

## Newsletter

A warm welcome to our festive newsletter and the final one of 2021!

Despite another challenging term we have seen some amazing learning opportunities; the reintroduction of school trips and visits, the start of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and to finish the term off – the most incredible Christmas productions.

### **School trips and visits**

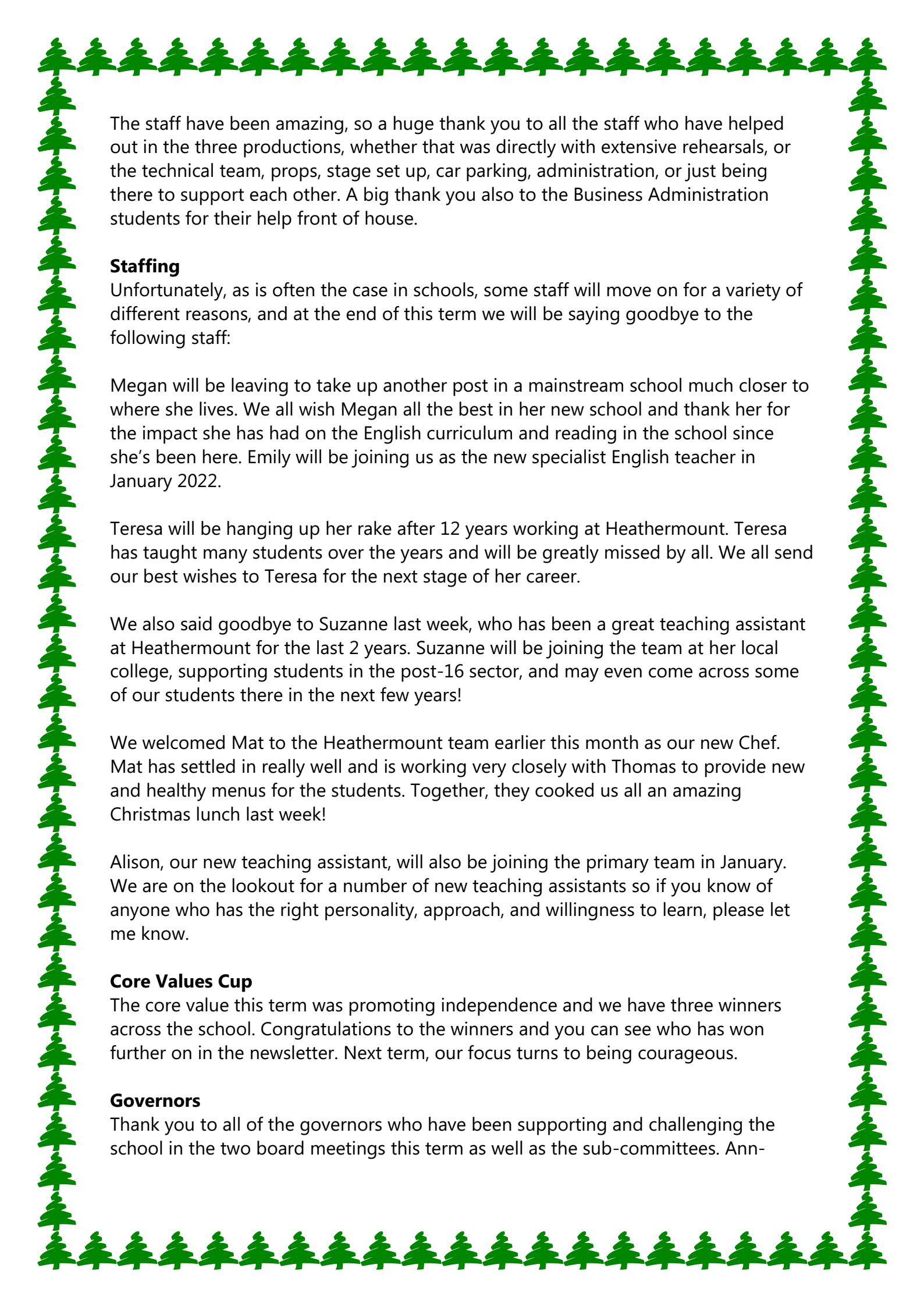
It has been a long time coming, but it has been wonderful to be able to restart the school trips and visits. School trips are an essential tool in giving our students the opportunities to practise communication and interaction skills in an external environment; these have been meticulously planned, with enhanced risk assessments and supported by staff. They form one of our central themes of the READY programme and really help to build confidence as well as developing skills and knowledge.

A number of the older students went to see the musical "Matilda" in London, secondary students went to see Beauty and Beast in Reading, there have been several Duke of Edinburgh's award trips including to Virginia Water to practise their walking and navigation skills. The EYFS children have enjoyed visits to the shops and café at Sunninghill to practise their communication and practical skills. In addition to the offsite trips, the primary students enjoyed a visit from an external drama society for a performance of the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. Enjoy looking through the photographs and see if you can spot a well-known celebrity who joined one of our trips!

### **Christmas Performances**

I am so proud of all the students who took part in Matilda the musical, the primary nativity play, and the EYFS Christmas show. All three performances were enthusiastically performed on stage to some very proud (and teary) parents/grandparents in a COVID secure environment. Everyone who watched will take away some incredibly special memories of our very talented children singing, dancing, and acting to such a high standard.

A big thank you to the parents for supporting their children in the build up to the shows, preparing wonderful costumes and booking time off work to be in the audience – it really means so much to the children.



The staff have been amazing, so a huge thank you to all the staff who have helped out in the three productions, whether that was directly with extensive rehearsals, or the technical team, props, stage set up, car parking, administration, or just being there to support each other. A big thank you also to the Business Administration students for their help front of house.

### **Staffing**

Unfortunately, as is often the case in schools, some staff will move on for a variety of different reasons, and at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to the following staff:

Megan will be leaving to take up another post in a mainstream school much closer to where she lives. We all wish Megan all the best in her new school and thank her for the impact she has had on the English curriculum and reading in the school since she's been here. Emily will be joining us as the new specialist English teacher in January 2022.

Teresa will be hanging up her rake after 12 years working at Heathermount. Teresa has taught many students over the years and will be greatly missed by all. We all send our best wishes to Teresa for the next stage of her career.

We also said goodbye to Suzanne last week, who has been a great teaching assistant at Heathermount for the last 2 years. Suzanne will be joining the team at her local college, supporting students in the post-16 sector, and may even come across some of our students there in the next few years!

We welcomed Mat to the Heathermount team earlier this month as our new Chef. Mat has settled in really well and is working very closely with Thomas to provide new and healthy menus for the students. Together, they cooked us all an amazing Christmas lunch last week!

Alison, our new teaching assistant, will also be joining the primary team in January. We are on the lookout for a number of new teaching assistants so if you know of anyone who has the right personality, approach, and willingness to learn, please let me know.

### **Core Values Cup**

The core value this term was promoting independence and we have three winners across the school. Congratulations to the winners and you can see who has won further on in the newsletter. Next term, our focus turns to being courageous.

### **Governors**

Thank you to all of the governors who have been supporting and challenging the school in the two board meetings this term as well as the sub-committees. Ann-

Catherine (Chair of Governors) has been visiting the school regularly and recently joined the parent governors at the Matilda performance.

We are still looking to strengthen the governing body with an additional parent governor (primary phase ideally) as well as a community governor. If you are interested in either of the positions, please contact Cathy Friend at school ([cathy.friend@heathermount.co.uk](mailto:cathy.friend@heathermount.co.uk)).

### COVID

I have deliberately not given lots of newsletter space to COVID as there have been separate communications to parents during the term. I hope that everyone's Christmas plans avoid any disruption and can I please remind all parents of children over the age of 11, to take a lateral flow test on 3 January before returning to school on 4 January. LFT kits were distributed on 14 December.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas this year and we all look forward to seeing the students return on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Merry Christmas!



Headteacher

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## REMINDERS

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- ✓ All students need to bring a water bottle to school every day
- ✓ New school menus can be viewed on our website
- ✓ Term 3 starts on Tuesday 4 January 2022



## NEW STAFF

Welcome



Welcome

Mat is the new Chef.

Welcome



Welcome

Emily is the new English Teacher.

Welcome



Welcome

Alison is the new Teaching Assistant in primary.



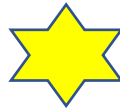
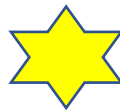
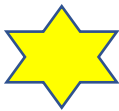
## STAR OF THE WEEK – FOUNDATION



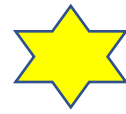
**\*GEORGIE\***



**\*GEORGE\***



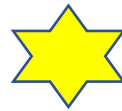
**\*ALEX\***



**\*HARRY\***



**\*PARU\***



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

## STAR OF THE WEEK – PRIMARY



**\*LUCAS\***



**\*CIAN\***



**\*BEN C\***



**\*ETHAN\***



**\*ARTHUR\***



**\*JACOB\***



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



## STAR OF THE WEEK – SECONDARY



**\*JACK H\***



**\*HARVEY\***



**\*BETHANY\***



**\*JAMIE\***



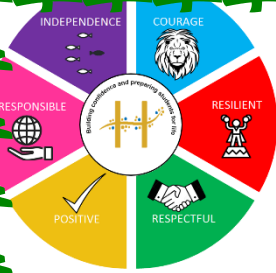
**\*AMBER\***



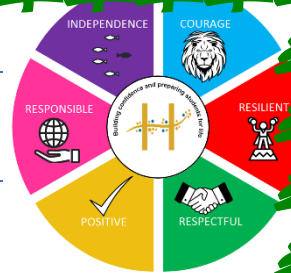
*Congratulations to all  
Star of the Week  
winners in secondary!*







## HEATHERMOUNT CORE VALUES CUP



This term the focus was  
**"BEING INDEPENDENT"**

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

**FOUNDATION** cup winner is:

**\*Nathaniel\***

**Congratulations!**



**PRIMARY** cup winner is:

**\*Arthur\***

**Congratulations!**

**SECONDARY** cup winner is:

**\*Nathan\***

**Congratulations!**



The focus for Term 3 is **"COURAGE"**



## FOUNDATION



This term EYFS has had lots of fun learning how to be safe and cook on the fire pit. We have tried toasting marshmallows, cooking bread, and even melting cheese!



In Ash we have loved continuing to learn all about London. We started with learning about Guy Fawkes and Paru drew an amazing picture. We then moved around London learning about each Landmark and practising our direction skills along the way.



George and Alex have been going offsite to buy Foundation's food shopping list!



Nathaniel and Jacob have been working as representatives for school council.



They have also been making toast independently



whilst tasting different toppings!





## MASH CAFÉ!

At the end of term, staff turned Ash and Maple class into The Mash Café! Half of the students became chefs and took the toast orders from their customers (the rest of the class!). They took it in turns to serve each other and thoroughly enjoyed it.



Staff were so impressed with how independent they were and how polite they were.



## OAK

Here are Oak class learning about the different continents in Geography and using an atlas for researching information.





## PINE

This term Pine class has been focusing on their project "Sow, Grow and Farm". We've been looking at farming, climates and maps across the world. We even got to go on a trip to Odd's Farm Park to cement our knowledge!



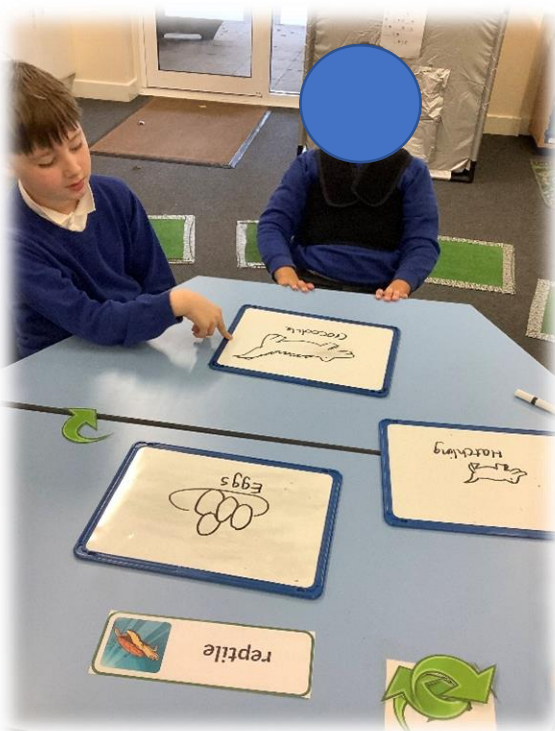
Look who we got to meet...

**FAMOUS  
CELEBRITY  
ALERT!!**



## WILLOW

In Willow, we have been learning about life cycles of humans, animals, and insects.



Our lessons are very interactive, using different media and resources to help support and embed learning, as well as making learning fun!

*Great job!*



## CHILDREN IN NEED

**Thank you so much for mufti day donations.**

**We raised £137!**

*This money will go towards making a difference to disadvantaged children and young people in communities right across the UK.*



*Thank You!*

*Thank You!*

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

**Thank you so much for Christmas jumper day donations.**

**We raised £90!**

*This money will go towards helping children stay safe in the world and getting them the important things that they need.*



*Thank You!*

*Thank You!*



## PANTOMIME TIME



Primary students enjoyed 'Jack and the Beanstalk' for their panto treat!





## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

In Duke of Edinburgh this term, the students have all worked really hard to understand how to read compass bearings and grid references using maps of different sizes and different scales.

They have had the chance to complete tasks inside, outside and off school site.



To put the students' map reading skills into practice, they went offsite and had to navigate their way to set landmarks.



With group 1 walking 4.4 miles and group 2 walking 5.1 miles, there was no moaning from any of them!



## PLUTO

Pluto have been learning about self-portraits and had a go at skin tone matching with paint.



Isla also created this beautiful piece to advertise the school production



## BUSINESS ADMIN



BA students are working on the Matilda marketing campaign



Venus BA students delivering paper



Venus BA students binding JCQ exam booklets



Jupiter BA student using the guillotine

Well done to Billy and Ellie for putting this piece together for the newsletter



## CATERING

Mercury have been learning about eggs.

They have been making a variety of egg dishes...

...and eating them!



Venus and Saturn have been getting in the festive spirit and making mince pies!



## HORTICULTURE & FOREST SCHOOL

Late autumn is the time for tidying the school grounds and with lots of leaves to still clear



Secondary students have been using the leaf blowers.



Whilst primary students have been raking up the leaves...



and enjoying playing in the piles of leaves!







Skills for Working Life  
students have been  
doing their recognise  
plant parts unit



Level 1 students have  
been planting Daffodil  
bulbs for their plant  
flowering bulbs unit



Level 2 students have  
been making hanging  
baskets for their plant a  
container for seasonal  
display unit







Foundation got to use the fire pit for their first time. They collected the sticks and built the fire themselves...



...and toasted marshmallows!



## EARTH



Here are Earth class marking Remembrance Day



## DRAMA



The GCSE Drama students visited the Cambridge Theatre in London this this term to see Matilda performed by professionals. The students were able to see their characters first-hand and the whole play in person.

**WELL  
DONE!**



**WELL  
DONE!**

The students all enjoyed themselves and were able to apply a lot of what they saw into their own production giving them ideas and the understanding to put on a great first show.



## MATILDA – BEHIND THE SCENES

SO much effort and hard work  
went into this production. It  
was a HUGE success.  
Congratulations to everyone!

WOW!

WOW!







## SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE



This term students have been discussing how to help the environment at school. We have had lots of good ideas such as litter pickers, bird feed and houses, and more bins for the rubbish!

Staff are really proud of all the students for their contributions and participation at the school council meetings. They are very keen and enthusiastic, and their hard work has meant the school will be making some simple changes to be more eco-friendly in the new year, with less plastic water bottles and cups.



We have also started to talk about mental health and what it means. All children wrote lovely 'compliment cards' for their friends in their classes to help spread joy and happiness.



All our lower school council members have joined in and shared their ideas brilliantly. This included 2 new recruits from Foundation class, Ash!

***Well done everyone!***







*Enjoy the festive season!*



*We hope you all have a  
lovely break.*



*Best wishes.*



*Heathermount Staff*

