

Heathlands Spring Term Newsletter 2022

March 2022



Sign Language leading the way!

What a term we have had, both at Heathlands and within the sign language community nationally. It began at Christmas when Rose Ayling-Ellis put BSL positively in the spotlight winning Strictly Come Dancing. Since then the BSL Bill has successfully made it's way through Parliament and is currently with the House of Lords. Some Upper school students attended both rallies and gave moving speeches about the importance of BSL in their lives, as well as one of our parents. In front of a crowd of thousands, it was wonderful to see them present their views. At Heathlands sign language is a part of our every day lives, it is accessible to all and supports and enriches children's learning. We are fortunate to have an outstanding Heathlands staff team who work hard to ensure full curriculum access in both BSL and English, extending pupils learning and enrichment using a variety of teaching methods and tools.

And the Oscar win for the film CODA this week has been the cherry on the cake— spotlighting sign language and accessibility and bringing deaf awareness to the fore! Heathlands has never been so popular for media interviews, we hope you have managed to see them!



Goodbyes this term to:

- Miss Colton who is moving away.
- Miss Monk who will be welcoming her first baby.
- Miss Robinson who is leaving for pastures new.

Hello to:

- Miss Potter who will be teaching Gamma.
- Ms Marris who is returning from maternity leave.

Showcasing talent!

This term has also been about showcasing Heathlands talent in a variety of ways. The Junior boys won the Deaf schools football tournament back in February. Our KS3 technology team came second at the local schools Rotary competition. More recently Heathlands hosted it's first ever music concert to our first live audience in two years! To see such a variety of instruments and different ways of learning to read and enjoy music, it was wonderful to watch. Heathlands also hosted a deaf schools football tournament, inviting four other London based deaf schools to compete against each other. Competition is important to grow and develop skills, it is hoped this will develop to encompass a range of sports and challenges for students. The Lower School netball team also had their first competitive game, against a local hearing club performing admirably and learning lots of skills in the process. All of these events bring different communities together, something we have missed since the pandemic began. With such an active and busy term, we look forward to the Easter break but also to the many events that the summer term will bring! We wish all our families a safe and restful holiday.



Lesley Reeves *Sarah Shields*
Co-Headteachers

Lesley Reeves Costi and Sarah Shields



Turtles class are learning about dinosaurs and have made a display with their own dinosaurs. They are all unique types of '...osaurus.'



The lower school netball club have been enjoying their warm up activities.



Lower school pupils choose to watch part of the BSL Bill debate streamed from Parliament.



Turtles were palaeontologists. They used specialist tools and techniques to uncover dinosaur bones in both soil and sand. They then worked out how they might fit together.



Heathlands School
Become The Best You Can Be

Lower School



Seahorses Class made special Easter chocolate brownies, which were delicious!

Octopus and Turtles Class had some little visitors this month.... Zoolab came to help the children learn about endangered animals. We met a Giant African snail, a millipede, a scorpion that glows a beautiful green colour in UV light, a cockroach (not endangered - they eat anything!)



Some fabulous red noses in Dolphins class this month for Red Nose Day.

Heathlands School website

www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk

Take a look at our new images and information.



Whales class have been reading the book "The Promise" by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Laura Carlin in English. They created a short play based on the book for the lower school assembly this term.

The video of the fantastic play can be found on the Heathlands Facebook page.



Because it is BSL week in March and there will be the third reading of the BSL Bill, pupils in Whales asked some of their friends "What is your favourite sign?" They filmed their responses and made a video for our Facebook Page. You will spot some of their friends from Seahorses, Sharks, Turtles, Octopus, Starfish and Dolphins classes.



Shark class looked at the story "Whatever Next!".



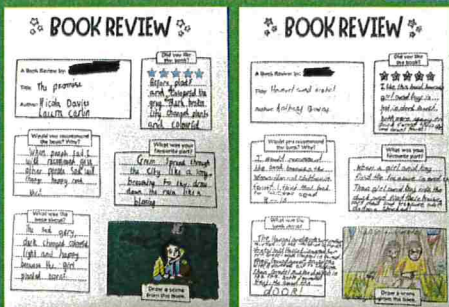
Starfish Class visited the lovely Forest School provision and enjoyed many new activities outdoors. They were all very well behaved and followed the fire pit rules perfectly!



Ten of our pupils from Sea-horses and Dolphins class visited Frank Barnes

School this month for their BSL recognition day. They made placards which were used at the BSL rally.

World Book Day



Whales class chose some of their favourite books and wrote book reviews.

Starfish pupils were given a blank paper plate to take home for the half term holiday. The challenge was to decorate it or make it into something new! These are their colourful, imaginative creations.



As part of British Science Week, some of Dolphins class went to the science laboratory to see how toothpaste for elephants is made. They were amazed with the chemical reaction!



To celebrate World Book Day, Dolphins class went to a local book shop to choose a book. They enjoyed reading some of the other books whilst they were in the bookshop.



Some of Dolphins class are learning about verbs. For pancake day, in English they made pancakes following simple instructions. They then had a go at flipping a pancake.



Whales class have been learning about noun phrases. They thought how changing the adjectives linked to a noun can completely change the mood of the writing. They wrote some city poems and changed the adjectives from positive to negative words. Then they filmed each other signing their poems and edited and subtitled their own videos. Check it out on Facebook.



Lower School



Shark class read 'Robot Stop!'. When the children came back from lunchtime, they found that their whole classroom was a mess and decided to find out who did it. They used some magnifying glasses to look for clues and it turned out the naughty robot had come to school! Shark class decided the robot needed some rules, so they created some themselves. They also made some friendly robots using lots of different recycled materials to show the naughty robot how to behave!



Octopus class REALLY enjoyed the visit from the deaf violinist called Eloise, who came to Heathlands for their music lesson.

Watch the video on Heathlands Facebook page.



Spring was in the air at the farm. Starfish pupils met new born lambs and watched as some were bottle fed.



A group of students from Secondary attended the BSL Bill Rally in Parliament square in January.



Heathlands School
Become The Best You Can Be

Upper School



In assembly Upper School had discussion time in their form groups. They look at their individual attendance % and considered different strategies they could use to improve or maintain their attendance this half term.

This week was Anti-Bullying week. Our Peer Champions kick started the week with an assembly for Lower School. On Friday we celebrated with "Odd Sock Day". Pupils wore fun and different socks, striped, colourful, patterned, the "louder" the better!

ODD SOCKS DAY FOR ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



ITV NEWS

On Monday Heathlands featured on ITV news at 10, along with some of our staff and pupils, on the reaction to the Oscar won by Deaf actor Troy Kotsur and the film CODA.



Year 11s and 12s had a visit from Herts

hyh
Herts Young Homeless

Young Homeless. They were interested to learn about the cost of living and what they can do to make sure they are ready to live independently.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

For British Science Week, Delta looked at growing sequences. They discovered that Fibonacci

sequences is generated by adding together the previous two numbers. 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21,..... The next number in this sequence is $13 + 21 = 34$. This sequence can be found in nature - flowers, pine cones, shells, fruits and even hurricanes. If you count the number of petals on a flower, it is often a Fibonacci number.



Upper School had a special assembly with Heathlands Alumni pupil Davina. Davina has achieved a lot since leaving Heathlands, from setting up a BSL course in her college to teach her hearing peers, to creating her own fashion business. We are very proud of Davina and all she has achieved. Upper School pupils had lots of questions for Davina at the end of her assembly and were inspired and encouraged by all she showed them in her presentation.

Y10 and Y11 have been using creativity, team work and communication skills to demonstrate their learning on enzymes and thyroxine.

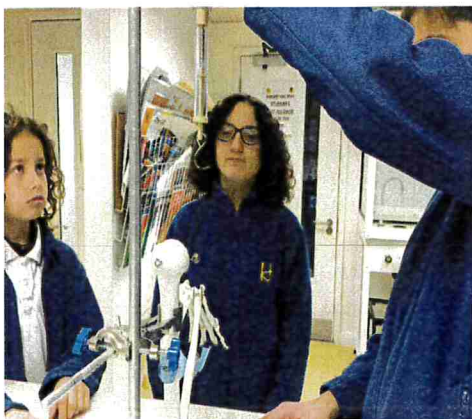


Some year 11 students practised creating fondant flowers to go onto cakes. They were beautifully designed and looked as if Mary Berry had created them!



Year 11/12 had a visit from Robin Ash from the BDA to talk about the issue of loneliness - spotting the signs in ourselves and others and what we can do to help as well as making suggestions for Robin to take back to the government on improving services for deaf people. Lots of great discussion and ideas in all 3 sessions.

Gamma class were asked to measure and mark out the wood, they intended to use to make their desk tidy.



Beta students have been learning about the skeleton. They investigated the effect of changing the mass of an object on the force needed by a muscle to bend the arm.

Eta has been involved in the Grow It! Cook It! Cooking competition for British Science Week 2022 where two teams competed to use local ingredients for their two course meals. The Co Head Mrs. Shields and Deputy Head Mr. Hazrati were the judges, and they were very impressed by the standard of taste and presentation. Both teams scored very well, and it was a close call, but the Be Positive team who made Salmon Pasta and Apple Crumble were the winners! Well done Be Positive team!



Upper School



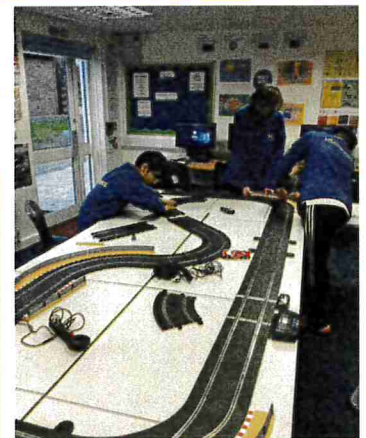
As part of the British Science Week, some students joined the science lunch time for fun. Here are some photos. We made elephant toothpaste and lava lamps.



Our local MP for St Albans, Daisy Cooper, met Heathlands students when she supported the BSL Bill and the rally in Trafalgar Square in March.



Scalextric 4 Schools is off to a good start as student's are pictured here assembling and measuring the race-track.



10A GCSE students have been learning about polymer. They made polymer worms to help them to understand how polymer chains work.



THANK YOU

A BIG thank you from the D&T department to the parent who donated this fantastic Scalextric Le Mans racing car set to the school.

Well done to our D&T teams competing at the Rotary Tournament 2022 held at the Marlborough Science Academy in St Albans.

In total there were over a 100 students working in teams of 4 drawn from schools all over the county. Competition was fierce and the task set on the day was to solve an engineering design engineering problem. No prior details of this task are given out by the Rotary Club as students are expected to come up with a practical solution on the day.

All of our teams successfully managed to come up with a solution and test it in front of the judges. One of our teams even won a prize as runners up in the 11-14 category!

What a clever bunch of students we have at Heathlands!



Upper School

Students in years 10 & 11 decorated cakes to sell for Red Nose Day. There were some extremely creative emotions on them.



Our Body Positivity wellbeing continued in March, in Upper School. Moona Mohammed's recent photographs featured on Deaf Mosaic photography project were in part inspiration for our art completion on the theme of body positivity. Moona kindly agreed to give a presentation on body positivity and to judge the competition entries. Stephen Iliffe also attended the virtual assembly and wrote about our competition on his Deaf Mosaic social media. Huge congratulations to the competition winners!



Moona Mohammed

GCSE students investigated the resistance of a component that involved using ohm's law.



Alpha and Beta students took part in a science competition as part of the British Science Week. They were given marshmallows, spaghetti and tape and asked to build the tallest tower.

Heathlands School Facebook

Check out & 'like' the Heathlands School Facebook page for fantastic videos, photos and news!



Happy students collecting and taking home their finished D&T practical work.



Zeta group are carrying out an investigation to see if Spring is happening earlier due to climate change. They learnt to identify different trees.

Heathlands Newsletter for Heath House Spring Term



This term: We had our first Ofsted inspection in two years and are proud to be awarded as Outstanding again! We are very proud of the level of care and safeguarding all young people receive in Heath House.



Bingo: The children played bingo and some card games together. One child said "Bingo was exciting I won it was good fun".



St Johns youth club: At St Johns they had a deaf dance instructor teach the young people some dance moves.

Cooking: Some of the children have developed their cookery skill and have been learning new recipes. The young people said "I learnt how to make homemade sausage rolls". Another said "We learn about prepping, cooking food, serving and cleaning up after".



Pancake day: The children enjoyed making pancakes for pancake day. One child said "I enjoyed make pancake I had chocolate and fruit". Another child said "I learn how to flip pancake".



Washing: Some young people have been learning to do their own washing, they have learnt how to use the washing machine, dryer and learning to fold and put away their own clothes.

Bird feeders: Two of the girls made some birdfeeders and then hung them outside for the birds.



Football training: The Young people spent time training ready for the Derby competition. One child said "We been practice ready for Derby this helped us win first place".



Meal out: This term we celebrated one of the resident's birthday by going out for a meal at Pizza Express.



Money management: Staff worked with the young people to learn road safety. In addition to this they have been visiting a shop to practice their money management skills.



Chickens: The children helped to clean out the chickens with staff. Some of the young people also went shopping for chicken feed and bedding.



Crazy golf: The younger children went to crazy golf and really enjoyed themselves. One child said "I played well some difficult holes but got two hole in ones".



Connect four: There was a connect four competition on at the youth club. One of our students came second.

He said "I played and nearly won it was good fun and funny".

Cycling: The children have been enjoying the much improved weather and have been getting back out on the bikes and have spent a lot of time riding around.



Baking: A few of the girls decided to make a Oreo cake one evening. It was delicious. One girl said "the cake looked really nice, it tastes lovely".



Outside games: The young people spent time playing volley ball, Badminton and dodge ball. One child said "I enjoy play and try beat my friends".



Hall: Some of the children have been spending time playing games in the hall. They have been having football and table tennis competitions.

Retro games and pizza night: The children had a retro games night and a take away pizza for good behaviour as a celebration. One boy said "I like play some of the old games from when staff young". Another said "pizza was yummy".



Bowling: As part of an outing at the St John's youth club. The young people went out bowling with their new friends at the youth club. One child said "It was nice go out new friends play bowling I not good need practice".



Top golf: The older group went to top golf in Watford. The children said "this fun activity I want go again see improve maybe beat score". Another said "Neal best he beat all want beat staff next time but want go again".



Skate park and McDonalds: The younger group went to a local skate park they took bikes ,skate boards and scooters. One child said "skate board hard but want to try more bike. Want try BMX". After the skate park we went to McDon-alds where the young people enjoyed a nice meal.

This term: Some of the young people spent some time making some placards for the BSL rallies in London this term.

Next term: We look forward to being able to get outside more now that the weather is improving. In addition to this we have a tennis club starting for our younger students. In addition to this the next group of young people will be having a go at learning how to snorkel and how to play under water hockey.

BSL

It has been great to have a full term of face-to-face teaching back at the BSL Centre. We still require our students to provide a negative test result to attend the classroom, but if the test is positive, we offer the option to attend the class via Zoom.

All our students are progressing well and are prepping for their exams: BSL Level 1 are developing their vocabulary and learning about grammar with many interested in advancing to the next Level.

Our BSL Level 2's have been working hard on receptive practice and have also been using their conversation skills on different topics.

BSL Level 3 have been researching information on topics linked to Deafness and daily living, Deaf culture, Social and Recreational Activities etc. They have had to create presentations or hold conversations with a Deaf person. This is all to develop

their receptive and productive skills.

BSL Level 4 and Level 6 have been creating their portfolios, hoping to have them finished by May half-term. They have been looking at topics linked to Business and Finance, Politics and Law as well as Deaf Education and Medical.

Some students attended the BSL rally in January which was a fantastic experience for them, socializing with other deaf people.



Parents Group

This term we were able to restart our free course for the parents and carers of Deaf children. The course is designed to openly discuss topics related to Deafness so that parents/carers feel more confident when making decisions about their child's future. It also provides a support network for the families.

The sessions take place every Thursday from 2.30pm-3pm via Zoom and examples of topics discussed are Technology, Deaf History, Mental Health, Deaf Schools, Employment opportunities for Deaf people and many more.

If you're aware of anyone interested in joining the weekly sessions, let us know and

our office can send you the link.

**"Thank-you for
your meetings,
they have been
very informative"**

- Laura

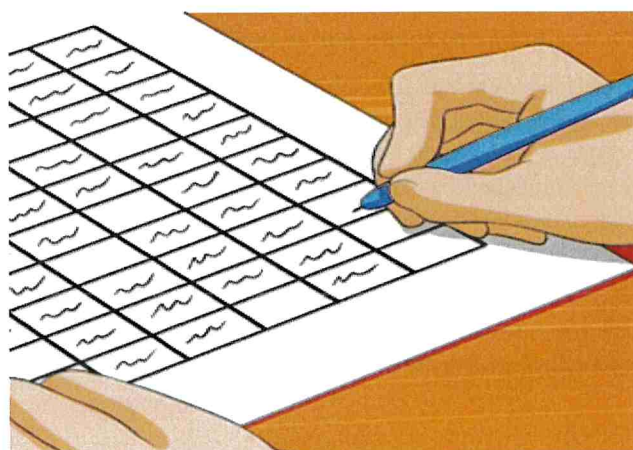
BSL Centre 2022/23

At present we are finalising the timetable for the new academic year and have a lot of BSL course interest for September.

An exciting change will be us offering the option to complete BSL Level 1 or BSL Level 2 in one term. We will still be offering our full-year

courses with the choice of daytime or evening classes.

The timetable will be displayed on the school website. For any interest please contact BSL@heathlands.herts.sch.uk



This newsletter I wanted to focus on coming back together. How can you join in with the school?



Meet Lacie our
FoH Treasurer

I'm a hearing parent with a deaf child here at Heathlands. When my daughter first started here, there was a BBQ event. I felt nervous to attend. I hadn't been learning BSL for very long and I wasn't sure if we could be included in the event.

When the next event arrived my daughter asked if we could go. I thought I would feel overwhelmed and isolated but it turned out to be great fun! Everyone was welcoming and there was a lovely mix of hearing and deaf families.

Watching my daughter play with her school friends outside of school was lovely to see.

I am now part of the Parent Teachers Association (FoH) and can see the principle of bringing all the families together through these events is an important one, especially since Covid!

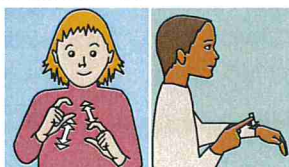
Please save the date for the Summer fete and let this be your first event. Myself and others will be here to welcome you. You can always come and find me if you want to say 'Hello!'

There are lots of deaf organisations who can offer support, courses and even fun events for your children to get involved in with, see below for just a few in our area.



BSL Digital Drop In

Have a question about BSL ask one of our BSL Centre staff. Every **Thursday** you can **Zoom** into a parents group 2.30-3pm. They can help you with signs for the home, linked to your child's learning or anything else. You can ask your class teacher for more information or email bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk



SaLT re-branded

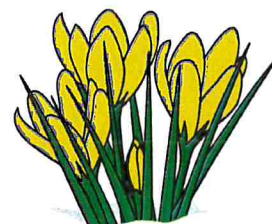
At Heathlands Speech and Language Therapy is now called 'Communication Time'. This is because 'Communication' covers the wide range of different skills we support the children and young people with. This may include: listening, lip reading, speech sounds, spoken English language, BSL, social skills, play and interaction and communicating with non-signing people. If you have any questions about support for your child's communication skills, please email salt@heathlands.herts.sch.uk

Summer Fete Saturday 9th July

We would like to invite our school community and their families to come along.

Our next big event is in July. Our first Summer Fete in 2018 was a huge success raising £4000 in funds for the school, this time we hope to raise more! We also had around 300 people attend it was great to see a mix of hearing and deaf families with their children just having fun in an inclusive environment. The main focus of Friends of Heathlands to bring our community together, raising money for the school is always a bonus.

Friends of Heathlands who organize this event are looking for guardians of children to help. This can be in a variety of ways. Just coming along and meeting some new people, through to running a stall. If you would like to plait hair, face paint or sell t-shirts you have made let us know at friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk





Heathlands Spring Term Newsletter 2022



HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 - 2022

Summer Term 2022

Term Starts	Tues 19 April 2022
Bank Holiday	Mon 2 May 2022
Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday	Tues 3 May 2022 (no pupils in school)
Half Term Holiday	Mon 30 May 2022 – Fri 3 June 2022
Term Ends	Fri 22 July 2022 @ 12.30pm

HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 - 2023

Autumn Term 2022

Inset Days	Thurs 1 September 2022 – Fri 2 September 2022 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Mon 5 September 2022
Half Term Holiday	Mon 24 October 2022 – Fri 28 October 2022
Occasional Day	Fri 25 November 2022 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Wed 21 December 2022 @ 12.30pm

Spring Term 2023

Inset Days	Thurs 5 January 2023 – Fri 6 January 2023
Term Starts	Mon 9 January 2023
Half Term Holiday	Mon 13 February 2023 – Fri 17 February 2023
Term Ends	Fri 31 March 2023 @ 12.30pm

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



