



Heacham Junior School Newsletter

December 2023

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website: <https://www.heachamjunior.co.uk>



Newsletter

Dear Families,

It has been a long and busy term and we hope everyone is ready for the seasonal festivities. Christmas crafts were well attended on Friday and it certainly looked like everyone was having fun making cards and decorations. It was a real pleasure to welcome so many parents, carers and grandparents into the school. Thank you also for supporting us in great numbers at the carol concert at St Mary's Church in Heacham. The children sang so well with a special mention to the choir, our Head pupils and Junior Leaders.

The DFE performance tables were published for the first time since 2019 last week and the results showed that pupils at Heacham Junior did well compared to the majority of other schools nationally and in Norfolk. We are very proud of this outcome. We are also pleased to share the results from our recent survey with you.

There were 30 responses overall.

Things you think are going well:

93% of families think that pupils feel safe

93% of families think that pupils are well behaved

93% of families feel that their children do well at this school

97% of families think there are a good range of subjects available to pupils

90% of families think there are a good range of clubs and activities

Things we can improve:

Explaining what wider development we do

Continue with opportunities to pop in and look at books

Thank you for giving us this useful feedback - we will be using this advice to create some family workshops next term! Until then please have a very happy Christmas!

Best wishes

Louise Jackson

Executive Headteacher

Our Learning

Year 3 – Oystercatcher

We had a great time on our trip to the King's Lynn museums supporting the children's learning in geography looking at floods and the impact that has on our local environment. I was proud of the children's mature behaviour and wonderful questions. In the classroom, the children have been learning to multiply and divide and are now concentrating on learning their 3, 4, 6 and 8 times tables and finding patterns between them. The children have really engaged with their learning this half term. In geography, we have been looking at Western Europe, the true meaning of Christmas in RE, investigating the water cycle in science and learning about Ancient Greece in history. Whilst in English, we have been internalising wishing tales, with 'King Midas' and 'The lost homework' as our class texts, ready to write their own. Remember log all your wonderful reading in your school planners. We are excited for some festive fun during the final few weeks before they can enjoy a well-earned rest over Christmas.



Year 4 – Avocet

Avocets have shown great efforts in all subjects this term leading up to Christmas. In history this term, we have learnt about Henry VIII and the Tudors. Avocets have been super at acting out scenes from his life and being able to share facts in the class on Henry's wives and we learnt how he created his own religion. We have also learnt about Mediterranean Europe in geography experiencing their cultured foods too. The children tried various Mediterranean food like olives, oranges, feta cheese, lemons and tomatoes. It is great to see them trying different food to what they are used to! In Art this half term, we have been learning about foreground, middle ground and background. Avocets really enjoyed using a mixture of cardboard, paint and pastels to create their final pieces of Artwork.



THE FRIENDS OF HJS

THE FRIENDS OF HJS raise funds throughout the year to pay for fun activities, rewards and gifts for our pupils. Their numbers are very low and we would very much like to see our PTA grow and continue.

We want to invite you to come to our next meeting just to see what's involved. We are keen to welcome members from families in our school. It requires very little commitment **but makes a big difference** to our pupils.

The next meeting will be in school on Tuesday 30th January at 2.45-3.25pm. Please do come along for a taster. If you would like more information please email kelly.hall.1@talktalk.net or speak to Mrs Bridge in the office.

There are lots planned for next term – see the Diary Dates for events organised by the Friends. Maybe you'd like to help at one of these?

Our Learning (cont'd)

Year 5 – Albatross

We've gone full throttle into the second half of our autumn term in Albatross Class and the children have been working so hard throughout producing some wonderful pieces of work. We've covered a lot of the globe with our foundation subjects, studying African art and the importance of ceremonial headdresses in some parts of African culture as well as studying the use of relief sculpture in their art and architecture. We've studied lots of mountain ranges in Asia, Europe and South America - perhaps you could ask your Albatross what facts they can tell you about Mount Everest or where the ancient mummified body of Otzi was discovered and how old he was? In history we've also looked at how far the British Empire spread across the globe establishing British colonies gaining much power and control. In science, our brains have been tested as we've investigated how small an atom is and created our own posters explaining their structure of protons, neutrons and electrons. Finally, as we head towards the festive season we have had lots of extra - curricular activities take place, such as Art day! Albatross learnt how to block print using polystyrene by a local artist as well as fully immersing themselves into the culture of Islamic Architecture. Additionally, we had a few pupils selected to complete a Bikeability course to learn how to stay safe when cycling on a road. As always, we're so proud of the Albatrosses for all their continued hard work throughout the whole of this half term and we're excited for some festive fun during the final weeks before they can enjoy a well-earned rest over Christmas.



Year 6 – Royal Tern

We have been incredibly proud of the progress and resilience shown in Royal Terns – especially during assessment week! A huge well done to all of them! Our term has been jam-packed with learning: from the Suffragettes in History (who knew that one of the arguments against women's suffrage was that their hats were too big for Parliament!) to plant and cell structure in Science; to the continent of North America; the country of Italy and especially the Renaissance art and architecture; clothing in French; celebrations and traditions in RE; holding debates in class; fractions in all their glory and so much more - it really has been amazing! Sprinkled amidst all of this has been a charity bake sale, musical and singing performances, cross country, rugby and football competitions and a very successfully Indoor Climbing Club run by Air and Mabel - and all in time for Christmas!





AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Next half-term we will be offering the following after-school clubs (see times below).

Spaces are limited, if oversubscribed, priority will be given to those that have not done a club this year, and names will be drawn at random. Clubs run by school staff are free; Clubs run by visitors may be chargeable (see below).

Please apply by Friday 5th January as spaces will be allocated on 8th January 2024.

ALL CLUBS START W/C 15th JANUARY 2024 AND FINISH ON 9th FEBRUARY 2024

TUESDAY 3.30-4.15pm

Drawing & Colouring with Miss Cornwell – open to all x 12 spaces

Y34 Indoor Climbing with Mrs Clemente – x 8 spaces

WEDNESDAY 3.30-4.15pm

Y6 SATS Booster Sessions - all Y6 welcome

Clubs end at 4.15pm. Pickup is from the back playground. If your child is unable to attend any sessions, you must inform the office by email or telephone beforehand. We are not able to accept messages via the children.

To apply for a space please email office@heachamjunior.co.uk and state the following:

I give permission for (Child's Name) to attend the following clubs

Club Name(s):

Medical Conditions:

Emergency Phone No.:

Name of parent giving permission:

My child will be (select one): Collected or Walk home:

Please note that children in Y34 must be collected by an adult

UPCOMING

FRIENDS PTA EVENTS 2024

30
Jan

Parent Meeting
2.45pm

15
Feb

Valentine Disco
4.30pm to 6.30pm

20
Mar

Easter
Eggstravaganza
3.30pm to 4.30pm

<https://www.heachamjunior.co.uk>





Swimming every Wednesday morning 11am
 Music Tuition every Monday afternoon
 Please check PE days with your class teachers

20/12/23 Panto Performance at HJS
21/12/23 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
 03/01/24 Staff Inset Day
 04/01/23 Children return to school
 08/01/24 Y6 Trip to Parliament
 09/01/24 Starter Band Resumes
 10/01/24 Y5 Resume Swimming
 16/01/24 After-School Clubs Start
 30/01/23 Parent Meeting for Friends PTA 2.45pm-3.25pm
 02/02/23 Hilltop Installment Due
 05/02/24 Y5 Trip Peterborough Mosque
 09/02/24 All After-School Clubs Finish
 12/02/24 Professor Pancake PSHE Performance
 15/02/24 Friends' Valentine Disco 4.30pm-6pm
19/02/24 HALF-TERM
 20/03/24 Friends' Easter Eggstravaganza 3.30pm-4.30pm
 28/03/24 Staff Inset Day
29/03/24 EASTER HOLIDAY
 12/04/24 Hilltop Installment Due
 15/04/24 Children return to school
 06/05/24 Bank Holiday
27/05/24 HALF-TERM
 03/06/23 Hilltop Final Balance Due
 24/06/24 Hilltop Residential 3 days
22/07/24 SUMMER HOLIDAY

Copies of any menus, trip letters, previous newsletters can be found on our website <https://www.heachamjunior.co.uk>

The importance of good attendance

The Government strives for **every pupil to achieve 97% attendance**. Every day away from school is a day away from learning and this can have an impact on a child's education and future accomplishments.

We want every child to enjoy school and achieve their potential in education and life beyond. We are always here to talk through any issues and help find solutions. Parents are always a phone call away if a child is too ill to continue their day, please encourage them to try to give the day a go, children often feel much better once they are in class.

The Government has issued new attendance guidance and targets to all schools, you may receive regular texts informing you of the number of days that your child has been absent in a term/year. The Government hope that this personal approach will make parents more aware of how the odd day adds up and help keep you informed.



Attendance Matters



Equality and Diversity Pledge

H - Heacham Junior School's Equality & Diversity Pledge

J - Justice for all students

S - Skin makes no difference

P - Prejudice will not be tolerated

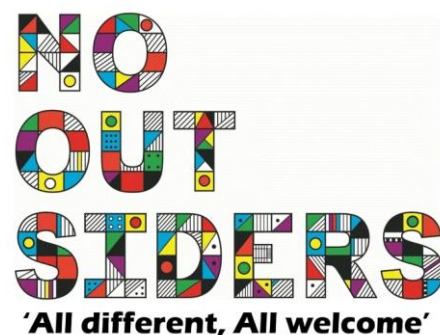
L - Let everyone have equal rights

E - Everyone should be respected and treated equally

D - Differences are important and should be respected

G - Grow together

E - Everyone is always welcome



PUNCTUALITY MATTERS!

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

19 days lost a year through being late means 90% attendance.



missed minutes =
missed learning
= missed opportunities!

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Every Minute Counts!



That's two school weeks

Lost Minutes = Lost Learning

* Subject to changes *



PRIMARY SCHOOLS - Term Dates 2023-2024

September 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Key: White dates – school open to pupils
 Orange dates – pupil holiday
 Purple dates – staff training day
 Red dates – bank holiday

Staff training days are – Monday 4th September and Tuesday 5th September, Wednesday 3rd January and Thursday 28th March 2024 as whole training days.
 Monday 22nd July 2024 is disaggregated.

Swimming Rota

May be subject to further changes

SWIMMING 2023-2024						
Wk No.	Date	Class/Year		Wk No.	Date	Class/Year
11	10/01/2024	Albatross		22	17/04/2024	Avocet
12	17/01/2024	Albatross		23	24/04/2024	Oystercatcher
13	24/01/2024	Albatross		24	01/05/2024	Oystercatcher
14	31/01/2024	Albatross		25	08/05/2024	Oystercatcher
15	07/02/2024	Avocet		x	15/05/2024	SATS - NO SWIM
16	14/02/2024	Avocet		26	22/05/2024	Oystercatcher
x	21/02/2024	Half-Term		x	29/05/2024	Half-Term
17	28/02/2024	Avocet		27	05/06/2024	Oystercatcher
18	06/03/2024	Avocet		28	12/06/2024	Oystercatcher
19	13/03/2024	Avocet		29	19/06/2024	Oystercatcher
20	20/03/2024	Avocet		30	26/06/2024	Oystercatcher
21	27/03/2024	Avocet		31	03/07/2024	Royal Terns
x	03/04/2024	Easter		32	10/07/2024	Royal Terns
x	10/04/2024	Easter		33	17/07/2024	Royal Terns

Swimmers leave at 11am and return for lunch at 1pm. They need a one-piece swimsuit/trunks, towel, waterproof bag (hat and goggles are optional). Earrings must be removed.

The children would benefit from a good breakfast and a morning snack on the days that they swim.

PLEASE WEAR A COAT.

Vouchers for Free School Meal Eligible Pupils – April 2023 to March 2024

Support has been extended until March 2024 for pupils eligible for means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). Families who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive Edenred vouchers for April to August next month and then more in September. The Vouchers can be spent at many major retailers including supermarkets.

Families in hardship and needing wider support in addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support. Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Families may get in touch with NAS via their website which includes an online application form, or they can call **0344 800 8020**.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme>

Have your circumstances changed recently? You may be eligible for Free School Meals.

The school receives funding for each child who comes under Pupil Premium (including free school meals), so it is worth applying even if you don't have school meals!! You can apply online

<https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk?fbclid=IwAR181hWbnsrWnVeC-KZ31j-HfjFmGLwKL7zsv9QVbkEfY1uKETvz0cDSlcQ>

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If any details for parents or emergency contacts have changed, or you would like to add or remove someone. Please email office@heachamjunior.co.uk

Pupil Name(s):

Contact Name:

Relationship to Pupil:

Home tel no:

Mobile tel no:

email:

Address:

It is school policy that we hold at least TWO emergency contacts

NORFOLK LAVENDER

No rehearsals, no practise, no uniform -just come and sing!



(Please email the church office if you'd like to play with the instrument you will be playing so we can have the right music for you)

Let's celebrate Christmas together as a village community



Donations to:



Heacham.church@gmail.com for more information

DRAGON ARTS

Come and join our art club at St. George's Guildhall for fun, creative sessions led by a professional artist.
Learn new skills and express yourself through drawing, painting, sculpting and more.

Fortnightly on Saturdays starting 6th January 2024

11:00am - 12:30pm

Ages 5-11

£3 per child (booking essential)

To book, please visit www.guildhall-events.co.uk

Shakespeare Barn, St. George's Guildhall, 29 King Street, King's Lynn. PE30 1HA