



Heathermount Newsletter Term 4

Welcome

With the clocks having moved on to British summertime we are all looking forward to the lighter evenings and hopefully, some well needed sunshine.

It has once again been a very busy and productive term, I hope you will enjoy reading about some of the activities, trips, and events that the students have been taking part in.

Fund raising

As a school, we try to support a wide range of charities where we can, and I am really proud of everyone's amazing contributions this term where we have been able to support three well deserving charities:

- On Friday 18 March we had lots of fun dressing up as our favourite 'Heroes and Villains', or dressed in red, for Comic Relief.
- On Friday 25 April, staff and students all dressed in blue and yellow in support of Ukraine, to raise money to support the huge numbers of refugees displaced as a result of the invasion.

It was evident by the amount donated, that the situation in Ukraine has really touched people and uncovered some very strong emotions. We split the money raised equally between the Disasters Emergency Committee and ShelterBox. Read on to find out the final amount of money raised for these events.

School values

Throughout the term we have been focusing on the core value of RESPECT and the winners of the values cup can be found later on in the newsletter. Congratulations to all our three winners!

After Easter, our focus at Heathermount turns to being POSITIVE which means having a good attitude and always trying to see the best in things.

Science, technology, engineering, and maths week (STEM)

As part of British Science week, Heathermount enjoyed a number of STEM focussed activities and events based around the theme of "growth" which we hope will help to stimulate the students' interest in science. There was a range of cross curricular learning throughout the school, with the highlight being an amazing hands-on visit from the Mad Science Show. Thank you to Rebecca and her team for organising the week.

School Development

As part of our quality assurance process, we often invite external professionals in to review the school's work and to provide rigour and challenge to our practice; this is a key process for us, which helps to challenge us and move the school forward.

In March, we invited Louise Greatrex (external consultant and Ofsted Inspector) into school to work with members of the senior team to review our approach to reading in school and assess the impact of our phonics programme. The two days were very useful indeed and showed that we are making good progress against our key objectives.

Also in March, Carolyn Eyres (Experienced Safeguarding Consultant and Trainer) spent the day looking at all our safeguarding procedures, policies and practices throughout the school and summed the audit up

by saying that we showed excellent practice, and the only actions identified were around a few amendments to some of the policies. Thank you to Julie for organising the audit and for leading on Safeguarding in the school.

On the same theme, but in a different part of the school, we had an unannounced visit from an environmental health inspector last week who carried out an inspection just before lunch. Congratulations to Mat and Thomas who achieved the highest possible score of 5!

Reward trips and School trips

It has been a busy term for reward trips and school trips. The new reward system we have in place is directly linked to gaining a trip based on the amount of positive behaviour slips the students receive. This term, students who achieved “gold” status in both primary and secondary phases, all enjoyed a trip to Overworld – a state of the art gaming centre in Camberley.

Other reward trips included going bowling or to soft play, a trip to the cinema, and a trip to Warner Brothers Studio for a few of the older students.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award group visited Birdworld and had a fantastic time while also completing an essential part of the skills section of their award.

In the last three days of term, 20 of our secondary students experienced a residential outdoor activities trip at the PGL centre at Marchant’s Hill. There will be a full report and photographs of the trip in the next edition of the newsletter.

Thank you to the staff involved for all their hard work in making all these trips happen.

World Book Day

On 3 March we celebrated World Book Day and what a day it was! The costumes were amazing, and there was such a lovely atmosphere throughout the school as we celebrated everything about books.

Thank you!

Finally, I would like to thank you all for supporting the school through yet another difficult term, with all the disruption that COVID has caused, and the level of flexibility and adaptability that parents have shown. I would also like to thank the staff who have all pulled together and supported each other, particularly when we have been rather short staffed, covering lessons, lunch duties and taxi rotas. We have an amazing team of people here at Heathermount who constantly amaze me with their enthusiasm and positive attitude, no matter what challenges come along.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break and get time to spend with loved ones. I look forward to seeing the children return on Tuesday 19 April.



Headteacher

Dates for the diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 19 th April	Start of Term 5
25 th - 29 th April	Autism Awareness Week
Monday 2 nd May	Bank holiday
9 th - 15 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
Friday 27 th May	End of Term 5
30 th May - 3 rd June	HALF TERM
Monday 6 th June	Start of Term 6

Star of the Week - Foundation



Star of the Week - Primary

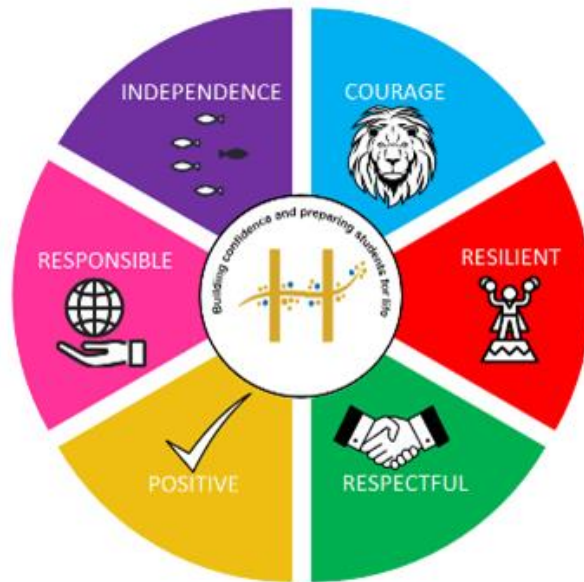


Star of the Week - Secondary



Congratulations to all of our Star of the Week winners this term!

Core Values Cup



This term the focus was RESPECT



1 - FOUNDATION

PARU: *Demonstrates respect towards other students, staff and the environment. She models polite manners and tries hard to introduce herself and start conversations with new people to learn more about them.*

Congratulations!



2 - PRIMARY

CIAN: *Not only respects students and staff, but also respects his environment. He is always the first to start cleaning up the classroom without being asked. He also likes to try and fix things too.*

Congratulations!

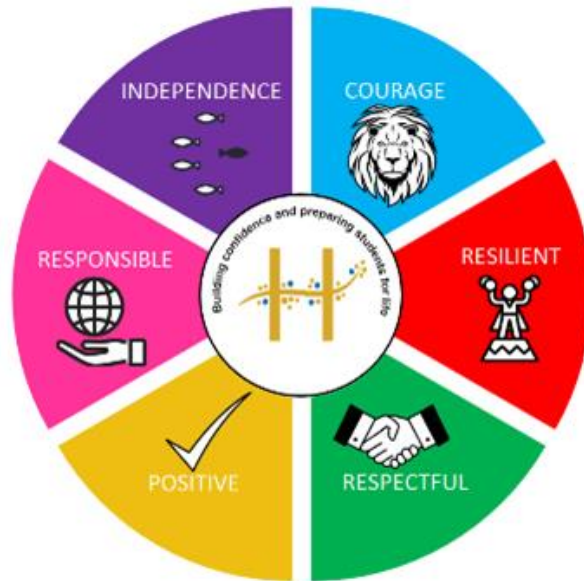


3 - SECONDARY

CHARLIE: *Has shown a respectful attitude towards staff and his peers, a lovely trait he has worked hard to develop. He is really maturing and growing up to be a lovely young man.*



Next term the focus is POSITIVE



Foundation

Ash

In Ash class this term we have been learning about how to keep our bodies healthy. We have explored what makes food healthy or not, how much sugar is in drinks and how often we should eat different foods.

We have practised preparing healthy snacks using peelers, graters, and other kitchen equipment. We also learned how to keep our teeth healthy and had fun practising how we brush our teeth.









Maple

Maple class have been completing laps of the cycle track towards their Bee Challenge fitness medal. In class, we have been making lots of bee crafts from various objects. We even made a Bee Café, and we will put this in our garden to help look after the bees.

In English, some of the class have been embedded their letter sound knowledge. They have had great fun blowing paint to make sun rays on the letter 's', apple printing on the letter 'a' and making a 'm' monster!

Maple class' topic this term has been Funny Faces. They made some brilliant face collages using facial features and used craft materials to make their own funny face. The class also used the iPad to draw over their own face and give themselves crazy hair, eyes, and mouths!







Bee Fitness Challenge



Foundation and Earth class celebrated getting their second pin badge for completing laps around the cycle track as part of the Bee Fitness challenge.

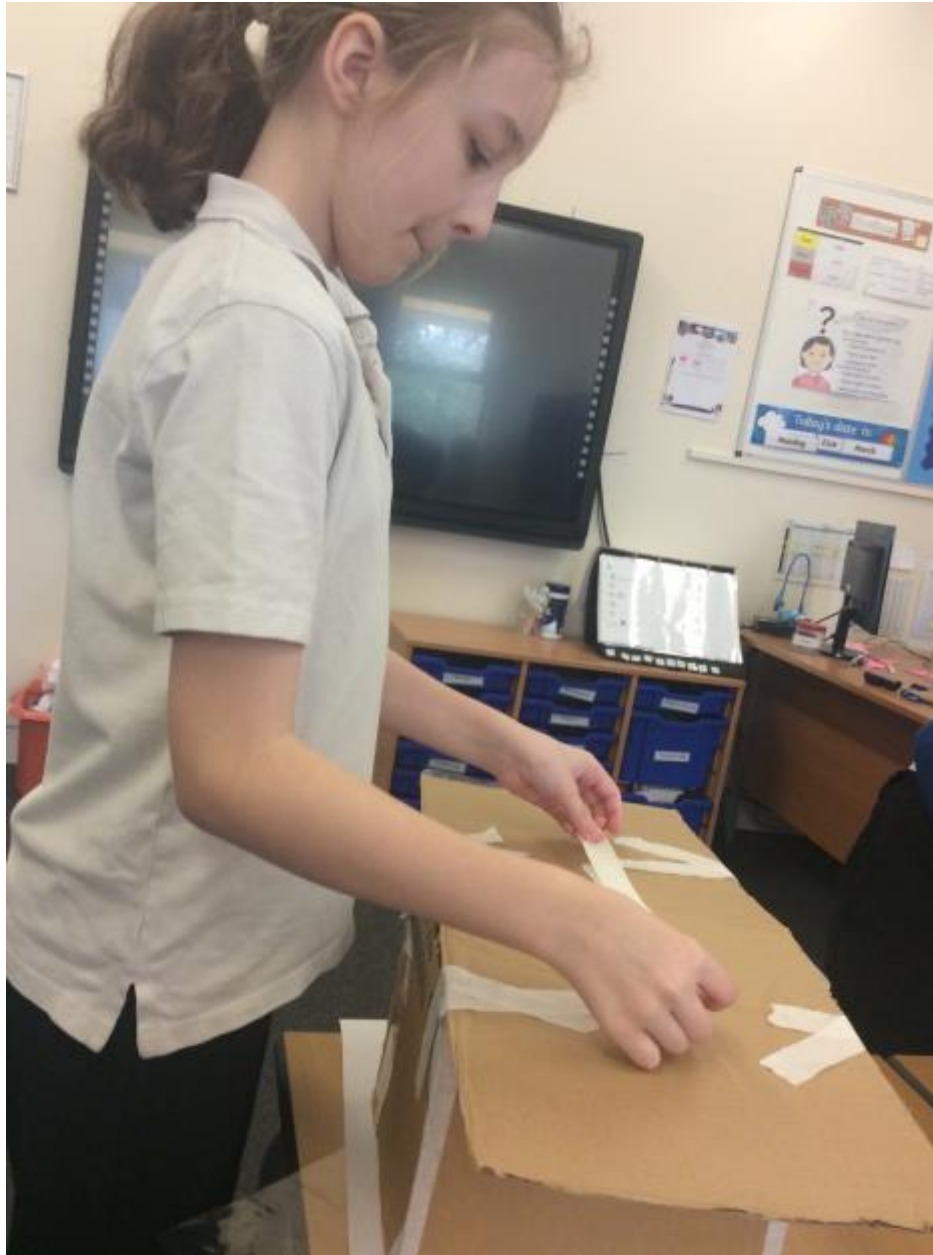


Primary

Pine

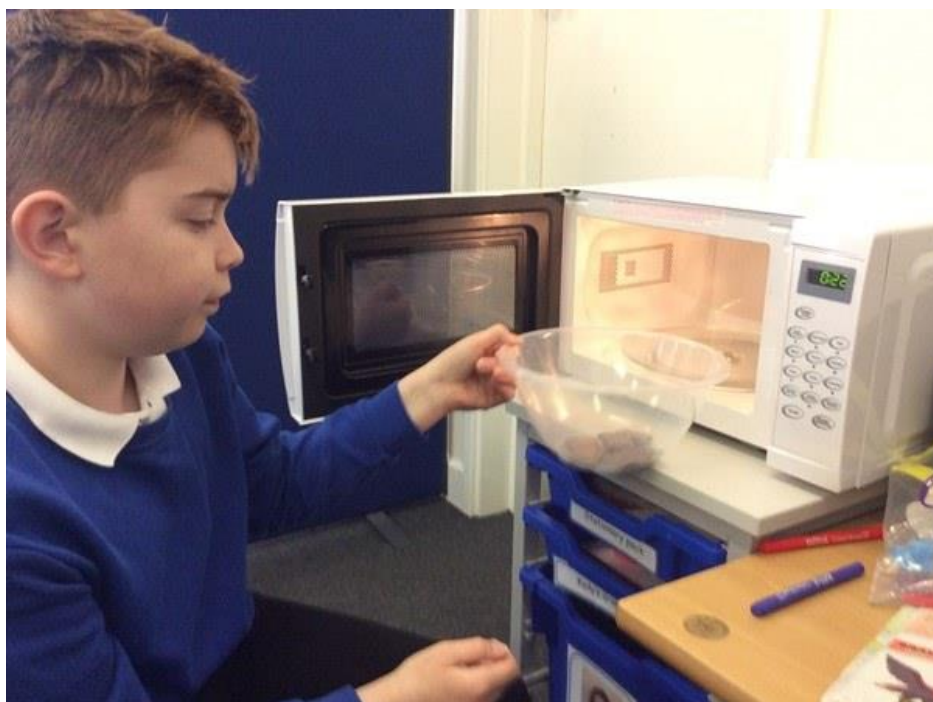






This term we have been looking at Ancient Greece. As part of DT lessons, we tested different building methods and then used our knowledge to build Greek temples.





We also found time to make some yummy Easter treats!



Willow

A reading area in Willow class has been created to promote reading and literacy. The students are really enjoying the books available and are much more interested in reading.





The students also got to go bowling for their reward trip!





Oak



Here are some students in Oak class learning about air resistance in their science lesson.



World Book Day

Students and staff had a great time dressing up for World Book Day!



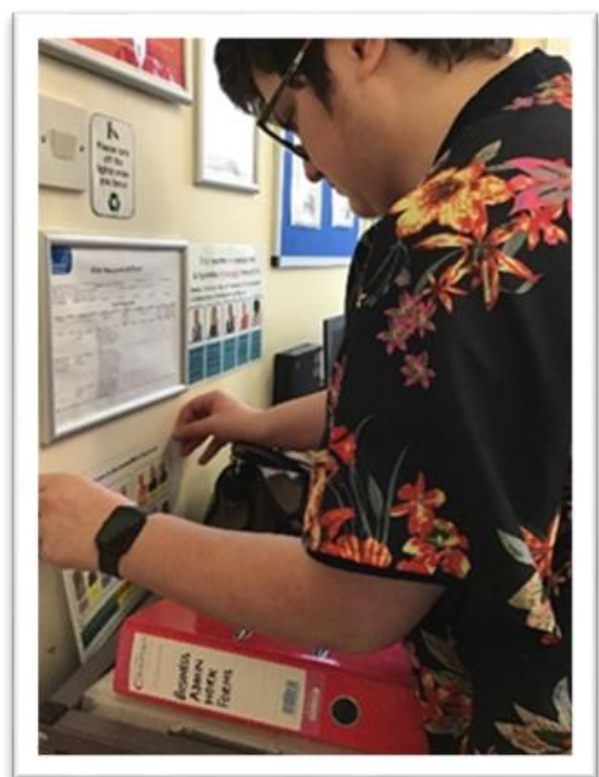


Secondary

Business Admin

The business admin students updated the first aid posters. Then Charlie and Matthew distributed them across the school.





Saturn completed teaching resources for the drama department.



Business Admin's Buzzy Bees!

Toby in business admin packaged the school's toners and ink cartridges to be recycled by the Ricoh company.

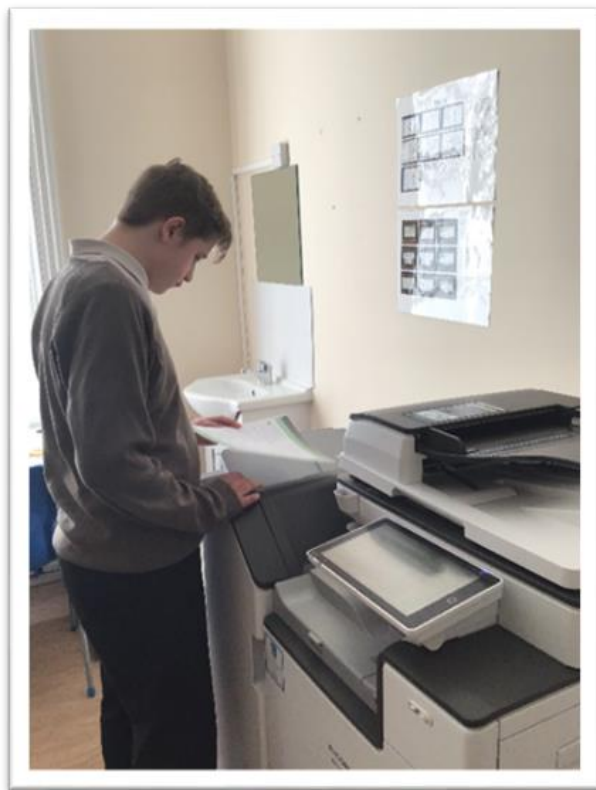
Tobias is conducting the school lunch menu project ascertaining and analysing data.

Sam is printing and photocopying during business admin.









Thank you to Todd for putting business admin's newsletter contribution together.



Catering

Mars made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday during their catering lessons. They made some to eat and then practised flipping the pancakes!

They followed the recipe and all health and safety procedures independently. They enjoyed reaping the rewards of making them!



Science

Last week we celebrated STEM week, which involved lots of fun activities in science.

The theme was 'growth', and the children were able to take samples of bacteria to grow a bacteria culture.

They have been busy observing caterpillars growing into butterflies and we even had a mad science show and a spaghetti towers competition.

Lots of our students enjoyed getting involved in the celebrations!









Horticulture and Forest School

Secondary students have been busy in horticulture this term.

They have:-

- Tested soil PH
- Cooked on the fire pit
- Showed that they can lift and handle items safely
- Worked as part of a team





This term in forest school students have had the chance to take part in a range of activities. They have:-

- Been animal hunting
- Made bug hotels
- Made bird feeders
- Left trails



ICT

Here are Mercury students working hard towards achieving various qualifications in ICT, including ICT entry level skills and Functional Skills qualification in ICT at Level 1 and 2.





DUKE OF EDINBURGH



This term, Duke of Edinburgh students finished their skills section with a trip to Birdworld.

Each student used the map to navigate to the bird enclosure that they had selected. (The Lovebird enclosure had been removed so the students improvised!)

Birdworld review

I Saw the Penguin Island
because there were swimming.
I walked to Jenny Wren farm
but there were no reindeers
I also saw the
Flamingo cove and owl Parliament
I sat in the hut with Rhys
and I talked to Charlotte about
eating a light refreshment
I also walked to Crescent Avenues
and I had coke at The Palm cafe.



I saw the pelicans drinking the
water.
I saw the pink flamingos in their
cove.
We walked past the Penguin
Island that smelt fishy.
One of the owls was asleep and
the other owls had big eyes.
I was watching the hornbills eating
the chicks.
My favourite part of the day
was seeing the black swan
because she was beautiful.

FUND RAISING

On our "blue and yellow" mufti day we raised £400!

£200 was donated to ShelterBox.

£200 was donated to Disasters Emergency Committee.

Thank you for all your donations.



We also raised £221.81 for Comic Relief!

Thank you for all your donations.







Have a lovely break!

Best wishes,

Heathermount Staff

