September this week some of the children joining from other schools were able to come in and meet some of the young children already at Heathlands. Here is one of the groups enjoying a taster lesson with Mr Rodger our science specialist teacher.



Heath House—Summer Term 2018

It has been another extremely busy term for Heath House. We had an Ofsted inspection and once again maintained our outstanding rating for boarding provision. We also welcome families to our annual BBQ which was a very successful event. The children have been taking part in a wide variety of activities and continue to be enthusiastic over new options.



Heath House cooking: Heath House children have been getting involved in cooking this term. They have been taking it in turns to cook the evening meal for each other. This has been a fun, popular and enjoyable activity. The children have developed their knowledge and cookery skills throughout the term. This has also been useful to encourage some children to be more adventurous with food choices.

Gardening project: The Heath House gardening project continues to thrive. The children went to the local garden centre and chose a variety of vegetables. These have now been planted and we are looking forward to seeing how they will grow. The children have learnt to take care of vegetables remembering to water them.



Weekly clubs: Children have continued to take part in a number of after school clubs; gym, football, golf and sailing clubs.

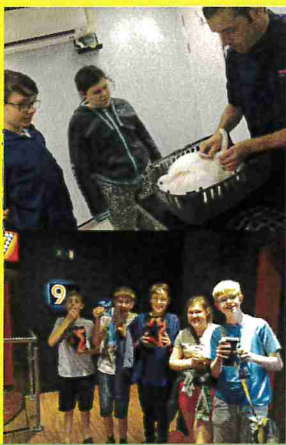
Evening activities like Watford football training, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, and Snorkelling have all continued.

Money management: Children have been working on developing their money management skills this term and have had regular trips to the shops to buy cookery ingredients, groceries and treats. This has helped to develop their knowledge of road safety and free walking.

Big space: Some of the younger children chose to go to big space this term where they had a lovely time and really enjoyed themselves.



A number of children are looking forward to joining the snorkelling club in September.



Vets: This term some of the children helped to take the Heath House rabbits Casper and Snowball to the vets to have their yearly check up and injections. This proved to be a good learning opportunity as the children learnt about the importance of keeping up to date with vaccinations.

Cinema: The older children enjoyed going to the cinema to see "Jurassic World Fallen Kingdom". They had a great time and enjoyed the film and of course popcorn.

Crazy golf: Some of the children chose to play crazy golf this term. They had a really positive time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After this activity we all went out for a meal. The children look forward to going again and having the opportunity to beat their scores.



Every day hazards: This term staff have been working with the children to teach them how to manage everyday accidents and hazards. The children enjoy the opportunity to play the injured victim. At first this highlighted some areas we need to work on to support children as they were unsure how to act when staff were not with them. Since starting this activity we have seen considerable improvement in how children deal with solving problems.



Gym equipment: In the evenings Heath House children have been taking full advantage of the new school outdoor gym. They use the equipment most evenings and have enjoyed being able to work on their fitness ready for sports day.



E-safety: Children have learnt about e-safety but need help from parents to make sure they are using the internet safely during the school holidays.



Art and crafts: This year the Heath House children have got fully involved in the World Cup. They organised a World Cup competition. They made flags and shirts ready for the family BBQ. They also helped to make a variety of food such as kebabs, burger cup cakes and fruit jellies. In the evenings they have also been following their teams on TV.



Family BBQ: This year the Heath House family BBQ was an extremely positive event. We would like to thank all the parents/carers and staff who were able to attend. We look forward to getting together for our annual Christmas party. We hope everyone has a lovely summer and a restful break.





BSL Centre - Summer Term 2018

As this academic year draws to close, we are looking towards developing our courses for September 2019.

2017-2018 has been a roller-coaster of a year in the BSL Centre, we have had 140+ learners on various courses developing their skills. This is the highest number of learners so far and next year looks to be just as busy.

There have been several new arrivals, two boys and girl, congratulations to the parents!

We have also had to say goodbye to a member of our team, Androulla Ash. Androulla has been a member of the BSL team for 6 years and worked in the school before that. We wish her well for the future, she will be missed by us all.



Three of our BSL Level 1 courses have all completed exams and are awaiting results.

Our Two fast track courses have one more exam to do next week.

The Level 1 course at ST Albans Girls' School also finished this week with their final exam.

BSL Level 2 classes have final exams this week, all learners have been working hard practising their receptive skills.

The BSL level 2 Young people's group has done really well and are excited to continue their learning in September. Some students finished exams last week and are nervously waiting for results to come through.



BSL Level 3 day course this year has been slightly different due to the size of the class. Zayne and Emma decided to team teach this class and it has been a good experience for both of them. Although it was busy with so many learners, the group worked well and the enthusiasm from learners enabled us to deliver a course we are both proud of.

Thursday evening Level 3 course was very different, fewer learners but with personal connections to the deaf community. Both courses have finished assessments and are awaiting results.



Both our BSL pre-level 3 and pre-level 4 courses were popular this year, they have been developing their receptive and productive skills ready for the next level of learning.

BSL Level 4 consisted of two courses, Monday evening and Friday day. Both courses have their final exams this week. All learners have worked hard to create portfolios and develop their skills to match the Level 4 standard.

Our first BSL Level 6 cohort is half way through the course already. Candidates are busy filming clips for their portfolios and self analysing them before submission.

This course will complete on 15th December.

Courses September 2018 -July 2019 If you would like to enrol on a BSL course for September please contact us by email – bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk

We have courses from BSL level 1 through to BSL Level 6. Course interviews for BSL level 2,3,4 and 6 are available now.



Parents will be returning on Monday 10th September 2018. We look forward to meeting new parents and greeting our regular parents.



Parents Page - Summer Term 2018

Summer Fete

On Saturday 7th July over 200 people attended the school fete. Through estate agent boards and donations and the day itself we managed to raise in excess of £2000! Friends of Heathlands would like to thank everyone who came and contributed their time and money. You can see some of the photos taken on the day over the next two pages. **We are looking for parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles to join the Friends of Heathlands in September. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 11th September at 3.45pm. See you all there!**



Herts Advertiser School Awards 2018

To round off the year in which Ofsted recognised Heathlands as an outstanding school, we were delighted to be nominated in five different categories of the Herts Advertiser School Awards.: Primary School of the Year and Secondary School of the Year; Heathlands Harmony in the project/innovation of the year; Neal Jordan-Caws, the chair of Friends of Heathlands, nominated for the unsung hero award; one of our students for pupil of the year and one of our ex students for sporting achiever of the year. Thank you to all those who nominated. Among other things, the judges commended the Outstanding work of the school.



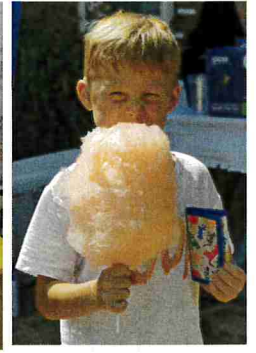
Summer Fun!

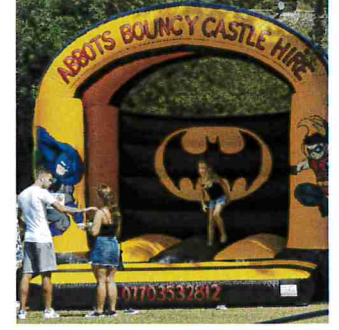
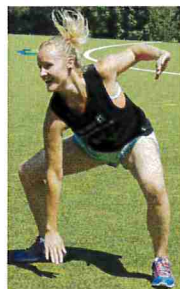
Over the Summer make sure you take advantage of Deaf activities. Phoenix activity sessions based in and around Hertfordshire. From horse riding to water wipe-out at Lee Valley water centre. Remark in North London and Bedford Deaf club also have an active community. The children will be able to benefit from socialising and fun! If you want to brush up your signing Remark are offering a level 1 BSL a fast track course. BSL tour of the Tower of London Saturday 25th August. BSL tour of Kew Gardens on Sunday 5th August.

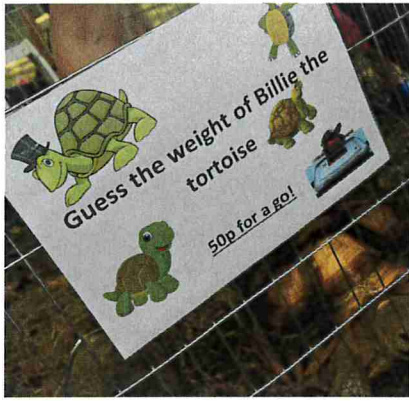


We are trying to raise money for an in ground trampoline to enhance break times for Upper School. Please ask friends/family to vote for us during July and August in the following Tesco stores: Hatfield Extra, Welwyn Express AL9 5JY and Welwyn Garden City Express. For those who shop in Waitrose, Heathlands are in the community vote in the St Albans store in August where we will get a percentage of £1000



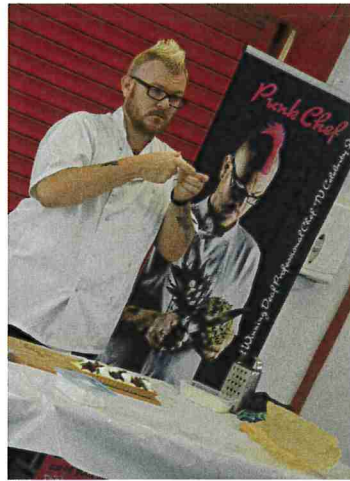
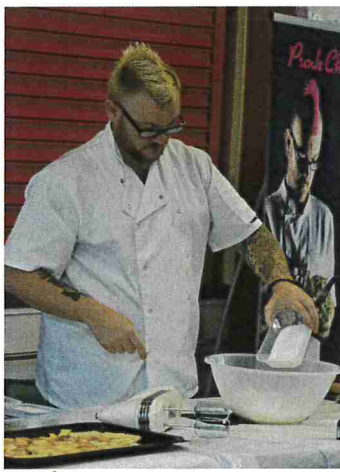






Billie's
weight is
10.3kg







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Term dates for Academic Year 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

Inset Day	Mon 3 September 2018 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Tuesday 4 September 2018
Half Term Holiday	Mon 29 October 2018 – Fri 2 November 2018
Occasional Day	Fri 30 November 2018 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Fri 21 December 2018 @ 12.30 pm

Spring Term 2019

Inset Day	Mon 7 January 2019 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Tues 8 January 2019
Half Term Holiday	Mon 18 February 2019– Fri 22 February 2019
Term Ends	Fri 5 April 2019 @ 12.30 pm

Summer Term 2019

Term Starts	Tuesday 23 April 2019
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May 2019
Half Term Holiday	Monday 27 May 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019
Term Ends	Friday 19 July 2019 @ 12.30 pm
Inset Days	Mon 22 July 2019 – Wed 24 July 2019 (no pupils in school)