

Heathlands Newsletter - Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It is always a pleasure to share with you the activities that have happened over the last term. Highlights for me were the Film Festival in March which showcased the work students are doing for their Arts Award, the visit of Dr Audrey Cameron for Science week and a wonderful day learning about The Gambia and the school we support there.

This term we launched our new website and this will give you regular updates about all the news happening in school.

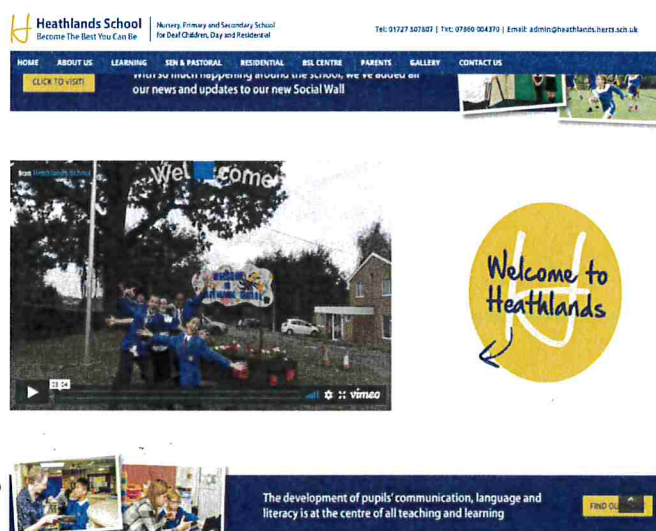
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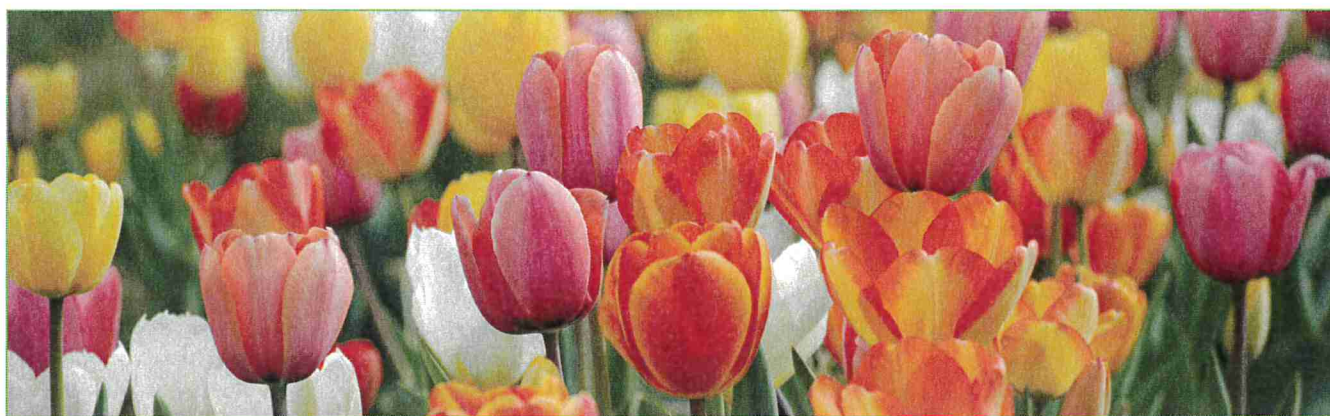
Premises improvements continue and at long last we have a leak free roof! The scaffolding will be removed over the Easter holidays. We have also refurbished the children's sensory room using money donated by Tesco and will soon be improving the early years play area. Best of all we have now got our new Café bus "The Bus Stop". This is a community space which parents can use and will also be a pop up shop/café for all sorts of events. Renovations are underway and we are grateful for the hard work of both staff and parents from Friends of Heathlands on this project.

Heathlands is a very special place to work with a brilliant sense of community and a committed staff team. Next term will be my last at Heathlands and I'm looking forward to working very closely with our new Co-Heads to ensure a smooth transition. We'll all be back on 23rd April full of ideas, energy and commitment for the summer term. Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to seeing you then.

Deborah Jones-Stevens

Head Teacher





Lower and Middle School - Spring Term 2019

In their Spanish lesson, pupils from Middle School played the Spanish equivalent of "Simon Says..."



Otters class are learning how to solve problems in Maths. They tried to discover all possible ways to reach an answer and had fun experimenting with cubes and bricks to demonstrate their answers, visually and clearly, to everyone.

MS1 have been working very hard on their handwriting skills. They explained to their teacher that having good handwriting is important for the future when you have a job. It is also important if they need to write something on paper when trying to communicate outside of school.



Hedgehogs Class are learning about materials and looked for things made of WOOD around school. They wrote the word onto post-it notes and labelled everything they found!



Foxes class have been learning about lines in Art - horizontal and vertical, thick and thin. They made a class picture together on the Smart board, then created their own on the laptops.



Otters class had a topic lesson learning about the Stone Age. They created a flint tool by chipping a part from a big stone/rock. The flint created an excellent Stone Age knife to cut banana cleanly!



On 24th January, Students from LS and MS went along to the annual Panathlon Swimming event at the spectacular Aquatics Centre at the Olympic Park, London. Fantastic news as

Heathlands students were crowned champions for the second year running. Well done to all involved.

When it's too bitterly cold to play outside ...settle down in the warm for a good read instead!



Squirrels class have been learning about the Life Cycle of a Butterfly. They made each stage using a variety of materials. Can you spot, the eggs, the caterpillar, the chrysalis and the butterfly?



On January 28th we were very pleased to have Ms Kamini Gadhok (the CEO of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists) open our newly refurbished sensory room. The room supports the development of speech and listening skills. Some of the children got to demonstrate the new equipment to her.



Hedgehogs class enjoyed what happened when the powder paint was sprinkled onto the icy frost one cold morning! The frost changed from white to blue, red and yellow and then the colours mixed!...and then lovely coloured chunks could be scraped up and put into metal bowls for some serious stir-



Congratulations to Heathlands Harmony choir who performed at the O2 Arena on 29 January.



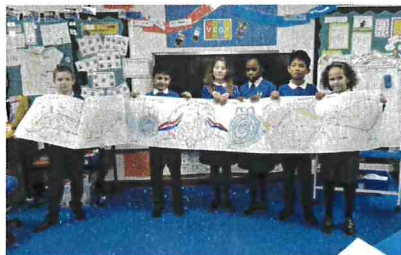
Students who signed up for guitar lessons have been practising their playing and strumming each Wednesday with our guitar teacher Tom. 'Bad to the Bone' was one song played! The students are really enjoying the lessons and Tom is very impressed by their progress.



Otters Class are studying Sikhism in Religious Education and one of



the secondary pupils kindly showed the class how to wrap their heads for the Sikh turban.



Moles class have been learning about the ear in Science - they created a huge diagram!

Middle 3 have been working hard in Design Technology developing their skills with woodwork.



Following the Secret Story Teller who came to Sign and Play, one



little boy liked the story of The Rope Swing so much, he wanted to have a go at telling it himself!



February 5th was the start of Chinese New Year- The year of the Pig! Deer class wrote

their own fortunes to put them into their home-made fortune cookies. Making fortune cookies is a real challenge but with some trial and error the children were very successful!



MS1 studied the book Oliver Twist and acted out chapters.

Some children from Deers and Moles classes had the opportunity to spend the day at St Albans Saracens Tag Rugby Festival. The sun was shining, the children had a fantastic team spirit, played really well and met lots of other children from local schools. Thank you to the Saracens Sport Foundation for organising the event.



In Science, Deer class have been learning about the particles that make up solids, liquids and gases.



We are very excited to use our new smart board in the sound and light room as part of the pupil's speech and language therapy. Some students practised their vocabulary knowledge, following the word aware approach with a 'word wizard' map. We thought about the sound parts and meaning parts of a word i.e. visual phonics for 'a' for 'apple'. Other students enjoyed practising their listening, lip reading and vocabulary by following spoken instructions to draw pictures on the board. They also practised their English clarification skills, for example 'can you say it louder', 'can you say it slower' and 'hand down please I need to lip read'.



In February Otters class went to Bhaktivedanta Manor near Watford. This is an interesting place showing how the Hare Krishna faith is

practised daily. The children learnt about the Hindu religion and how they worship many Gods. They were fascinated to see the colourful Gods and dressed up as a God with a beautifully painted face. They also went on a cart ride pulled by two enormous cows and fed them carrots while learning why cows were so sacred. After a delicious vegetarian lunch, they then had a walk around the tranquil woods and saw the beautifully carved trees in the peaceful grounds.



Children continue to enjoy sewing club continues. Cushion covers seem to be the most popular activity and the students are always delighted with their finished project.

Thanks to those students who have been waiting patiently for their turn. Hopefully we will get to you soon!

Owls class learnt how to read and follow instructions to make an owl with flapping wings. They watched carefully for the next instruction from their partner and learnt how to cut, measure and thread the owl to make it flap its wings and fly.



Welcome to our new activities leader Mrs Laumete. She will be setting up a range of lunch time and after school clubs for all



Learning about forces in science, two Year 7 students made a self supporting bridge during the half term break, well done to both of them for their great work.



students. News and craft clubs have already started and an after school Youth Club both 'home and away' is beginning soon!

It was fantastic to see so many Lower School pupils (and a few staff) dressed up for our character themed book week parade.



Every two years we take part in the 'Living Eggs' experience, which involves taking delivery of 10 fertilised chicken eggs in an incubator. Over the next couple of days both the staff and pupils, watch in awe as they courageously break out of their shell, it looked very exhausting! The experience for the pupils has deepened their knowledge of life cycles, developed their language, and given them first hand experience of caring for live animals.



MS2 have been learning how to support poorer countries as part of their Geography studies. They have been researching overseas charities and learning about the Fairtrade Organisation. A group of students from Bishop Hatfield Girls' School came and did a workshop with the group and had them painting t-shirts to help people to recognise the organisation's symbol and to encourage people to buy Fairtrade products.





Upper School - Spring Term 2019



GCSE students had a good start to 2019 investigating extension and what happens when applying forces to a spring.



In Geography, year 8 students investigated temperature around the school. They used a thermometer to accurately record the temperature in different rooms, corridors and outside.



Year 10 student leaders organised another Eco Quiz. Middle School students were paired up with students from US5. Well done to everyone who organised and took part in the quiz. It's always good to keep thinking about what we can do to help the environment.

Congratulations to the Upper School team from Heathlands who achieved second place, silver, in the National Swimming Championships held in January at the Olympic swimming pool. Congratulations to Knightsfield, another Hertfordshire school, for coming first. There were only 3 points in it. One of the pupils taking part said: "When I started today I was nervous, but I feel good when I'm in the water. I get a real sense of achievement when I get out and see my team-mates clapping. It's amazing to be here in this giant arena."



4-10th February was Children's Mental Health Week. The senior students gave a presentation to encourage children and young people to look after their bodies and minds. They explained, very clearly, that our bodies and minds are connected and how important it is for us to do different things to improve our physical well being, which will help our mental wellbeing too.

**Children's
Mental Health
Week 2019**
4-10 Feb #ChildrensMentalHealthWeek
ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk



US5 students have been learning how to build series and parallel electric circuits.



In February a number of Upper School Students attended the Deaf Football Tournament in Derby. The Junior Boys got to the semi final and lost 2-1 to Hanson School, who were the eventual winners of the tournament. One of our girls team's got to the final, losing 1-0 to the winners of the tournament



Royal School for the Deaf, Derby.



US1 used drama to explore a key chapter from the book 'The Beast'. They learned about the importance of stage directions in a script and followed them to make their role-play more realistic. They also practised making the sounds described in the stage directions: scratching, howling and barking.

GCSE students did practical investigations on the topic of specific heat capacity and temperature. They also made copper sulphate crystals by reacting copper oxide with sulphuric acid.



Three girls from Marlborough School visited Miss Monk's reading group. The visitors interviewed our students about their experiences using subtitles on YouTube as a part of their research for their school magazine. They had a very interesting discussion about how appalling subtitles can be on YouTube!



US3 finished their home learning task to create a project on a specific planet. They all brought in their work from home and there were lots of informative facts and creativity. Well done US3; all of them received certificates in Assembly.



As a part of World Book Day, some students from Miss Monk's reading group went to St Albans Girls' School to meet the bestselling author Karen McCombie. They watched her fantastic presentation and had their books signed!



US9 students have been busy making rice dishes for their food technology courses. The smells coming from the kitchen today were mouth-watering! We hope the students enjoyed eating their efforts!



This term, RAD came to Heathlands to run some Money Mechanics and Enterprise workshops for the Year 9, 10 and 11 students. The Year 9s learnt about the value of money and money management - the ins and outs of earning, saving and budgeting. Whilst the Year 10s and 11s were given the challenge of setting up their own small businesses selling chocolate, tea and plants. They all relished the challenge and did well, with a total of £238 going to their chosen charities. Needless to say, we enjoyed the treats!





British Science week 11th to 15th March 2019

At the beginning of the week we spent time with classes doing kitchen chemistry experiments led by the students who were involved in last year's project. They were brilliant and remembered a lot of procedures. Dr Cameron from Edinburgh joined us on Tuesday where the Lower School classes visited the lab to do a lot of WOW experiments. Some of the experiments included making slime, carbon dioxide balloons with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, worms with Gaviscon, watching sugar cubes absorbing food colouring and we watched our raisins dance in soda water due to the gas bubbles in it. We enjoyed some parents and their friends coming to the nursery where we did a lot of sensory chemistry experiments. Some students were involved in investigation whether micro-fibres of plastic get into the water when synthetic clothes are washed. They were shocked at the results and decided to write a letter to the Prime Minister to look at introducing a new law to reduce the use of plastic materials. Our highlight of the week was having Frank Barnes and Oak Lodge school students joining us. This was a valuable opportunity to develop social skills whilst learning about science together. The British Science Association has provided funds of support to enable us to take part in the British Science Week – thank you very much!



Look what we grew in our garden courtyard - asparagus!



On 22 March students and staff from Lower, Middle and Upper School were privileged to attend Heathlands Sign Language Film Festival at the local cinema, The Odyssey. This had been organised by the students working towards their Arts Award accreditation. If you'd like a sneak preview of the film that opened the screening, check out the home page on our website for the Welcome to Heathlands video.

<https://heathlands.herts.sch.uk/>

US3 went to the Jewish Deaf Association and saw their fantastic DCafe (a café run by Deaf people). Students met lots of deaf people and found out lots of interesting things about what schools were like for Deaf people over 60 years ago!



At the end of March a number of the students took it in turns to help on a St Albans market stall to teach deaf awareness, fingerspelling and some basic signs to market goers. Some of the students sold crafts they had made. They raised a magnificent £477.78 towards the Bus Stop cafe.

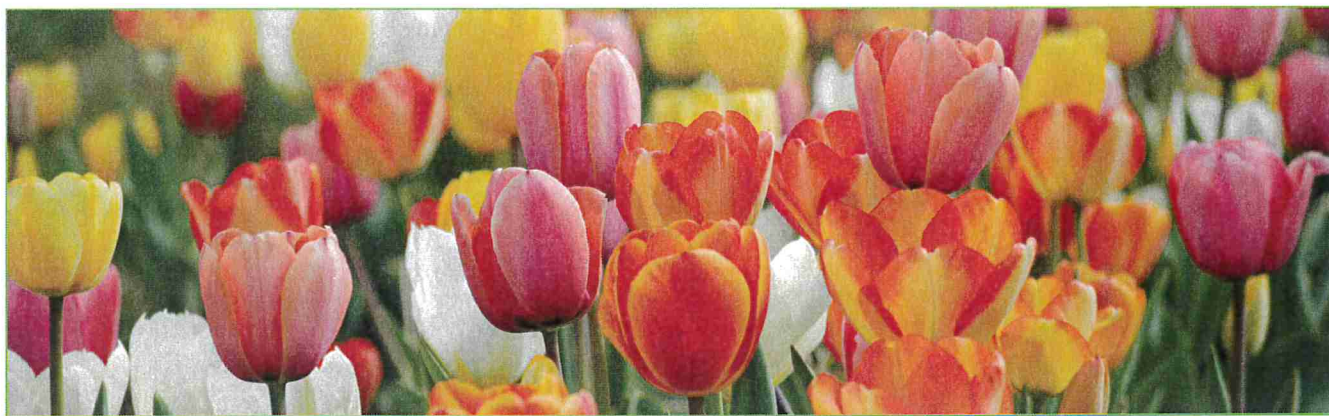


Some of our students attended a wonderful lunch time debate. Our students debated against Marlborough school students on the topic of "positives and negatives of social media" Despite some initial nerves, once they got going they really did debate with vigour. Our students' points were good, emphasising the importance of social media for deaf people so they can connect with each other locally and internationally through BSL. Great feedback received - good team work, great debating and communication skills.



We have had a very enjoyable and interesting Gambia day, where the staff who went to The Gambia at half term, fed back everything they had learnt. Upper and Middle School had a special assembly and Lower School had a Gambia themed activity afternoon. Some of the Middle School pupils were able to interview Chris and Margaret Meeks from the charity Helping, which works in Gambia. Mohammed from Kadect also came. At lunchtime we ate special Gambian food (Chicken Yassa) and a range of Gambian fruit for pudding.





Heath House - Spring Term 2019

Spring term: This has been a very busy and productive term for the children and young people. They have continued to develop their independence skills by going shopping, cooking and going out in the local community. They have also taken part in a wide range of activities offered in Heath House. These activities have often challenged the children and young people as well as helping them to learn and develop new skills.



Ballet: Some of the children and young people have continued to attend ballet lessons. They are really enjoying this activity and are progressing well.

One child said *"I enjoy ballet I learn about important stretching and flexible. This good activity I made lots friends we all have fun"*.



Brownies/Guides: Brownies and Guides they have been really enjoying themselves making lots of creative art pieces. One of our young pupils also made her Brownie promise.



Snorkelling and underwater hockey: Some children have continued to enjoy their regular snorkelling lesson. One child said *"I really enjoy underwater hockey I been win trophy best improved pupil and dedication. I feel more confident now"*.

Snow day : Earlier this term we had snow! The children enjoyed playing in the snow and making a snowman together. One child said *"We made snowman and snow angel it cold but fun"*.



Gardening: The children helped to tidy up the vegetable garden. They went shopping to choose seeds to be planted and built a green house. One child said *"I like gardening it fun grow vegetables to eat and cook for dinner time."*



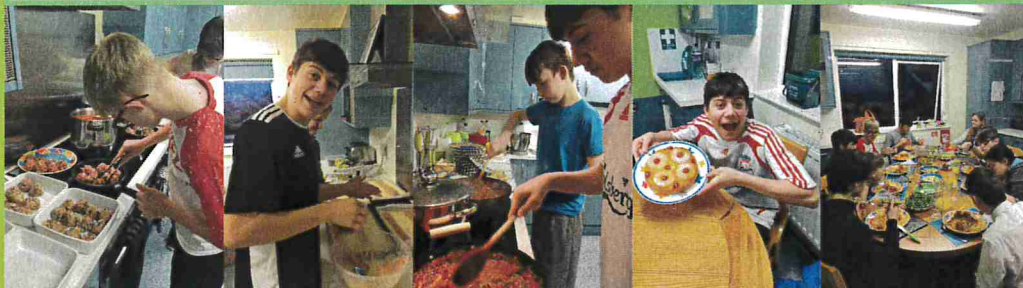


Rock Up: This term the children and young people went to Rock Up a number of times. This was a great source of exercise for everyone. This proved to be a popular but challenging activity. There were a variety of walls where the children could test their skills and abilities. One child said *"I enjoy this activity I climbed 21 different walls"*. Another child said *"I race up wall with timer been finish 19.53 seconds"*.



Valentines day: For Valentines day the children and young people took part in a treasure hunt. The children had to find clues to find a piece of a recipe and list of ingredients. Once the recipe was complete they made some lovely cup cakes for their families.

World travel: Please remember if anyone is traveling around over Easter please send us a post card so that we can add it to our world maps.



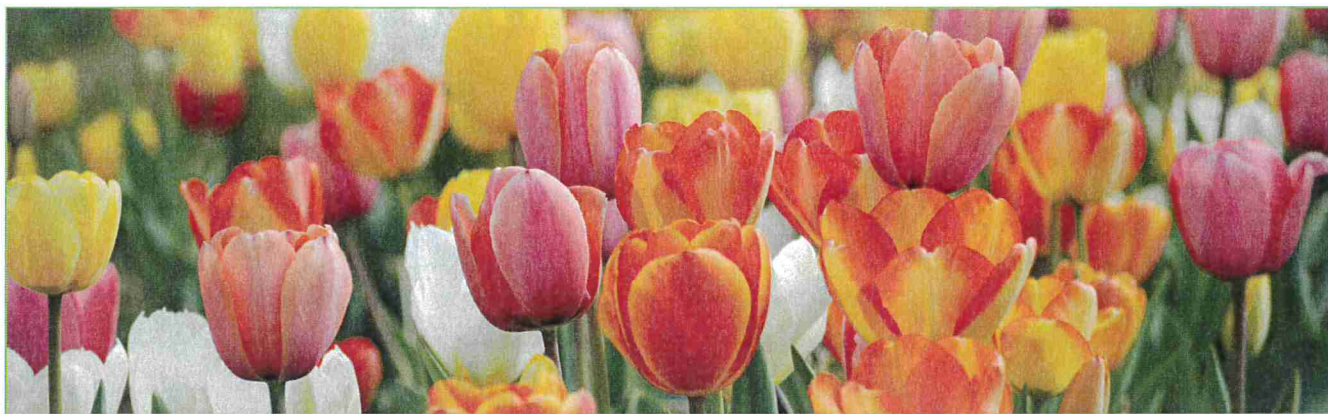
Heath House cooking: The children and young people have continued to learn and help cook the evening meals. This term we have made a number of home made meals and deserts such as fish curry, ragu, meatballs, chilli cup-cakes and upside-down pineapple cake.

Creative activities: Throughout the term the children have taken part in a number of these activities. They have made juggling balls and practiced juggling, they made towers using only spaghetti and marshmallows, they made bracelets. We also had a rocket making competition and launched all the creations outside.



Observatory: The Heath House children went to a local observatory. They learnt about space and the solar system. They were also lucky enough to use one of the giant telescopes to look at the moon.





BSL Centre - Spring Term 2019

Easter is rapidly approaching and our courses are heading towards exam time. This term has been as busy as ever; two new Level 1 fast track courses began in January. Learners have just completed their first exam and are now developing their vocabulary and topic knowledge ready for the second assessment. The parents' group would like more parents to attend: Mondays 9.30am-11.30am. We've seen some new faces, but it would be lovely to see more. The sessions are free for parents, carers or other adult family members of Heathlands School students.



Our two intensive courses—Linguistics and Receptive have just finished this week. Our next Receptive intensive

course will run from 23rd April for 10 weeks, places are limited and filling up fast. If you would like to join this course please email us. BSL@heathlands.herts.sch.uk

BSL Level 3 learners are working toward their linguistics assessments and have also been developing their receptive and productive skills. Part of the level 3 course is to learn to develop your self evaluation skills, learners have been doing this by filming themselves and watching the clip picking out linguistic elements they have used. This leads into BSL Level 4 where learner have to self analyse 4 of their filmed clips as evidence.

Our two BSL Level 1 courses that began in September are sitting their second assessment the beginning of April.

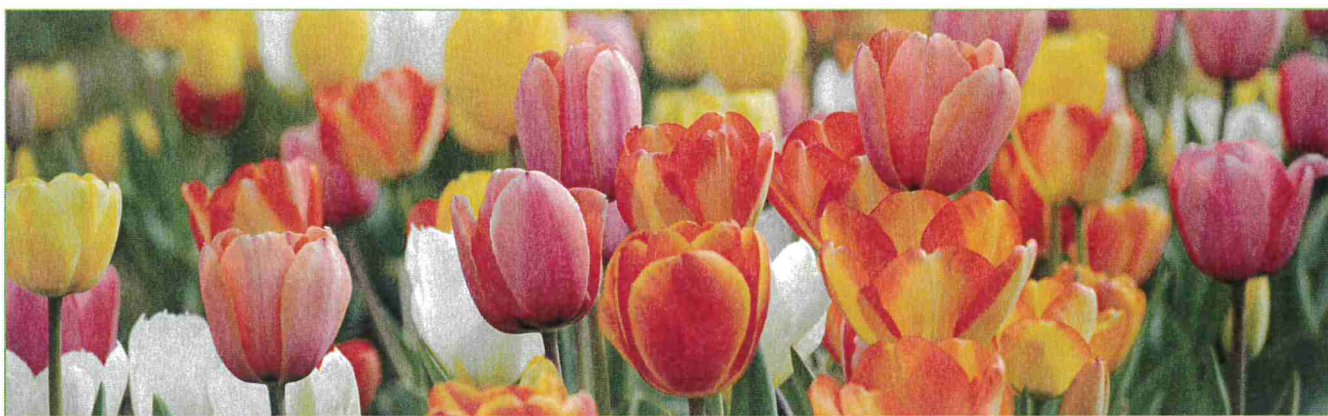
The BSL Level 2 courses are working towards their first assessment and practising their conversational skills.



BSL Level 4 classes have been working hard filming clips and self analysing for their portfolios. They have also been learning how to translate from BSL to English and English to BSL.

Enrolment for September courses are open and interviews will be held in June 2019.





Parents Page - Spring Term 2019

Friends of Heathlands next event...

Arty Party!

We will be having real artists running workshops on the day, so you can try out new skills.

Confirmed so far...



Ceramic Jewellery Clay bust sculpting Graffiti Art

Floristry

Are you an artist? Or you know any artist who might be happy to design/draw an image on a postcard for Heathlands? If so, contact us so we can send out blank postcards to you. We are going to display them at the Arty Party on **Saturday 29th June** to raise funds for Friends of Heathlands. If you would like to be involved/ further information please email the Friends of Heathlands at friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk

Some of the children and parents enjoyed an '**Evening with the Stars**' at **Bayfordbury Observatory**, Hertford on Thursday 17th January 2019 - Organised by the Friends of Heathlands. They had a talk given by one of their astronomy students (which was relayed in BSL), 'a tour of the sky' at their planetarium and an opportunity to take a peek through their telescopes to see the moon. They saw it really close up, but the craters were still 100km wide!



EYFS parents joined us for a twilight, finding out about the curriculum and

how to support their children at home, lots of fun was had by all!

Parents were caught making dens and towers!



The **bus** has

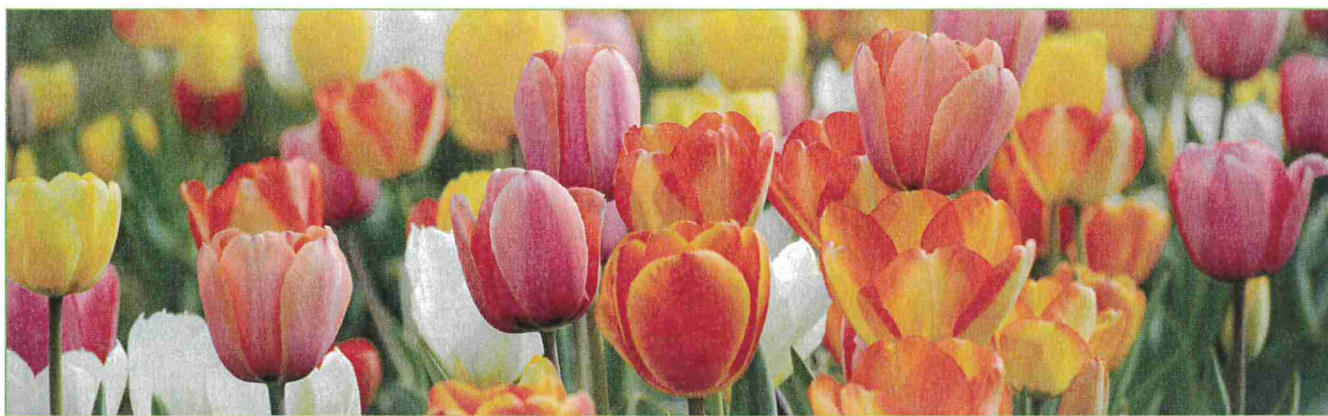


now arrived, you will have seen the video from FoH sharing the exciting news about the project going forward. If you can afford to donate a little bit of money, or know someone who can, please go to the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/>

Last year Heathlands Harmony performed at a local music festival, M FEST, and had a great time. Here is a link to the early bird discount for anyone interested in buying tickets for this year's event. <https://themfestival.co.uk/>





Term Dates - Spring Term 2019

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)

Autumn Term 2019

Inset Day	Mon 2 September 2019 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Tues 3 September 2019
Half Term Holiday	Mon 28 October 2019 – Fri 1 November 2019
Occasional Day	Fri 29 November 2019 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Fri 20 December 2019 @ 12.30pm

Any changes or amendments will be announced on our website
www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk