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Newsletter

A warm welcome to the first newsletter of the 2021/22 academic year. Term 1 happens to be the longest term of the year; however, time has flown by and there have been lots of exciting learning opportunities going on within school. I hope that you enjoy seeing and reading about some of them throughout the newsletter.

In August, many of our older students received their GCSE examination results, as well as vocational and functional skills qualifications. The results were amazing and a huge well done to all the students who achieved at all levels. Many of the students received the qualifications they need to progress to college, which was a fantastic achievement. I am very proud that all of our school leavers this year have gone on to the college course of their choice.

September started with a new set of government guidance around COVID-19 and things were relatively back to "normal" for several weeks. Unfortunately, we were hit quite badly with a number of positive cases within the staff body in October and the last few weeks have been incredibly challenging, for both the staff who have been poorly and for those in school ensuring that we didn't have to close the school. I would like to thank all of the staff for pulling together at this difficult time as well as the parents in EYFS and Earth for their understanding for the two days they were affected.

We have taken swift action to increase our systems of control throughout the school and have been in constant dialogue with a number of health bodies to ensure we are doing everything we can to limit the number of cases. As with many other schools, we are likely to see more cases as we move through towards Christmas, however, we will

do our best to limit the impact. As part of our system of controls, can I please remind parents of secondary aged students to keep up the twice weekly lateral flow testing during term time, particularly on the day before we come back after half term (Sunday 31 October). We were pleased to see a large number of secondary children received their flu and COVID vaccinations last Monday which can only help in our efforts to reduce cases.

Have you had chance to see our new school website? The old one was looking a little dated, so we gave it a revamp, we hope you like the new one – please let us have any feedback!

The core value for term 1 was about showing responsibility and the winners are unveiled within the newsletter – well done to the three winners. Next term, our focus turns towards the core value of being independent and showing increasing levels of independence within school.

We have spent the past few weeks creating our new School Development Plan, based on both internal and external assessment of the school. We are particularly focussing on improving reading throughout the school and implementing our new curriculum, to enable students to learn more and remember more. As you know, reading is such an important life skill, as well as being fundamental for academic success.

I am delighted to see the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme now in full operation, with a number of our older students starting with the bronze award. I look forward to seeing how they progress and grow in confidence as they work through the course.

Rehearsals for our very own school musical has started – the songs from Matilda are a constant companion as my office is right next to the garden room where our cast are currently rehearsing! We are all very excited to see the final show and hope that this isn't impacted by any future COVID restrictions.

Finally, a reminder about the school term dates this academic year – as mentioned previously, many local authorities have different dates for February half term 2022 and Easter 2022. Please check these and be aware of them when booking holidays etc. Heathermount's term dates are on our school website.

Enjoy the newsletter and thank you all for your continuing support, feedback and best wishes throughout the term. I hope you have a wonderful half term.



[Signature]

Headteacher

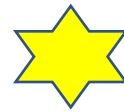
DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Activity
1 st November	Start of TERM 2
17 th November	Matilda trip DRAMA SECONDARY STUDENTS ONLY
29 th November	Nasal flu vaccination FOUNDATION – YEAR 6 STUDENTS ONLY
7 th December	Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime (onsite) FOUNDATION & PRIMARY STUDENTS ONLY
9 th December* *Change of date	REMOTE Parents' Evening (4-7pm)
10 th December	Christmas Jumper Day WHOLE SCHOOL
15 th December	End of TERM 2
16 th – 17 th December	Staff INSET days (NO students in school)
4 th January	Start of TERM 3

STAR OF THE WEEK – FOUNDATION



Nathaniel



Jacob



Paru



Alex



George



Harry



*Congratulations to all
Star of the week
winners in foundation!*



STAR OF THE WEEK – PRIMARY



Erik



Lucas



Tyler



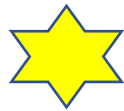
Sam



Lamine



Bailey



Paige



*Congratulations to all
Star of the week
winners in primary!*



STAR OF THE WEEK – SECONDARY



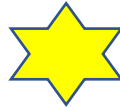
Freddie-Lee



Stars
of the
week!



Alex G



Jay R



Stars
of the
week!



Charlie

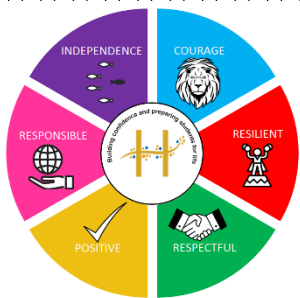


Oliver W



*Congratulations to all
Star of the Week
winners in secondary!*





HEATHERMOUNT CORE VALUES CUP

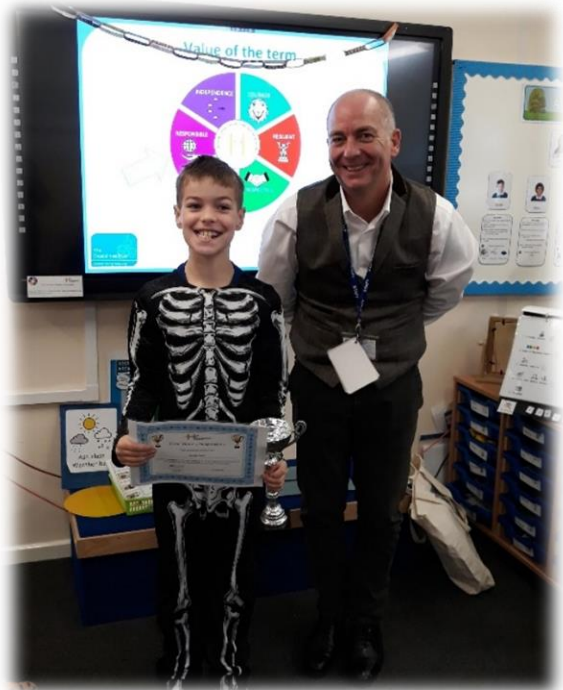
This term the focus was
"BEING RESPONSIBLE"

*Making good choices, taking accountability for
 your actions and being helpful to others.*

FOUNDATION cup winner is:

GEORGE

Congratulations!



PRIMARY cup winner is:

CIAN

Congratulations!



SECONDARY cup winner is:

ALFIE

Congratulations!



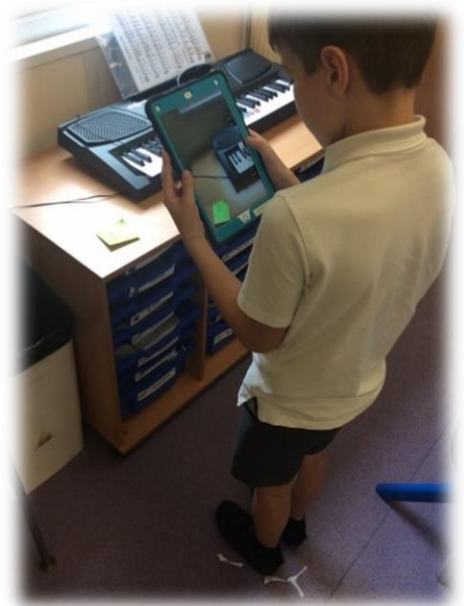
The focus for Term 2 is
"BEING INDEPENDENT"

FOUNDATION

Maple class have been working hard with the Speech and Language team to develop their interoception skills. They have been touching and tasting different textures and describing how it makes their body feel. The class have enjoyed tasting new textures and have been developing their understanding of the new sensation.



We have also been taking lots of pictures on the iPad of items around the school. We have been using the viewfinder and learning how to use the different features. We will be making a video using the iPad soon!



Ash class have loved exploring different cities around the UK. Focusing on London, we learned about what makes London special, different landmarks and historic events.



FOUNDATION



Maple and Ash
been making
toast and
trying different
toppings. We
have tasted
honey, lemon
curd,
marmalade,
and jam.

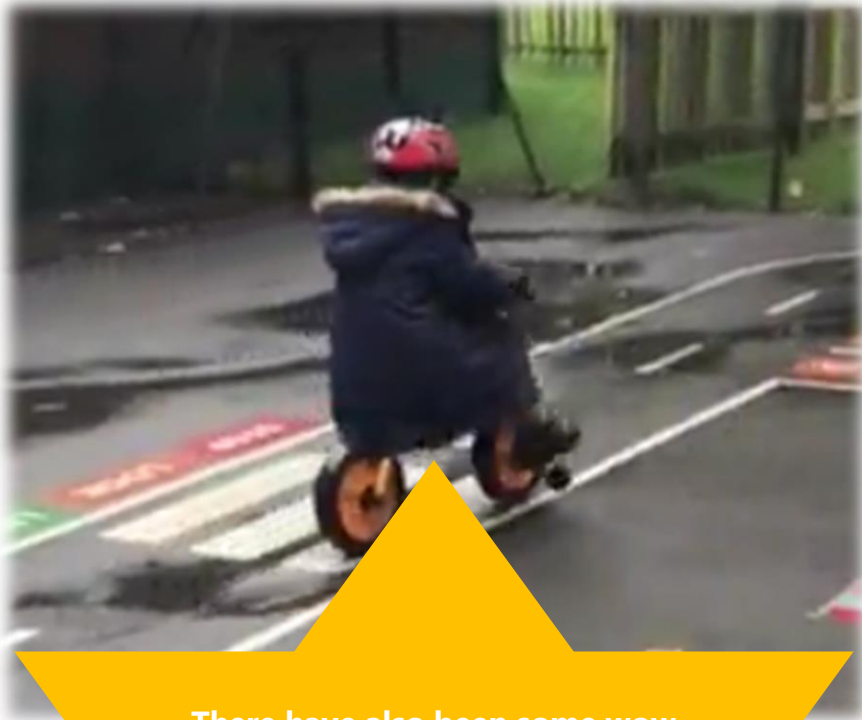


We are
building up
their
independence
and are aiming
to get them to
make it
completely
independently,
for themselves
and friends!





FOUNDATION



AMAZING!

There have also been some wow moments this term with learning to ride a bike, playing the keyboard and showing bravery when climbing different apparatus!

AMAZING!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A HUGE congratulations to Oliver, a student from Oak class who managed to climb Ben Nevis during the summer holidays. Here he is at the top!



Last term, many students took part in a Race for Life event to raise money for Cancer Research. As a school, nearly 700 laps of the cycle track were completed - that's over 120 miles! Here is our grand total...



**Certificate
of thanks!**

**Heathermount
School**
for raising
an amazing

£515

at your
Race for Life

For you | because of you | thanks to you

Congratulations
on your
Achievement

Congratulations
on your
Achievement

Congratulations
on your
Achievement

PINE

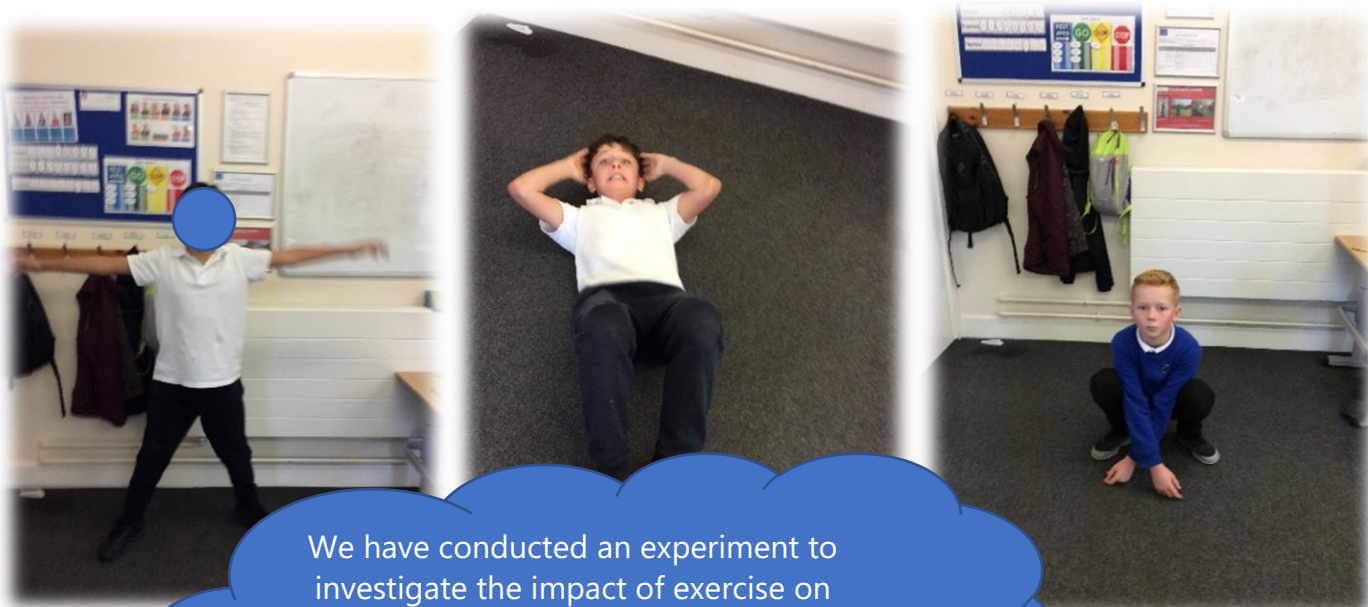


This term Pine class have been exploring our project of Sow, Grow and Farm. We have planted our own plants to explore how they grow, and we dissected some lilies to explore how plants reproduce.



ELM

This term in science we have been studying the human body and its various systems. During the last couple of weeks, we have been focusing on the digestive system and the importance of a healthy diet and exercise.



We have conducted an experiment to investigate the impact of exercise on the heart, so each student (and teacher!) each completed a physical activity and compared our heartrate before and after.



We had a lot of fun, and a shock reminder for Chris and how unfit he was after 10 pushups!



WILLOW



In Willow we are learning about habitats. Here is a little glimpse into our interactive Science lessons...



HOMework CLUB

Every day during leisure, students have the opportunity to go and complete homework at homework club.



They can complete it independently or ask for help if they need it.

Some students also come along to play board games, such as monopoly and chess, or draw and do puzzles.



Students engage well with their activities in here and it is a lovely, relaxed atmosphere.

Thank you to Amber for putting this piece together for the newsletter

PLUTO



Pluto class has been settling in nicely in the secondary environment, taking pride in both their appearance and their more advance work.



EARTH



Earth have been practising their fine and gross motor skills during their arts and craft lessons.



Foundation have been helping Earth complete a section of their Asdan award. All the children have been working together to complete a Peter Rabbit walking challenge. So far, the children have all completed the 1 km and 2 km challenge pin badges.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH



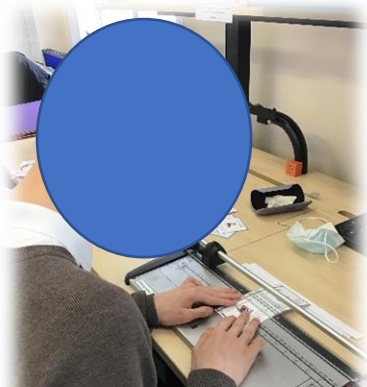
**This term was the
start of Duke of
Edinburgh Bronze
Award!**

**Students have
started off their
skills section
looking at
navigation skills,
taking part in map
reading games and
orienteering
around the school
site.**





BUSINESS ADMIN



Jonny is cutting graphics for the TAS



Theo is making labels for Nikki



Billy is cutting graphics for drama



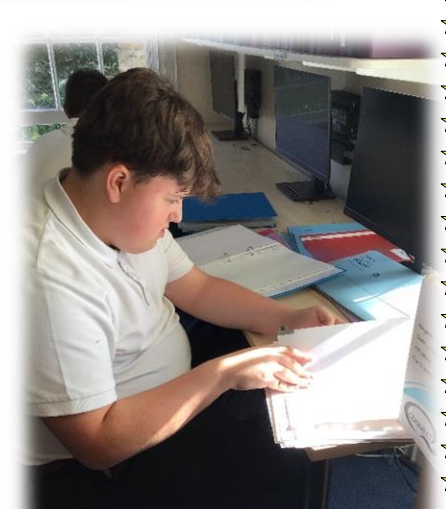
Working together for the marketing campaign for Matilda



Tobias is strategizing the school Matilda play campaign



Sam and Dan are sorting out the folders in BA



Charlie is sorting out folders in BA



Business Admin



Thank you to Ellie for putting this piece together for the newsletter

CATERING

Students are working on extending their adjective vocabulary for catering terminology.



ICT

Well done to the following students who passed these qualifications last term:-

Harvey for passing the FS Level 1



Matthew S for passing the FS Level 1



Oliver for passing A Level Computer Science at grade B



This term, Pluto students have been creating visual calculators using VB.



Next term, Mars are really excited about learning how to develop websites using Dreamweaver.



HORTICULTURE & FOREST SCHOOL



Upon returning to school after 6 weeks summer holidays, the allotment was completely overgrown!! It has been a joint team effort all term by older secondary students in strimming, mowing, and weeding the allotment. It's now looking lovely and tidy, well done everyone!



There has been fruit and vegetables to harvest and taste!



Lots of students have been doing their Skills for Working Life qualification this term. They have completed their harvest crop unit.



As part of the assessment the potatoes were delivered to the catering kitchen to be used by other students.



Other students have begun their Level 1 Practical Horticulture course, using lawn mowers, and completing their first assessment of scarifying turf by hand.

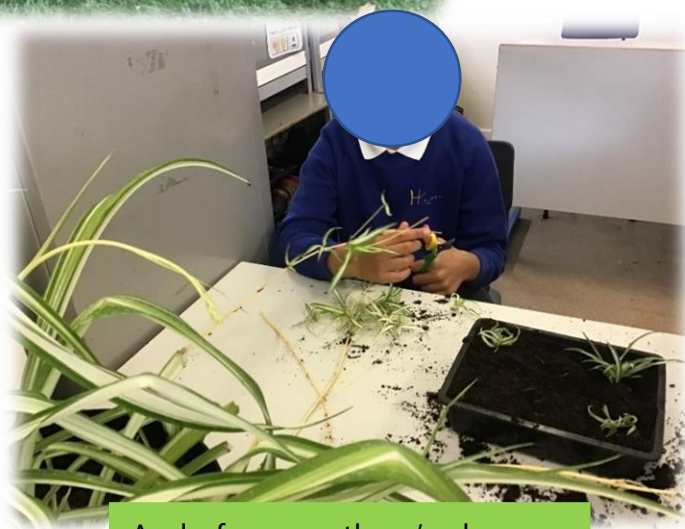


Skills for Working Life students are also working on a work safely unit, learning about what colours hazard and warning signs are and the use of Personal Protective Equipment.





Foundation have been trying various activities during Forest School lessons, including picking apples from the trees, building tents. They showed great teamwork and communication playing the floor is lava!

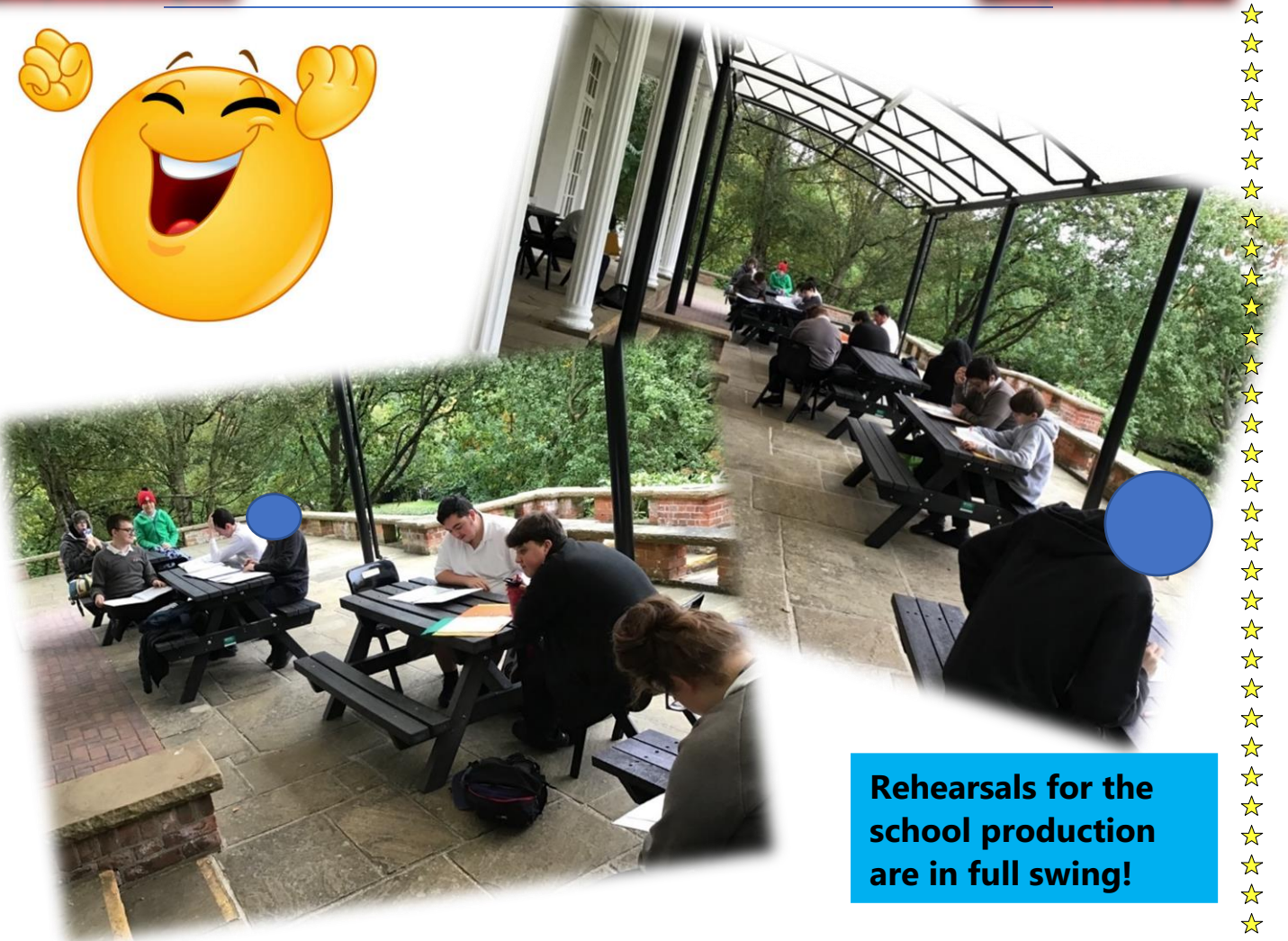


And of course, there's always plenty of plant propagation to be done on a wet day!





MATILDA REHEARSALS



Rehearsals for the school production are in full swing!

NEW STAFF

Welcome



Welcome

Nicole P is a new TA working in primary.

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

**Great way to finish term
1...
Halloween dress up!
So many amazing costumes
from students and staff.
Well done everyone!**





**THIS YEAR'S
WINNERS....**



*We hope you all have a
lovely break!*

*Best wishes.
Heathermount Staff*

