



## Heathlands Newsletter - Summer Term 2020

Finally the end of summer term is here with mixed emotions. We feel very grateful and thankful for **all our school community** and feel extremely proud of how our **staff** coped and thrived through lockdown, our team were great at adapting and were committed to ensuring children's learning continued in the best way possible. **Parents**, you have been so supportive of the decisions made and supported the home learning. We know this was challenging but you have risen to the occasion and have astounded us with how you have facilitated home creations, reading and written tasks. And finally our **students** who have adapted so well to home learning and in returning to school. We have been impressed with students ability to take on the new rules, to remain in bubbles and to continue with learning whether they were at home or in school. We look forward to seeing all students back in school in September and know that students are keen to have their school community complete.

Our mixed emotions come with the great sadness at not being able to celebrate our school community as we would normally at the end of year and to say good bye remotely to our student and staff leavers. Our leavers assembly was attended well by 77 people however we continue to hope there will be a time when they can come back to say a proper Heathlands farewell.

It has been an "odd" first year in our Co-Headship however there have been so many positive and proud moments. We saw our Gambia bus leave Heathlands and arrive in The Gambia, we were overwhelmed by the resources we were able to pack on the bus and take in our suitcases for the Deaf children there. We proudly qualified for Academic Bowl and booked our team on their flight for the finals in the USA as well as competing in Battle of The Books with other US Deaf schools, we hope this opportunity will come again for our students. We achieved *Ofsted Outstanding* in our yearly residential inspection, and our BSL Centre celebrated their 10th anniversary. The student leaders provided a whole array of activities to enrich life including a fantastic Feeling Good Week and two leaders giving a presentation at the Secondary Schools Mental Health Conference. In the arts, the choir performed at the Royal Albert Hall, students received masterclasses in poetry and photography, we participated in the Shakespeare's Schools Festival and students reached the finals of competitions in art and poetry! In sports we won medals in swimming in both upper and lower school and the junior boys won the Deaf schools Football tournament for the first time ever with the girls team coming second and third overall. We hosted visiting Deaf students from the Netherlands and took time out to visit the Sky Studios Academy. Bees class participated in FishKeeper Fry and so many students benefitted from the SignHealth workshops. Lower School pupils enjoyed puzzling their way through the 'crime scene' which led to brilliant creative writing pieces and who could forget the Creative Arts



In September we are expecting all students back in school, with bubbles remaining for classes and key stages to allow students to benefit from a range of subjects. Break times and lunches will be in bubbles, however we will be back to offering our normal range of hot school meals. We will share our updated risk assessment with you on September 3rd. All staff are now looking forward to some well needed rest, while we remain excited for what next year holds as we have some interesting plans ahead and are looking forward to welcoming all students back in school every day.

### **Staffing**

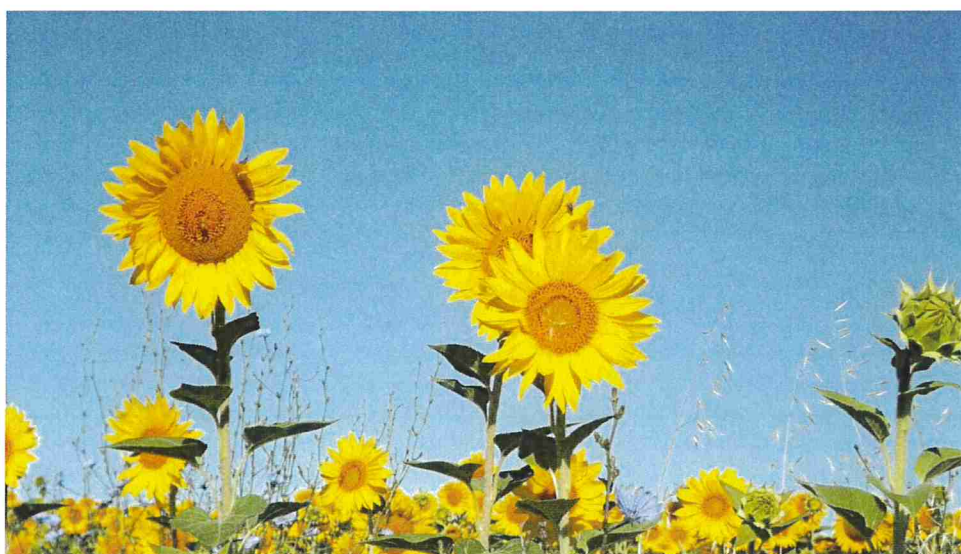
Sadly we say goodbye to some of our staff. Ms Alyward has worked at Heathlands for 13 years and has now decided to move back to Australia to be with her family. Ms Heaney will be leaving us to take up a new role in another school. Mrs Quigley is also moving onto another teaching job and is relocating with her family. Mrs Mtanda and Ms Cope have been working with us as learning support assistants for the year and are moving on. We are very thankful for all staff who have worked at Heathlands and dedicated their time to learning, our very best wishes go with them.

We will have some new staff members joining us; Mrs Barrett, will join us as a teacher of English and Ms Morris will join the Lower School teaching team. We look forward to them joining our school community!

We say goodbye now to one of the strangest ever school years and face a different school routine in September which reflects the 'new normal', but we continue to ensure that the children are at the forefront of everything we do both at school and at home. A big thank you to you all for playing a very big part in the last few months in your child's learning working alongside us at Heathlands.

We wish you a safe and restful summer break.

Mrs Shields and Mrs Reeves Costi







## Lower School - Summer Term 2020

Caterpillars Class have really been busy during 'lockdown'. Over the weeks there have been many Zoom sessions ; separate ones for Nursery and Reception groups so there would be room on the screen for them to all see each other! They all love a bit of 'SPOTLIGHTING' and their reactions to seeing themselves suddenly appear large are very funny!

Home Learning has been sent home daily and has usually involved signed singing together, a signed story, word and number activities alongside something crafty to make or build. These have ranged from



One of the students in ants class has created a model of an Anderson Shelter.

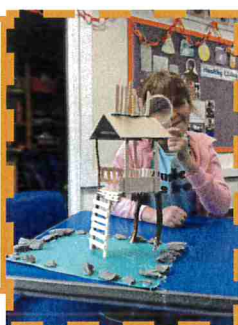


Here are some fantastic pictures created for the art with natural materials challenge.

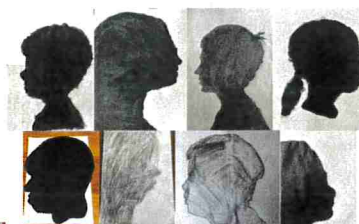
Pupils from Butterflies have been learning well at home. They had a series of activities to plan and prepare designs for their own model house, considering what they would like inside and the materials they would use. Once they had made it, they had to list everything they used and write instructions how to make the house. Pupils have also been enjoying being outside creating pictures using natural materi-



Inspired by playing in the school tree area, Dragonflies designed and made their own natural material play areas.



### Lower School Silhouettes



Thank you to all of those that sent them in, can you recognise anyone?

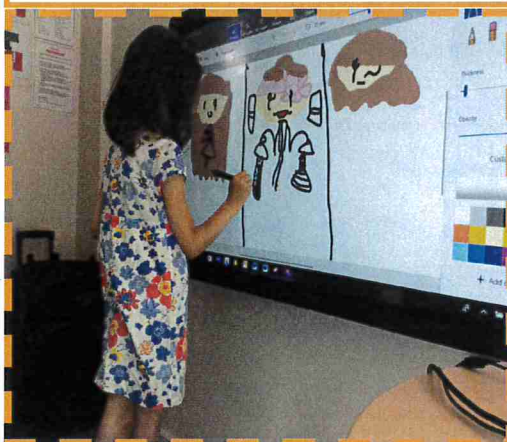




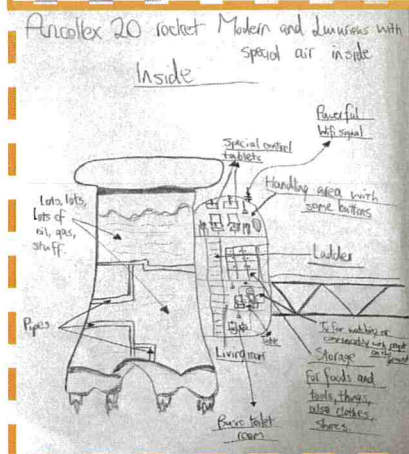


Last week, Caterpillars enjoyed a BSL story week. Some lovely art work and learning activ-

Some fantastic computer art skills were demonstrated by a pupil in Bees Class.



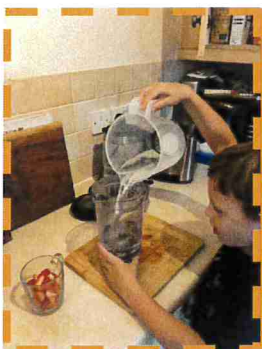
One of the students from Ants class has been



Butterflies Class concentrated really hard to make these colourful God's Eyes. They learnt about the ancient tradition of weaving and how the points of a God's Eye represent the four elements of nature: earth, fire, air and water and the centre



Bees Class have been working really hard on their Literacy skills. They have used shape coding to write sentences linked to the book 'This is the bear'. They were extremely proud of their work and felt confident retelling the story and reading back



One of the fireflies students has made 'mocktails' linked to maths work on capacity. Excellent learning!



One of the students has completed the week's challenge posted on Edulink. Delicious looking flapjack!

Some of the pupils in Butterflies class learnt interesting facts about fruit and vegetables. They were fascinated to find out that cube shaped watermelons are grown in Japan!



The students from ants class created Blitz themed art as part of their WW2 topic. .





On Nursery Zoom, the children made playdoh octopus creatures together! Caterpillars were able to follow the adult demonstration, making theirs at the same time, then show their beautiful models to each other on Zoom spotlight...which they LOVE!



Bees Class have been working really hard on their Literacy skills. They have used shape coding to write sentences linked to the book 'This is the bear'. They were extremely proud of their work and felt confident retelling the story and reading back their writing!



Pupils in Fireflies had a challenge to create a WW2 style gas mask using one piece of black sugar paper, a pair of scissors and a glue stick. They had to be able to see through it and it needed to stay on their head.



Some excellent online learning of telling the time in 5 minute intervals by one of Butterflies Class.



Many students in school have been receiving postcard rewards for their fantastic learning at home.



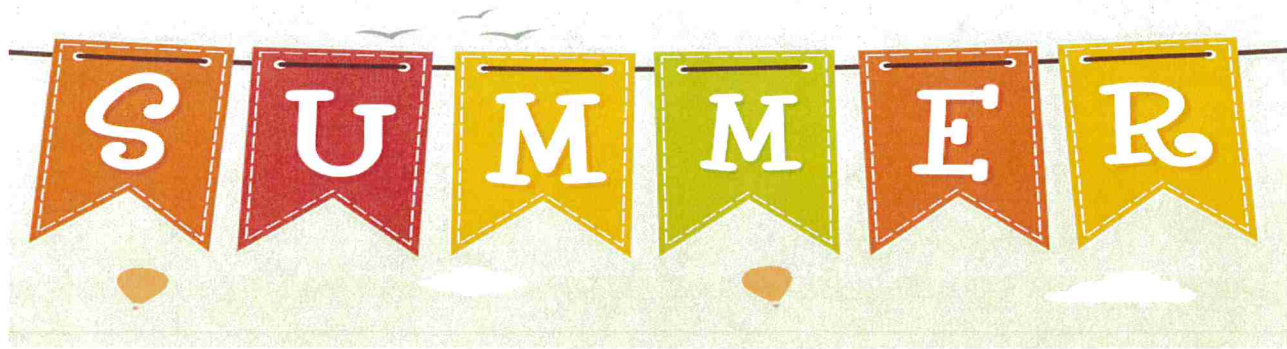
Children in school today looked at the paintings by the American artist, Jackson Pollock and then did their own pictures inspired by his work. They had great fun flicking paint - something they're not



Pupils in lower school have been encouraged to create miniature books for a project organised by the British Library. Some fantastic ones are coming in, showing great care and creativity from those who have

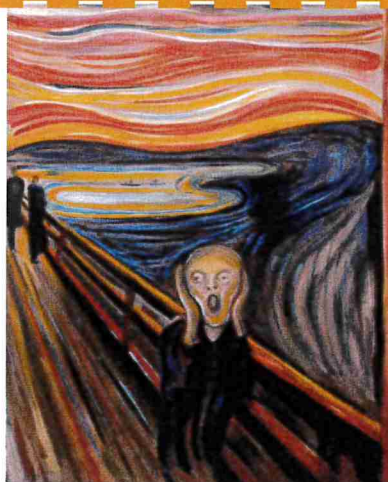






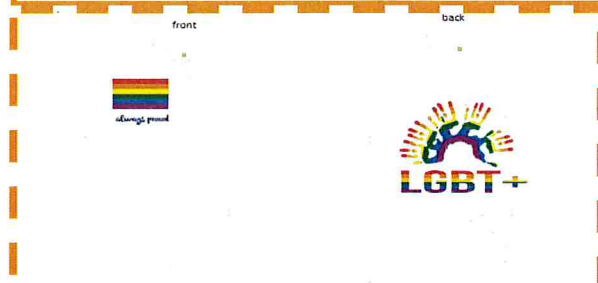
## Upper School - Summer Term 2020

KS3 students have been creative, while staying at home, recreating famous paintings



US8 have been reading about the history of Pride month and designed their own Pride poster.

In US5 a student designed a fantastic t-shirt to celebrate Pride!



Students in US4 learnt about the ways our bodies defend against pathogens. They drew life size people in chalk to demonstrate their learning. This helped them to understand the coronavirus.



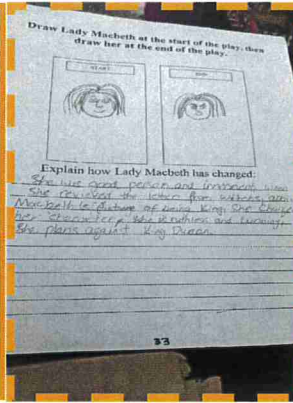
US6 carried out an experiment to understand how soap works to remove pathogens from our hands.



A student entry for our D&T Famous Structures competition. It's a detailed model of the Forth Bridge in Scotland. We have some very talented and clever model maker's at Heathlands!



US3 have been reading Shakespeare's Macbeth. Students learning from home have been reading an abridged version of the play and completing activities from a home learning activity book. Students in school have been reading the same scenes from a graphic novel and acting (in a socially distant way) the different roles in class. It is great to see the students so motivated!



US1 have made a roses rainbow trail poster for St Albans day.



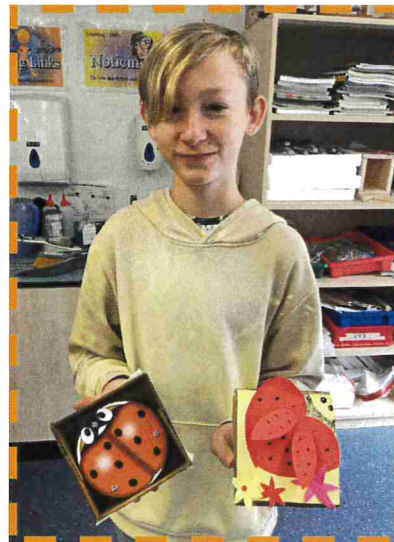
US6 students have been learning about variation. They investigated whether there is a relationship between the length of the leaf and the number of prickles, they found the longer the length, the more prickles it has.



US5 spent their D&T lesson making moving insects/bugs. They learnt about polarity of circuits and how to use a motor to make objects move.



US2/3 were also busy making 'jitter bug' moving toys in their D&T lesson. They assembled their circuits and then designed and made box packaging for it. The focus of the lesson was looking at how eye-catching graphics can be used to sell products in shops. The class



US7 are busy doing environmental survey in geography

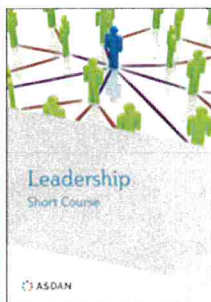


Upper School students have been thinking about how their actions have helped the environment during lockdown. Some students have been walking and cycling more, others have been gardening and looking after wild animals in their local area. One has even made a bee/bug home! The pictures and posters were entered into the Sustainable St Albans Festival competition, and this one was a winner!





## Student Leaders



Congratulations to five student leaders who have completed the ASDAN Short Leadership course.

This course helps the leaders develop their leadership skills through activities, as well as personal, social and work-related skills.

Due to covid-19, we have not been able to cover all the themes we wanted to, we managed to cover: high standards (behaviour), Responsibility and Communication.

Student leaders were also invited to give feedback on the training they received this year. They found the training useful and they liked the opportunity given to them to share their perceptions and ideas about leadership. Feedback from staff and students has been a positive means of improvement. It will help us to develop the leadership training for students



## YEAR 11 LEAVERS

Year 11 Leavers had a very different ritual this year, all done remotely and they did us proud! Particular congratulations to the winners of the Michael Wilson Trophy and the Heathlands award and to two other students who received commendations for progress.





# SUMMER

## Heath House - Summer Term 2020

This has been a very different term because of Covid 19. The Heath House group has been much smaller as the children have been coming in on alternative weeks. The young people have taken this in their stride and have made the most of the opportunity to return to school. They were all happy to be back

Some of the young people have been learning to make bird feeders. They made a few designs and once made they filled them with seeds and hung



This term the young people have been learning to do their own washing. They have also learnt how to



One evening, everyone learnt how to do tie dying. One child said "I never been dip dye before. I



The groups worked together to build an obstacle course. They competed with one and another by manoeuvring a Malteser around the course. The children really enjoyed competing against staff.



This term there was a quiz with their peers over zoom. This was a really enjoyable activity.

The young people have been growing and tending to their vegetable patch. One child said "been help tidy vegetable patch. We grow potatoes and carrots. We will have with dinner. Next year we will grow different vegetables". This term there

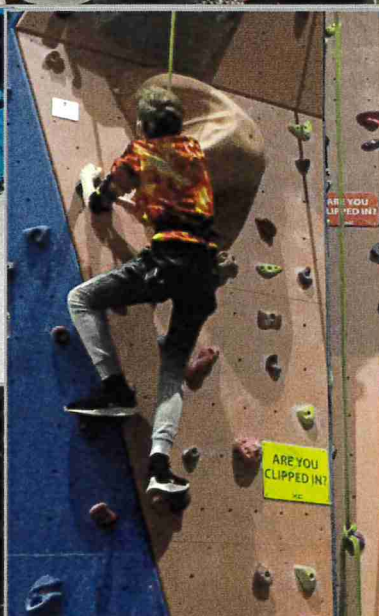
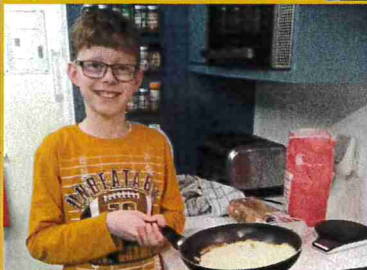
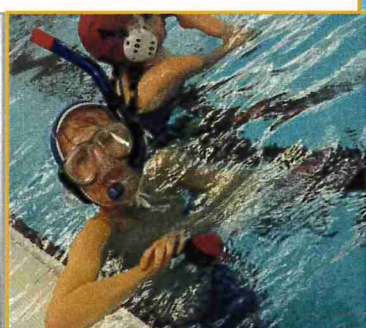
have been a number of birthdays so birthday cakes have been baked for each other! One child said "Every year when it's my brothers birthday I like to make a cake".

This term the young people learnt to make homemade pasta. One child said "We made ravioli with it. Inside goat cheese sweet potato. We toasted pumpkins seeds and parmesan breadcrumbs to put on top. We drizzled chilli oil on top. Taste really nice different from other food. Want to make again to see if can be quicker".





# Heath House - Highlights for 2019-2020





# SUMMER

## BSL Centre - Summer Term 2020

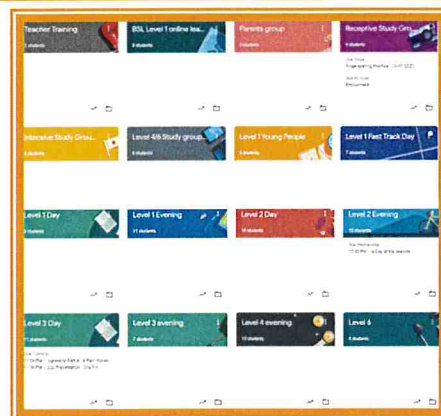
With the end of the Summer term fast approaching we are as ever busy with exams over the majority of our courses. This last term and a half has really been a learning curve for us all. Getting used to using technology we hadn't even heard of or seen before lock down to learning how to use it to our benefit.

With the learning curves have come highs and lows, but for us this is normal at this time of the year. Exam time is full of 'what ifs?' and 'I don't think I'm ready!'. But all learners have done incredibly well adapting to the new learning process and taking exams online.

So far this term we have BSL level 1, BSL level 2 and BSL Level 3 exams being sat via Zoom. The process although daunting at first has worked really well.

We miss teaching learners face to face, this is how we have taught at the BSL Centre for over 10 years. But, it has been lovely to be able to continue teaching our learners and make sure our courses have kept going. Just like our learners though, we can't wait to be able to get back to the

Moving forward to the Academic Year 2020-2021 we have decided as a team Google Classroom will be staying with us. We will be using the learning platform for various reasons, it has enabled us to provide an abundance of resources across all BSL Levels. Resources to support receptive skills, productive skills and linguistic development.



BSL COURSE

*Signature*

**BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE COURSES**

**September 2020 — July 2021**

- Deaf Awareness and communication tactics Course
- BSL level 1
- BSL Level 1 young people
- BSL level 2
- BSL level 3
- BSL Level 4
- BSL Level 6

For more information-  
[bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk](mailto:bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk)  
<https://heathlands.herts.sch.uk/bsl-courses/>

Hopefully we will see many of our learners continuing onto the next level of BSL. We wish all learners the best of luck for exams that have been sat or waiting to sit and we look forward to seeing you face to face when we can.

BSL Course enrolments are open for September, forms can be found on <https://heathlands.herts.sch.uk/bsl->





## Parents Page - Summer Term 2020

**SUMMER**  
BSL Fingerspelling

SIGN LANGUAGE  
FORUM 



### WORDS

-- SUNCREAM -- WALKING -- CYCLING -- PICNIC -- BARBEQUE -- READING --

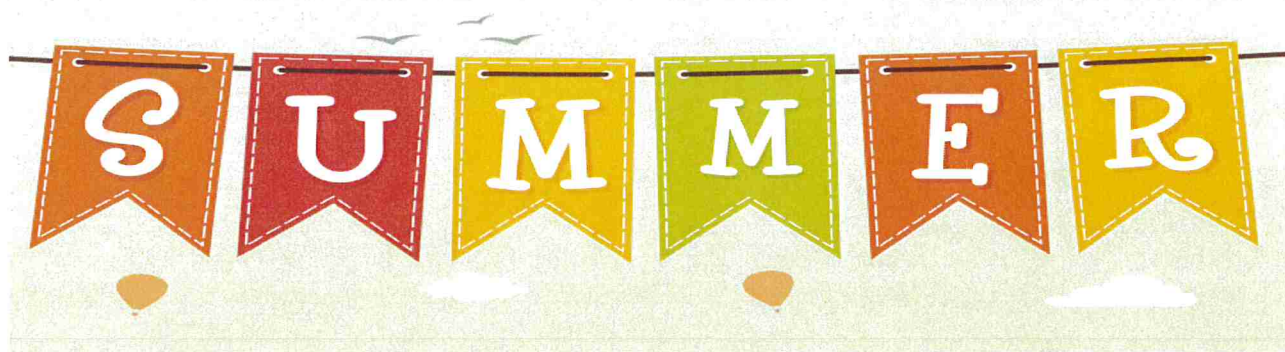
Create your own BSL fingerspelling word search puzzles online at  
[www.signlanguageforum.com/bsl/](http://www.signlanguageforum.com/bsl/)

Have fun and  
stay safe this  
summer.

Make sure you  
look at the  
NDCS events in  
your area or  
Phoenix for in-  
clusive events.

The Friends of  
Heathlands aim  
to have the AGM  
over Zoom in  
September. We  
will also be dis-  
cussing events  
next year, watch  
this space!





## Term Dates

### Autumn Term 2020

Inset Days	Wed 2 Sept 2020 – Fri 4 Sept 2020 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Monday 7 September 2020
Half Term Holiday	Mon 26 October 2020 – Fri 30 October 2020
Occasional Day	Mon 30 November 2020 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Fri 18 December 2020 @ 12.30pm

### Spring Term 2021

Term Starts	Mon 4 January 2021
Half Term Holiday	Mon 15 February 2021– Fri 19 February 2021
Term Ends	Fri 26 March 2021 @ 12.30pm

### Summer Term 2021

Term Starts	Mon 12 April 2021
Inset Day	Fri 30 April 2021 (no pupils in school)
Bank Holiday	Mon 3 May 2021
Half Term Holiday	Mon 31 May 2021 – Friday 4 June 2021
Term Ends	Wed 21 July 2021 @ 12.30pm
Inset Days	Thurs 22 July 2021 (no pupils in school)





## Top Tips for a Covid Summer

This will not be a usual summer holiday with many precautions in place and the need for us all to remain cautious and careful with Covid 19. Below is a list of useful tips, guidance and sources of support:

### School uniform

All children will return to school in September in full uniform. If your child is unable to tie their shoelaces, practise with them this summer, or buy school shoes which do not require laces.

While you are buying school uniform, please ensure your child has a **full stationary set** to bring into school daily. Students should not be sharing equipment. You can find the full list on [www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk](http://www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk) in the 'Parents' tab.



Keep your child **reading** throughout the summer by accessing eBooks. Heathlands has registered for all students to access free books via [www.myon.co.uk](http://www.myon.co.uk). Check your child's EduLink for log in details.

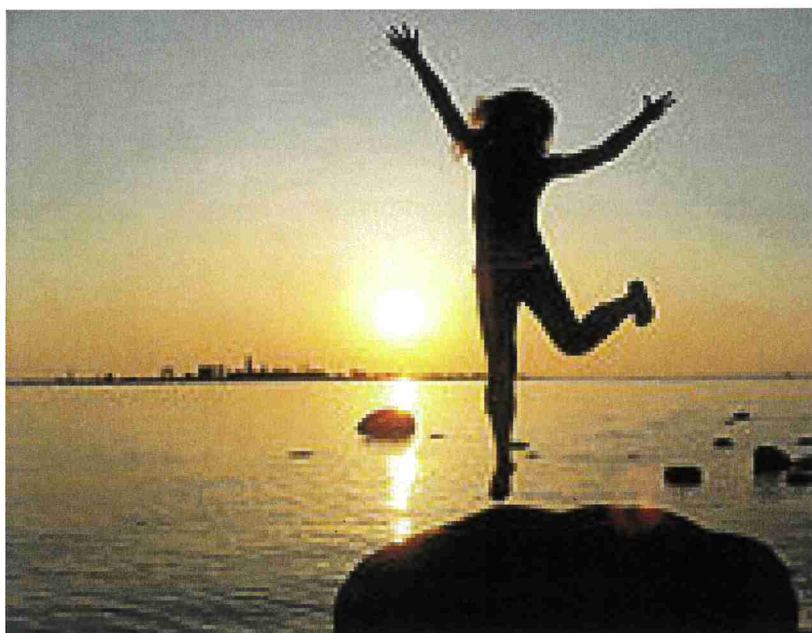
**myON**<sup>®</sup>  
by Renaissance<sup>®</sup>



## Wellbeing

Ensure everyone in the family thinks about prioritising wellbeing this summer. Check out UK Deaf Sport for opportunities to stay home and stay fit. Take time away from screens and play games or go for walks. Look through '5 Ways to Wellbeing 1 Connect' videos on our Facebook page. The NDCS Buzz webpage for children has useful wellbeing advice and a free live chat: [www.buzz.org.uk](http://www.buzz.org.uk)

Have a look for any playschemes or days out for your child this summer [www.phoenixgroup.org.uk](http://www.phoenixgroup.org.uk) and [www.remarkcommunity.org](http://www.remarkcommunity.org) are two organisations running events. **Socialisation** is important for all children whether it's in person or remotely, it's great for them to see their friends.



If you attend your GP surgery, dentist or a hospital this summer, ensure your child can follow all of the information by using a **remote BSL interpreter** on any smart device. Go to [www.bslhealthaccess.co.uk](http://www.bslhealthaccess.co.uk) for full details. Remember that it's much harder for any Deaf person to understand now while people wear masks and cannot be lipread. If you or your child have any fears or worries, **ChildLine** can also be accessed through a remote interpreter via the InterpreterNow app.

Heathlands will be closed throughout August but the **school office will be open again from September 2<sup>nd</sup>** and you will receive our risk assessment for the autumn term on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please read through it carefully and discuss it with your child.

Wishing you all  
summer.

a happy and safe

