



Heathlands Newsletter - Summer Term 2019

Dear Parents,

As always it's a pleasure to introduce the school newsletter and to share all the activities from this term. I get the same "buzz" from seeing the children's enjoyment and achievement as when I joined Heathlands 25 years ago. I've stayed here so long because Heathlands is a very special place to work. It is no surprise to me that others similarly have given committed long service. I feel incredibly privileged to have worked at this school and met so many wonderful students and families.

Over my working life I've seen incredible change. When I started teaching it was without computers, cochlear implants or interactive whiteboards. The National Curriculum had not been thought of let alone SATs and Ofsted! Whilst many schools for Deaf children have closed over the last 40 years we can all be proud that Heathlands continues to be a strong and successful school with a staff team second to none. Together we have expanded our facilities, achieved outstanding Ofsted reports, have excellent pupil outcomes and in September will start with the highest number of pupils ever.

I know Heathlands has an exciting future under the leadership of Mrs Reeves-Costi and Mrs Shields who will bring fresh ideas and vision to the school. Heathlands never stands still and I look forward to watching from afar and cheering you all on. My own future and what retirement holds is less certain but David Bowie summed it up when he said

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring."

My very best wishes to you all.

Deborah Jones-Stevens



Lower and Middle School - Summer Term 2019



In History, MS2 found out about German priest Martin Luther's wish to reform the church. MS2 students looked at the differences between Roman Catholic churches and Protestant churches from the early

1500s and noted that the Roman Catholic churches had very ornate features, such as stained glass windows, and the Protestant churches were less grand. The students made stained glass windows as part of the discussion over whether the windows were an important tool to teach people about God or whether they were a waste of people's money that could be better spent on the people.

MS3 students learnt how genes determine your appearance.

They were given two sets of chromosomes and had to randomly mix them in different ways to a genotype (dominant or recessive). From this information they followed instructions to make a sketch of a human face.



Deer class tried solving area problems in maths. They created problems on a set of rectangles which had missing lengths or widths. It was quite challenging!



At the end of April, Moles

class planted peas and carrots.



Squirrels class have been learning about food chains, and showed their learning through making a fun food chain picture.



Our Secret Story Teller told the story of The Gingerbread

Man in Foundation. All the children were totally engaged, especially when the real thing came out for tasting!



Otters class created interesting pieces of art to show the galaxy. First of all they marked out the stars and comets on the paper using wax crayons. This created barriers for the painting. They then splashed paints and water onto their drawings and moved the paints around by blowing through the straws to create their galaxy pictures.

Hedgehogs Class have been learning about water. They enjoyed trying to keep dry from 'rain' water with the umbrellas!





MS1 made cards for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex to congratulate them on the arrival of their new baby.



Hedgehogs have been learning about rainbows. They have been mixing colours and making pictures with the 7 rainbow colours.



In May, Middle School 2 completed an orienteering course in Highfield Park, St Albans. The students took it in turns to lead the group. They had to use a map and a compass and look for the red and white orienteering flag symbols. The students worked really well, double checking the direction with their compasses, and were most fortunate to have lovely weather on their day out.

Congratulations to the middle school students in Year 6 who took their SATs exams at the end of May. A few of them were literally jumping for joy after their final maths exam!



MS3 students investigated the reactions of metals and acids.



Deafinitely Theatre came to teach drama workshops to Deer & Moles classes. They worked on various exercises and then had a lot of fun acting out scenes from the life of the first Deaf convict, Elizabeth Steele. At the end of May, we were thrilled to have Deafinitely Theatre in to perform their new play, "Horrid History- Dreadful Deaf" to some of the students. It is a fantastic play and the children and young people really enjoyed it. We were very fortunate to see their first ever public performance. Do catch it if you can.



As a part of US9's research for their special Café project, they made fruit

smoothies. MS1 came to test the smoothies. They tried three and gave their feedback. MS1 really enjoyed the smoothies and they wanted more!



Moles Class have been

looking at Water Cycles. They created a small model of the sea for an experiment investigating Precipitation, Condensation and Evaporation.



MS3 visited Marlborough school to see how students create



and produce their school magazine, MO. They were lucky enough to sit in on a meeting where the 6th formers planned their next edition. Our pupils have come back inspired to create their own magazine.

Moles class' beans are growing rapidly! The children are excited to see how much more they grow.



Linked to their topic work, for art, Squirrels class created a city skyline. Can you guess which city it is?





In June, MS2 and MS3 visited the Museum of London to learn about the Stone Age and Iron Age. The students were split into pairs, one MS2 student with one MS3 student, and they had to work together to search for particular displays and information about prehistoric times in London. The students worked very well together, supporting each other, and also displaying some competitive spirit to try and finish the task before the cut off time.



We received some lovely comments from passers-by who thought that our students were very well behaved and excellent team-workers. Well done to MS2 and MS3. You did your school proud!



Hedgehogs had a visit from the Bookstart librarian who shared a new book with them. They each received a free copy of the book to celebrate 'Pyjamarama' which encourages sharing bedtime stories.



Senior students led a lunch time session on how to manage stress

when revising for exams and techniques. Some ideas were shared on keeping calm during exams.



MS1 created Josh, their friend who has trouble with personal hygiene. He does not brush his teeth and hates having a bath! The class have



been learning about why it is important to be clean. One student said 'we want smell nice, if dirty clothes and no shower you will smell. Important wash hair to stop grease and hands

Squirrels and Foxes class were lucky enough to visit Whipsnade Zoo



for the 'Kids Out' event, organised by the Rotary Club of St Albans Verulamium. A great day was had by all and the rain even stayed away (well for most of the day!)



In June, MS3 went orienteering at Highfield Park in St Albans. This was the second middle school group to try the formal course.



MS3 have produced a limited print run on their new school newsletter. A copy has gone to each class for the students to read, together with a feedback form so that MS3 can consider how it could be improved for future editions.



Otters class have been learning about the history of deaf education in PSHE.

They invited some deaf people to come and talk about their experiences. All the visitors and children



had lunch in the school café bus. The children had made sandwiches and cakes for their visitors, which everyone enjoyed. The children were interested to see all the photographs of their visitors from when they were in school and they played a game of bingo which is a very popular game in the deaf community.

The plants sown from seeds, by Hedgehogs class, have grown into something beautiful...sunflowers, sweet peas and broad beans! They have been well looked after!



Foxes class have learnt different ways to fold paper and make shapes to create these sculptures



We had our last Sign & Play before the summer holiday! Our Secret Story Teller came and signed the story 'Kipper's Laces' which everyone enjoyed....some were even motivated to have a go at tying laces themselves! S&P starts up again on Sept 10.





Upper School - Summer Term 2019



In April, James Merry a deaf animator came to Heathlands to do workshops with two groups:- Middle



School 1 and 2 and the GCSE Year 10 group. The Middle School classes enjoyed learning about his background as an animator and learned how to make zoetropes which are the earliest forms of animation. The Year

10s asked James plenty of questions about coping and getting support on his animation courses, and learnt how to make animated short films using clay, Lego and drawings.



US2 looked at endothermic and exothermic reactions. In endothermic reactions the temperature drops and in exothermic reactions the temperature rises when chemicals are mixed together



PE students attended Woodside Leisure Park in Garston, Watford to compete in a bowling tournament organised by Panathlon. All the students had a great morning. One student said she had never been bowling before!

GCSE students learning how sodium and chlorine react to form sodium chloride compound (working out the electronic structure of both elements).



US5 students have been learning about land maintenance. They went to the garden centre to buy plants to improve areas around the school.



In May, we hosted the First Heathlands Youth club. There were lots of activities and games. The young people had fun and enjoyed themselves.

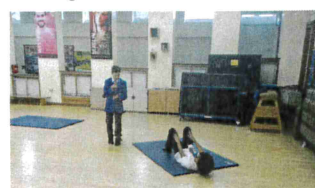


Student leaders led a lunch time session for their peers about how to be safe when online / using the internet.

Student leaders led a lunch time session for their peers about how to be safe when online / using the internet.



The Sports Leadership group led students in a Circuit training challenge. Several students got involved to see who could complete the circuit in the shortest time!



Year 10 had a presentation from Herts Young Homeless Charity. They learnt about the reasons young people become homeless and what makes a home. They had to decide if each person had a home or was homeless.



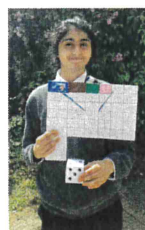
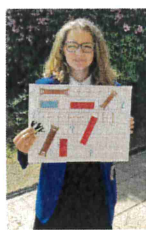
US4 have been studying poetry in their English lessons. This unit of work culminated with students devising and performing their own BSL poems. They experimented with how to incorporate poetic devices such as repetition (of particular signs, handshapes or placement), rhythm and characterisation.

US9 organised a competition to design some artwork for the Bus Stop. Almost every child in the school got involved and the runners up can be seen in the display in school. The chosen designs were judged by Mr Jordan-Caws (Chair of the PTA), the students of US9 and Mrs Brinsden. They have been framed and will be on display inside the Bus Stop.



A 'reduce electricity day' was organised by the students in our Ecogroup. This was part of the Sustainable St Albans Festival. It really helped to make people think about whether they needed the lights on or not for different activities. Some students spent the lunchtime making wind mills.

Young Deaf Hope delivered a workshop "What are healthy relationships" at Heathlands Youth Club. Young people were involved to discuss their thoughts on "what are bad and good relationships" and "What does relationship mean?"



Students in US3 have been learning about writing and following instructions. For a recent project, they all worked hard to design their own board games. They then wrote instructions to accompany them, and played each other's games to test out how clear and successful their rules were.

At the end of May, our student leaders gave a short talk on revision strategies and tips to a group of Year 9 and 10 students.



The school council ran a workshop designing tiles to represent the school. Their works of art will be on display around the school soon!



On June 14th, we said goodbye to year 11 in our leavers assembly. Congratulations to all of them for completing their exams. Particular congratulations to the students who won the

Heathlands Award and the Michael Wilson Trophy. We had the traditional Year 11 leavers staff vs pupils match. This year they played Dodgeball. The score was 3:2 to the staff. In the afternoon the year 11 leavers opened the bus to raise money



for Kadect by selling ice creams and lollies. It proved very popular and helped the children with their money management skills.





US3 and US4 students visited Red Bee Media in West London. We met the regular BBC lunch time news interpreter and visited the studio. They asked a lot of interesting questions about how to become an interpreter (hearing and deaf can become interpreters) and tried to do a bit of "interpreting" - initially students thought it was easy but when they tried to do it themselves they found it hard.



In June, some of our students visited Blanche Neville school for the deaf to participate in a debate. The following topics were debated: Should the death penalty be allowed? (HL for, BN against) and should animal testing be allowed? (HL against, BN for).



Student Leaders delivered a logo quiz. All the students enjoyed it. Both teams got the same amount of correct answers so it was a draw. Next time the organisers promised it would be much harder!



On 21st June, some parents came to our family Focus group with Phoenix. Parents discussed what kind of workshops and training courses would be helpful for parents and their children/teenagers. We shared lots of good ideas. Heathlands will be working with Phoenix to provide many of these for our parents.

Some of our GCSE Maths students visited Marlborough Academy to take part in a Maths challenge. With other students from the Academy, they tackled some tricky GCSE-style problems to help prepare for their exams. They all did very well, as communication played a big part too - one of our students' teams won! Well done all!



US5 students have been busy helping Groundwork East on a gardening project. Every student worked so hard and the results were astounding. The couple who lived in the house were so impressed and very grateful. We were shocked to see statues and plant pots appearing from behind the bushes as we cut back the bind weed and ivy. We cleared so much that we managed to fill 5 huge bags full of cuttings.



Some of our Upper School students took part in a STEM day to investigate the Big Question - 'Are brand names better than supermarket own products?'. They worked in teams investigating different types of cleaning products including stain removers, washing up liquid, window cleaners and lime scale removers. They also looked at natural alternatives to see if they worked just as well or better. Students all worked brilliantly well and really took their cleaning seriously! They came up with some interesting results - in some cases supermarket brands were just as good and the cheaper natural alternatives worked nearly just as well.



In July, Heathlands hosted the National Deaf Schools Athletics Day at Westminster Lodge Exeter Deaf Academy were the reigning champions and had been for two consecutive years. This year, Heathlands pipped Exeter to the title. Heathlands School would like to thank all the students from all the schools that participated in the event and for their excellent effort and behaviour on the day.



Heath House - Summer Term 2019

This term: This has been a very busy term for the young people. They have been involved in a wide range of activities inside and outside of Heath House. They have been learning new skills and developing their independence ready for their future.

Rocket building: The children have spent time designing rockets and then launching them on the field. One child said "I enjoy make rocket it go really high want to make better one."



Evening cooking: The young people are regularly involved in cooking the evening meals in Heath House. They all take it in turns and have been learning new recipes and skills.

Hazard preparation activities: These 'what if' scenarios have continued. The children are now showing more knowledge of what to do in the event of an accident.



Barbers: Some children went to the local barbers to get their haircut this term. "I learn get hair cut."



Vegetable patch: Some of the children went shopping for seeds, they then helped to re-plant the vegetable patch. One child said "I been shop for seeds. I plant carrots and peas, we will cook with these."

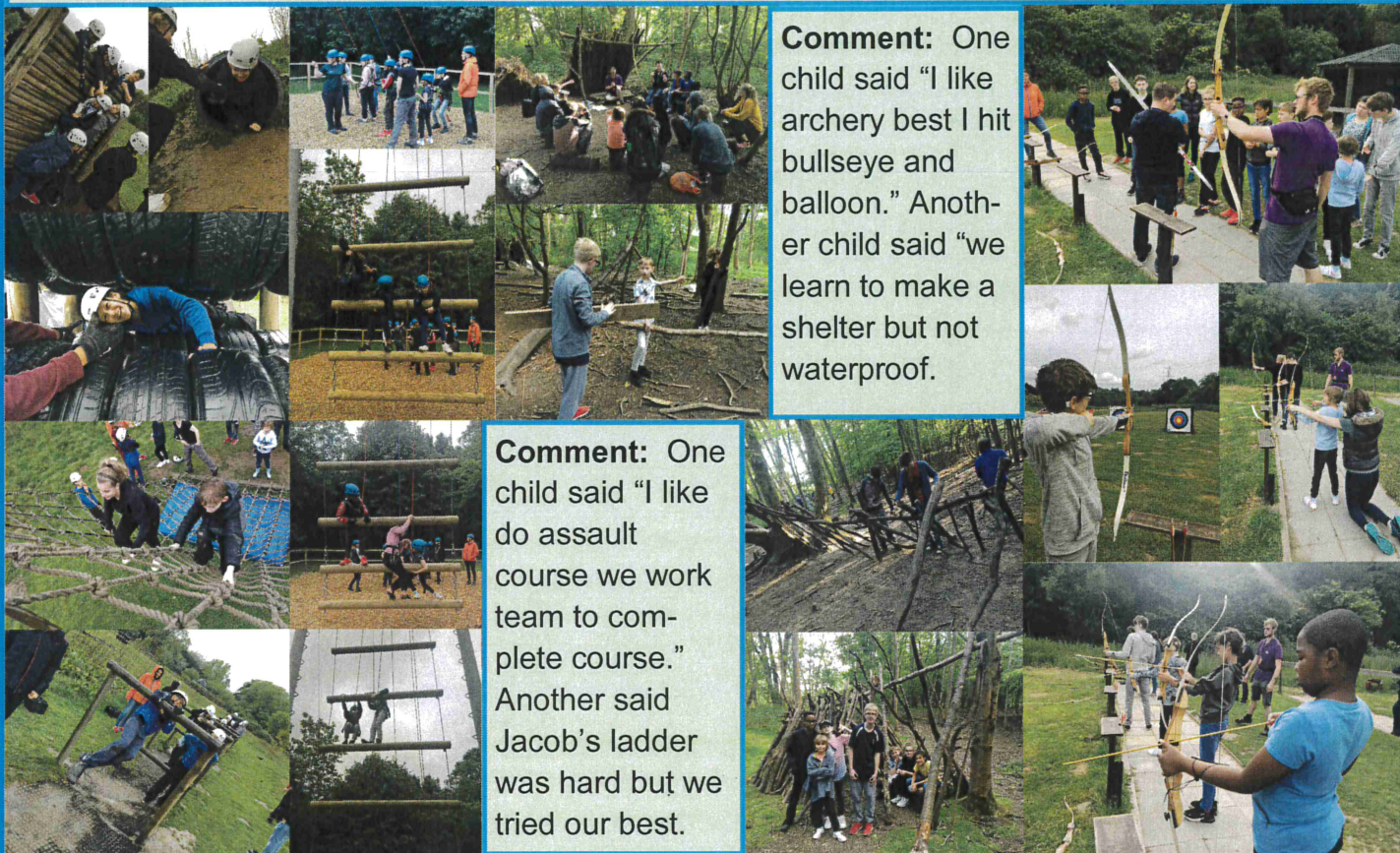


Washing: Some of the children have been learning how to wash their own clothes and are now regularly doing their own laundry.



Rabbits: The children continue to take care of the rabbits. They have been responsible for feeding and topping up their water, cleaning them out as well as taking them to the vets for their jabs.

Woodrow High House: The children have been taking part in some offsite activities at Woodrow High House. They have had some taster sessions in a variety of activities. They have completed an assault course, taken part in shelter building, archery and had a try at Jacob's ladder. They still have one more session to complete which is bush craft. Some of the children have expressed a desire to further their skills in archery and climbing. So we will look to book these in the future.



End of year party: This year due to the unfortunate weather we had our end of year celebration indoors. This proved to be a very successful night, all had fun. The children and young people worked extremely hard with staff to create decorations, organise games and help to make a lovely spread of food. We would like to say thank you to all that came and we look forward to seeing you all again at our Christmas get together.

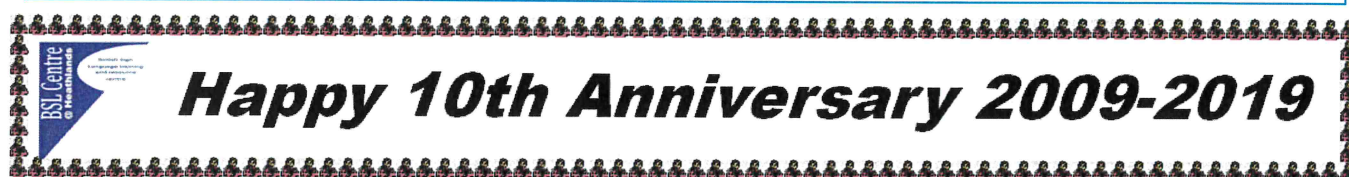


Year 11 leavers: This year two of our year 11 children have finished their exams and have now moved on. So all of us from Heath House would like to wish them the best of luck with their exam results. We are very proud of how they have grown up and we wish them every success moving forward and in the future.





BSL Centre- Summer Term 2019



Wow another academic year comes to an end! This term saw the BSL Centre celebrating its 10th Anniversary. Over the 10 years of delivering BSL Courses the Centre has grown from strength to strength. Staff feel very lucky to be part of the Centre's development and see the growth in the number of courses and range of levels on offer to learners. Back in 2009 the first BSL level 1 course had 18 learners attending lessons on a Monday evening. This academic year 2018-2019 has seen a record number of 148 learners on courses from Levels 1 to 6.

The future of the BSL Centre is just as exciting as the last 10 years and we hope to expand and see the delivery of BSL Interpreting and Translation courses.

Over the years we have seen some staff come and go. This term our wonderful administrative assistant Alison is leaving our team, we wish her well. We will have a new member of staff, Lise, joining the team to take on administrative duties in September.

Good luck to all learners who are finishing courses and awaiting results, we wish the learners leaving us all the best for the future and we look forward to seeing the lucky ones returning in September to continue developing their BSL skills.

Parents Group Calendar 2019-2020

<u>September</u> 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th	<u>October</u> 7 th , 14 th , 21 st	<u>November</u> 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	<u>December</u> 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th
<u>January</u> 13 th , 20 th , 27 th	<u>February</u> 3 rd , 10 th	<u>March</u> 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th	<u>April</u> No sessions
<u>May</u> 4 th , 11 th , 18 th	<u>June</u> 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th	<u>July</u> 6 th , 13 th	

BSL COURSE



**BRITISH SIGN
LANGUAGE
COURSES**

**September 2019 —
July 2020**

- . Deaf Awareness Course
- . BSL level 1
- . BSL level 2
- . BSL level 3
- . BSL Level 4
- . BSL Level 6
- . BSL Interpreting and Translation Courses
- . Bespoke Workshops

For more information-
bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk
<https://heathlands.herts.sch.uk/bsl-courses/>



Parents' Page - Summer Term 2019

FoH Secretary

Friends of Heathlands would like to thank Alison, for all her hard work. She has been a fantastic secretary but is sadly relocating this year. FoH are looking for new committee members so come along in September to join up! **Your school needs you!**



Bus Opening & AGM
Friday 13th September



TV Game Show Fun
Saturday 16th November



Bollywood
Saturday 21st March



Summer Fete
Saturday 27th June



International Party

On Saturday 30th March, children and adults shared their love of food and culture. There was an opportunity to learn the Haka and make roti.



Summer Fun!

For Parents in Hertfordshire the Pheonix group have lots of Summer activities you can go to, it is open to the whole family.

www.pheonixgroup.org.uk



In the London contact Remark! For events

<https://www.remarkcommunity.org/playschemes/>



Or find your local support group run by the NDCS

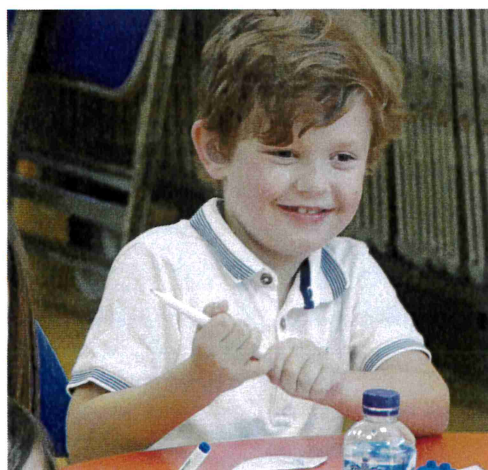
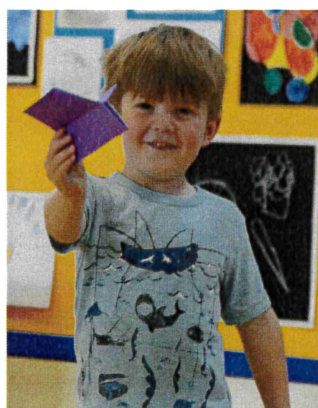
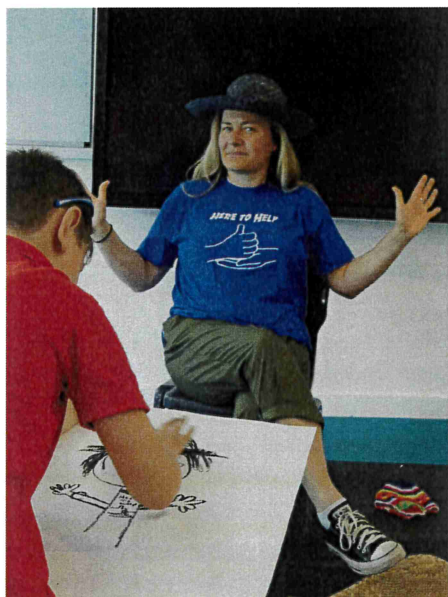
<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/local-support-groups/>





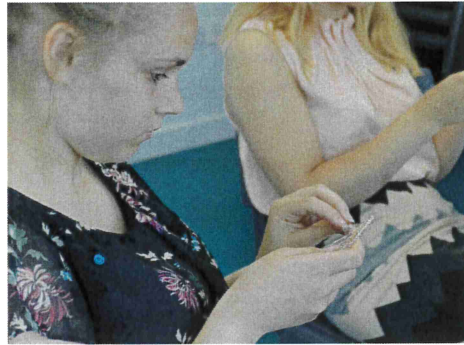
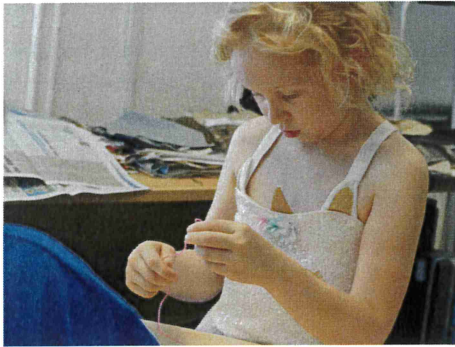
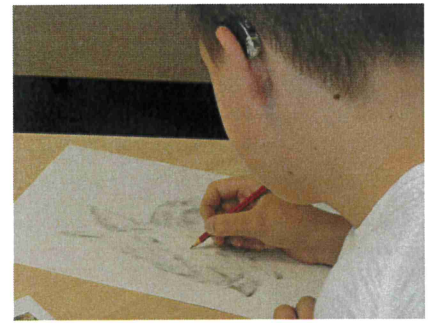
Art Party

On Saturday 29th June FoH organised an art party with the help of the art teacher Mrs Goodwin. We welcomed volunteer artists from different backgrounds who provided workshops, such as drawing charcoal rabbits and making floral jewellery. We would like to thank all the parent and staff volunteers who helped on the day. It was a huge success and we raised £856.74!











Term Dates for Academic Year 2019-2020

HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 - 2020

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

Spring Term 2020

Inset Day	Mon 6 January 2020 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Tues 7 January 2020
Half Term Holiday	Mon 17 February 2020– Fri 21 February 2020
Term Ends	Fri 3 April 2020 @ 12.30pm

Summer Term 2020

Term Starts	Mon 20 April 2020
Inset Day	Thurs 7 May 2020 (no pupils in school)
Bank Holiday	Fri 8 May 2020
Half Term Holiday	Mon 25 May 2020 – Friday 29 May 2020
Term Ends	Fri 17 July 2020 @ 12.30pm
Inset Days	Mon 20 July 2020– Tues 21 July 2020 (no pupils in school)

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