



# Newsletter | 3rd November 2023

Welcome back!

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term, we hope you all enjoyed a wonderful break and are looking forward to an event filled half term.

This term has lots of different events planned as we continue with our class topics and then move on to all the exciting activities planned as we move towards Christmas.

Please see our dates further on in this newsletter for advance notice of our main events.

**Class Trips:** Each class has either been on or will be heading out on a class trip this half term. The Reception children will be going to the Theatre, Year 2 will visit the Cathedral and Year 1 will be visiting our local Church in the coming weeks.

We also have lots of sporting activities this term including Cross Country!

**Class Mini – Enterprise:** Each class will complete a mini enterprise project this half term where they think about ideas to make and sell, consider how these will be marketed and how any profits will be spent in their class (classroom games are often a favourite). The classes have organised for their items to be sold at the FOHA Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December - We hope to see you there!

**Christmas Performances:** This year we plan to have a Nativity show presented by Squirrels children on Monday 11th December at 9.30am and 2pm and Tuesday 12th December at 9.30am in the school hall. We only have limited spaces so are only able to allow 2 quests per child initially and then if we have further spaces we will offer these at a later date.

Year 1 and 2 will also be sharing a Christmas show on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and Friday 15th December at 9.30am and 2pm. Again, we only have limited spaces so are only able to allow 2 quests per child initially and then if we have further spaces we will offer these at a later date.

We will also post a recorded version of the performances on Tapestry for those who are not able to attend.

Please take time to read our regular newsletter as we use this to try to keep you informed of all the different events taking place in school. Information is also available on our school website; please visit [www.heatheravenue.co.uk](http://www.heatheravenue.co.uk), our Facebook page [Heather Avenue Infant School](#) or follow us on twitter [@HeatherAvenue](#).

We are part of...

**WENSUM TRUST**

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

### Harvest

We have been absolutely blown away by their generosity shown during our 'Week of Giving!' Thank you so much for all the kind donations. It was incredible to be able to make up hampers for those who required this along with donating a large portion to our local food bank for our wider community!

### Poppy Appeal reminder

We have poppies for sale in school. If you would like your child to have a poppy, please send them to school with the correct amount of money for the item/s that they would like.

- Poppies - Suggested donation £1.00
- Reflective Poppies - Suggested donation £3.00
- Snap bands - Suggested donation £1.50
- Bracelets - Suggested donation £1.50
- Zip Pulls - Suggested donation £2.00

### FOHA (Friends of Heather Avenue)

FOHA (our Parent Teacher Association) works hard to raise funds for the children at Heather Avenue Infant School. Often subsidising trips along with the little extras for the children who attend Heather Avenue.

On **Tuesday 7th November** we have our **Annual General Meeting** which all parents / Carers are welcome to attend, this will be held in Badgers Classroom (next to the school office) at 2pm.

We already have events planned, including a Festive film event, Family Quiz and Christmas fair. Please see our date's section for more information

## Attendance

**We know that sometimes children are just too unwell to come to school and obviously this cannot be helped.**

However for other issues impacting on attendance we are here to support your child in coming to school each day – please do talk to your child's class teacher, myself (Miss Coleman/Head Teacher), Miss Lilley (Deputy Head Teacher) or Mrs Muff (our Parent Support Advisor) if you would like further support.

We have several initiatives running in school to help support attendance including;

Weekly class competitions, each week the class with the highest attendance gets an additional playtime

Lucky draw attendance pencil winners in our celebration assembly

Lucky draw attendance special lunch table with a member of SLT

Colour coded letters to keep you informed of your child's attendance percentage

Regular reminders about attendance

Sharing helpful support -



**Attendance is a national issue and one which all schools are trying to address. We are grateful for your support and recognise the efforts that you all go to, to ensure that your children are in school on time each day –**  
**Thank you.**

### **Read Write Inc at Heather Avenue Infant School**

We use the DfE approved phonics programme RWI (Read Write Inc) to teach your child phonics,

The children have a daily lesson, in groups suitable for the sound knowledge they have.

Each half term the children complete an assessment of the sounds they know and are grouped accordingly. As the children learn more sounds they will bring home a book to read to you, this will only contain sounds or words that they already have the sound knowledge for. Please take time to listen to your child read this book as much as possible. The repetition will help them to build fluency and confidence in becoming a reader.

Any other books brought home are for you to enjoy together - no pressure for your child to read - please feel free to read to your child, talk about the content but most of all spend time enjoying them together!

We know that children who spend time reading for pleasure do better in school compared to those who do not. Increasing vocabulary, understanding of themselves and others as well as the confidence in having a lifelong means of learning!

If you would like any further information on how we teach phonics please speak to your child's class teacher – there will also be phonics workshops as the term progresses

### **Pumpkin Colouring Competition**

We have some wonderful entries and can't wait for our School Council to choose the winners. The prizes have been donated by one of our wonderful neighbours and we are so grateful for this support – THANK YOU!

### **Uniform**

Please ensure that your child is in the correct uniform for school - please see website link for more details

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/heatheravenue/parents-carers/uniform>

Please only wear PE kit for PE days / sporting events

### **Road Safety / Hi Viz**

This week the children have all taken part in a road safety talk with PC Sam Hales, following this, the Reception children along with any children who are new to our school, were given a yellow Hi Viz jacket for their journey to and from school, something we do each year for our Reception class, this is to support them in staying safe as the dark nights draw in. Please ensure your child wears this each day on the way to and from school.

### **Parent/Carer Consultations**

It was lovely to welcome you to our Parent/Carer consultation event in the last week of half term. We hope you found these useful in finding out more about how your child is settling into their new class, the progress they are making along with their general well-being at school. If you have not had the opportunity yet, please do try to catch up with your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting.

Miss Lilley made a fantastic memoir of some of the items we have available to support your child at school – please see a link to this presentation below

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1EVkrLNA1PnrvvzQLfCJNj1\\_y3i1tOG\\_ozTVqJTDLY\\_nA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1EVkrLNA1PnrvvzQLfCJNj1_y3i1tOG_ozTVqJTDLY_nA/edit?usp=sharing)

### Dates for the Diary

Friday 17th November: Children in Need Charity Day – Non-School uniform

Friday 24th November: Non-School uniform in exchange for Christmas themed raffle prize

Friday 1st December: FOHA Christmas Fair - 2.30pm - 5.30pm

Wednesday 6th December: FOHA Festive film night - 3pm - 4.30pm

Friday 8th December: FOHA Festive Quiz event online - 6pm

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th December: Reception Christmas Nativity

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December: Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show

Tuesday 19th December: Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 20th December: Last day of Autumn 2

Thursday 21st December – Tuesday 2nd January: Christmas holidays

Wednesday 3rd January: INSET day 3 (Staff in school only)

Thursday 4th January: First day of Spring 1

Friday 16th February: Last day of Spring 1

Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February: Spring half term

Monday 26th February: First day of Spring 2

Wednesday 27th March: Last day of Spring 2

Thursday 28th March: INSET day (Staff in school only)

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April: Easter holidays

Monday 15th April: First day of Summer 1

Friday 24th May: Last day of Summer 1

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May: Half term

Monday 3rd June: First day of Summer 2

Friday 19th July: Last day of Summer 2

Monday 22nd July: Summer holidays 2024