

We break up for Easter holidays on **Thursday 30th March**

School re-opens for the Summer term on **Monday 17th April**



After-School clubs begin again from Monday 27th February. Parents will have received a letter with more details on how to apply for a place at after-school clubs on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3–4 pm.

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Dear Heelands' Families

School Newsletter: Spring 2, 2023

Welcome to the second half of the school year. We have already completed one and a half terms, and it's so encouraging to see the progress the children have made since September, and how they have grown in confidence. **Parents' Evenings on 28th and 29th March** will give all families an opportunity to find out more about the children's learning and to see some of the work they have produced and are proud of.

You will all be aware of the strike days that have become a feature of several key sectors, and which now include teaching. Teachers' rights to union membership and choice to take industrial action are supported and protected by Employment Law. However, we also understand how difficult it can be for our working parents not to know for sure until the day of a strike whether a school will be open or fully staffed. Teacher strike days in our region and nationally are currently planned for 1st, 15th and 16th March. Please check your phone for a 7.30 am text to confirm whether school will be open on those dates. I apologise this won't be able to happen any earlier, due to the need to follow DfE guidance.

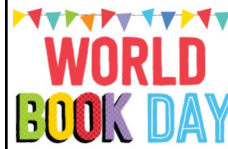


Winter illnesses have reached significant levels this year, and this has had an understandable impact on the children's overall attendance. However, we are required to closely monitor the attendance of all our children, as days missed can affect learning.

Low attendance can also have an impact on children's confidence and wellbeing. We want all children to feel secure, happy and supported to achieve at school and value your help in this. If your child is not well enough to attend, please let us know. Otherwise, we need to work together to encourage good attendance and punctuality for every child at Heelands.

Heelands has been selected at random to participate in a pilot testing trial of Key Stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling assessments. This is being carried out by the NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) and the trial will take place during the first two weeks of the summer term with the majority of our Year 2 pupils. Please contact the school office if you have any queries.

You will see from our attached Diary Dates sheet that there are some lovely curriculum enrichment opportunities coming up this half-term.



Thursday 2nd March is World Book Day.

We invite everyone— children and adults—to come to school dressed as a character from books or comics. This isn't a fund-raising day, but a celebration of reading, so we are not asking for donations. It would be great to see lots of pirates, princesses, superheroes or any other characters in school that day. There will be some special activities to take part in, and of course extra time to enjoy stories.

13th to 17th March is Science Week.

We are lucky to be starting Science Week with a visit from Primary School Workshops, who are planning to delivering some exciting learning to each class.



Best wishes

Mrs Sophie Good
Headteacher



This half term our Value is **Self-belief.**

We will be encouraging the children to reflect on how their knowledge and understanding has developed, along with the importance of goals, and how to build their confidence levels in order to achieve them.



Heelands School Key Dates 2022-23

FEBRUARY	Mon 20th	Children return to school Spring 2 - NO AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK
	Thurs 23rd	9.15—Giraffes Class Assembly
MARCH	Thur 2nd	World Book Day—come to school dressed as your favourite book character
	Mon 13th to Fri 17th	Science Week
	Fri 17th	Red Nose Day—dress-down non-uniform day for £1 donation per child
	Thur 23rd	9.15 Lions—Class Assembly
	Tues 28th	Late Parents' Evening : 5.00 pm —7.00 pm
	Wed 29th	Early Parents' Evening: 3.30—5.30 pm.
	Thur 30th	Break up for Easter Holiday (Inset Fri 31st March—school closed)
APRIL	Mon 17th	Children return to school Summer 1
MAY	Mon 1st	Bank Holiday – school closed
	Mon 8th	Extra Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation—school closed
	Fri 26th	Break up for Half Term
JUNE	Mon 5th	Inset Day, School Closed
	Tues 6th	Children return to school Summer 2
	Mon 12th	Phonics Testing week, Year 1 children
JULY	Tues 4th	Sports afternoon
	Wed 5th	6pm Meeting for parents of Early Years Foundation Stage children for September 2023
	Fri 7th	Reports go home to parents
	Mon 10th	Class swap Day 1
	Tues 11th	Class swap Day 2
	Wed 12th	3—5pm Open Evening for all families
	Tues 18th	9.15 Monkeys—Class Assembly
	Fri 21st	9.15 Year 2 Leavers' Assembly - Year 2 families welcome
		Break up for Summer Holidays
		School re-opens on Monday 4th September for the start of the 2023-24 academic year