



## ***Heathermount Newsletter Term 5***

A warm welcome to the penultimate newsletter of this academic year!

As I write this, we are very much looking forward to marking the Queen's Jubilee in school on Friday 27 May and celebrating such a commitment to public service over the last 70 years – what a remarkable and historic achievement!

Earlier this term, we participated in World Mental Health week; the therapy team incorporated discussions with the children around mental health and how each one of us can ensure we look after ourselves as well as others. Older students were involved in a form group presentation with their tutor and were given opportunities to reflect and discuss this very important issue which is even more significant since the pandemic. Staff didn't miss out either! They embraced a change to the usual staff training programme and enjoyed tea and cake in the grounds and a game of rounders on a lovely sunny evening after school.

It was great that the PGL trip was able to go ahead just before the Easter holidays. This is an excellent opportunity for secondary students and our first residential in two years! Everyone had a fantastic time and I hope you enjoy looking at all the photos later in the newsletter.

Also, this week the secondary students took part in our own 'Heathermount's Got Talent' organised by one of the students for his silver arts award which was a wonderful success. The camaraderie and support the students showed one another exemplified the values we hold here at Heathermount.

Although COVID hasn't quite gone away, we have seen a marked shift towards "getting back to normal" with the reintroduction of assemblies, visitors on site and whole staff face-to-face training. This has been very welcome indeed, however, staff and students still have the option to wear a face covering if they are feeling anxious. We continue to maintain the control measures around ventilation, air purifiers and hand spraying within school.

### **SEND Green Paper**

The Government released its SEND Green paper entitled "Right support, Right place, Right time" in March and the school has been involved in consultation sessions to feed in our thoughts and comments. It is an important starting point for some much-needed change to the current SEND system that is, unfortunately, simply not working for the vast majority of children and families.

You will find the link for parents to have their say on the Green paper later on in the newsletter, please take some time to have a look and feedback your comments so that the Government hear the views of children, young people, and families.

### **Core values**

Our core value this term has been positivity and the winners are revealed further on in the newsletter. Congratulations to all three winners. Next term we will be having a whole school focus on resilience.

### **Site**

There has been a lot of work going on throughout the year on improving the school site so that the buildings and grounds can further support the curriculum and learning opportunities for the students. After half term, we will be able to open an independent study room in the basement for use by the older students for specific projects and enterprise activities.

### **Examinations**

Zoe has taken on the role of exams officer within school and Jean will be conducting access arrangements for our students. The exams officer role is a key role in the school, and I would like to thank Zoe for her excellent organisation skills this year and to Jean for ensuring access arrangements and assessments have been put in place for the students.

Our older students are currently completing functional skills exams and GCSEs have begun. I have been so impressed with how the students have coped and how seriously they have taken their exams. It can be a very anxious time for students and parents, but I'm sure all their hard work will pay off and they will be duly rewarded on results day.

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme**

The first ever D of E expedition will take place in June, and this is a very exciting time for both students and staff. The benefits of the scheme are well known and thank you to Harriet, Richard, and Dani for

organising and delivering the scheme to our students. Some of our bronze level students may get the chance to go on to their silver and gold awards at their next setting.

### **Visitors to school**

We have welcomed a range of visitors into school this term as COVID restrictions have been eased. Two learning mentors from Thames Valley School spent a day observing and talking to our staff on the best ways to support children with autism. The feedback we have received is that they were “blown away” by the school and have lots of ideas to take back to their school to help support their own students.

There have been two twilight sessions this term for staff where we have had the Headteacher and Educational Psychologist from Beech Lodge School come in to talk about how they support their students who have significant trauma and attachment needs. The sessions were very informative and gave us all lots to think about and reflect on when it comes to supporting our own students who have experienced trauma and attachment earlier on in their life.

Nikki Kennedy (NAS Autism Accreditation Assessor) has, this week, made a monitoring visit to see how we are continuing to embed high quality autism practice within school and to look at the impact the sensory circuit programme has had since it was introduced over a year ago.

The Disabilities Trust has visited recently; Keeley (Director of Brain Injury) and Neil (QA team) came in to have a look around the school to see what we do and how they can further support the school.

There have also been the usual regular visits from Anne-Catherine (Chair of Governors), who always takes such a keen interest in the school and provides us support as well as a significant level of challenge.

Finally, thank you for completing the recent parent questionnaire; your time and feedback is greatly appreciated and we will be acting on the results next term.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and seeing the fantastic learning opportunities that your children have been engaging with during the last few weeks. The details of the classes for next year will be coming after half term.

Have a lovely half term break and enjoy the 4-day bank holiday celebrations. I look forward to welcoming the children back for our final term of the year on Monday 6 June.



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*Headteacher*

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### *Dates for the diary*



| Date                              | Event                                     |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Monday<br>6 <sup>th</sup> June    | Start of Term 6                           |
| Tuesday<br>12 <sup>th</sup> July  | Remote Parents'<br>Evening<br>(4pm – 7pm) |
| Friday<br>15 <sup>th</sup> July   | Heathermount Olympics                     |
| Thursday<br>21 <sup>st</sup> July | End of Term 6                             |

*Star of the Week - Foundation*



**\*Milo\***



**\*Noah\***



**\*Georgie\***



**\*Pieter-Brian\***



**\*Nathaniel\***



## Star of the Week - Primary



**\*Junior\***



**\* Jacob \***



**\*Toby\***



**\*Swaroop\***



**\*Arthur\***



## Star of the Week - Secondary



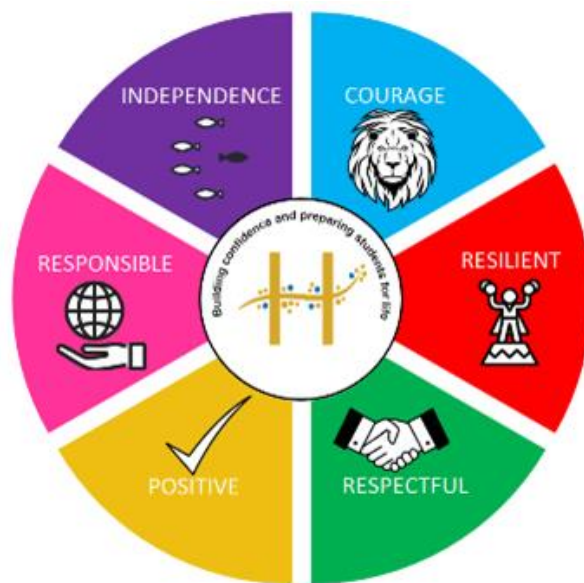
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Congratulations to all of our 'Star of the Week' winners this term!

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### *Core Values Cup*



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*This term the focus was POSITIVE*

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1 - FOUNDATION

**Sammy**

***For showing great positivity in his learning and with his friendships.***



## 2 - PRIMARY

**Sam**

***For having a positive attitude to learning throughout each day.***



## 3 - SECONDARY

**Saarim**

***For always showing a positive attitude, even when he finds work challenging.***



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*Next term the focus is RESILIENT*

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## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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*The Blue Peter badge is the most iconic badge in the UK! We can't be entirely sure how many have been awarded since launching in 1963, but we reckon the number is in the millions.*

*As we all know, Isla does some amazing drawings and when she asked if she could showcase them, we looked at sending them off to Blue Peter.*

*It's safe to say they were just as impressed as we are!!*

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Dear Isla

Thank you for your letter. We were truly amazed looking through your pictures, they are so colourful and detailed. We can see that you've put a lot of work into them and like them so much that we're awarding you a Blue Peter Badge which we hope you'll enjoy wearing!





## **Foundation**

**Ash**

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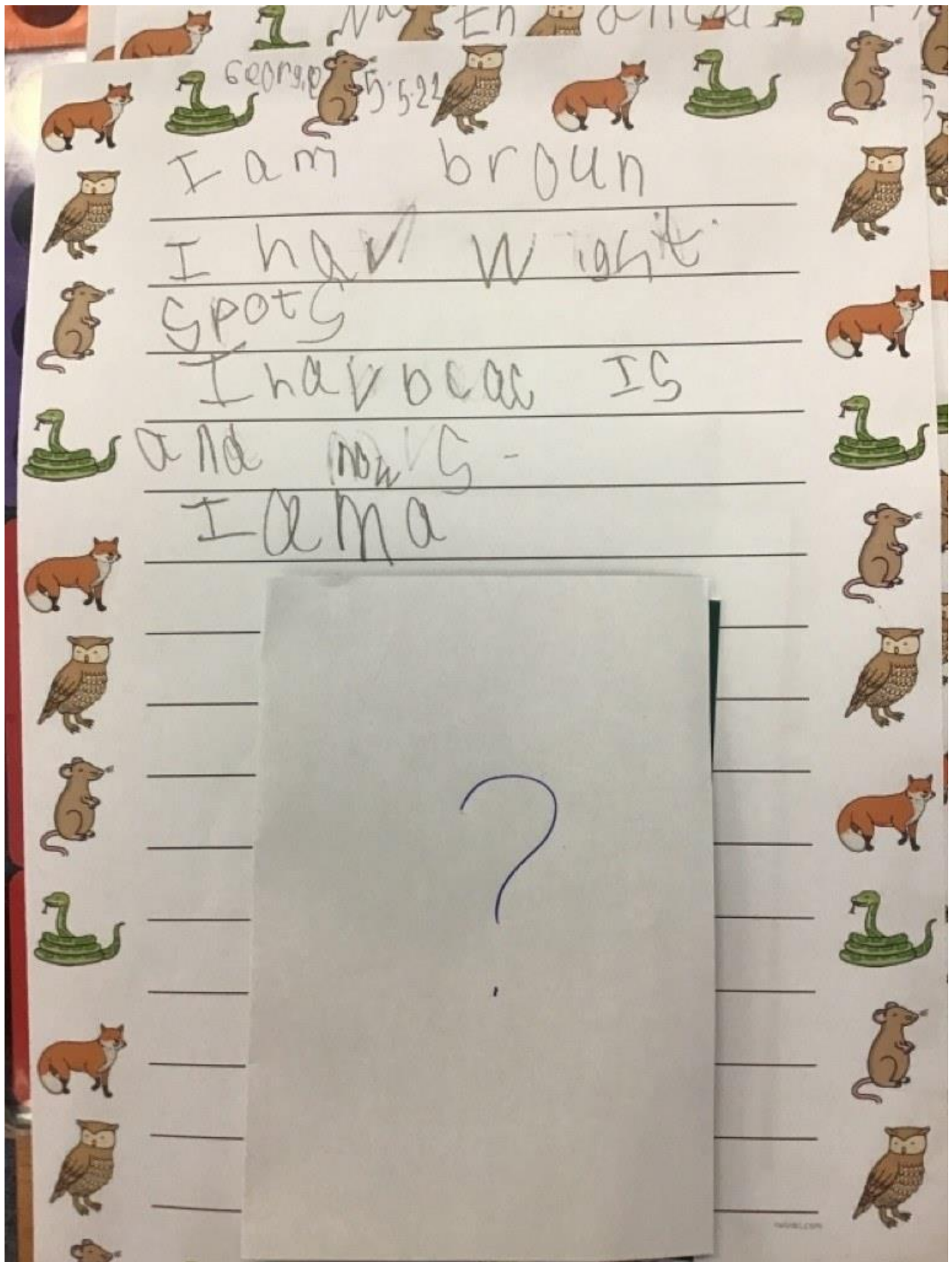
*Ash class have enjoyed learning about our enchanted woodlands. We have learned about the different trees, plants, and woodlands. In Art we mixed colours to create paintings of woodland animals. We created our own woodland animal riddles and tried hard to think of tricky clues!*

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George 5-22

I am brown

I have white spots

I have a bear is  
and now is -  
I am a

?

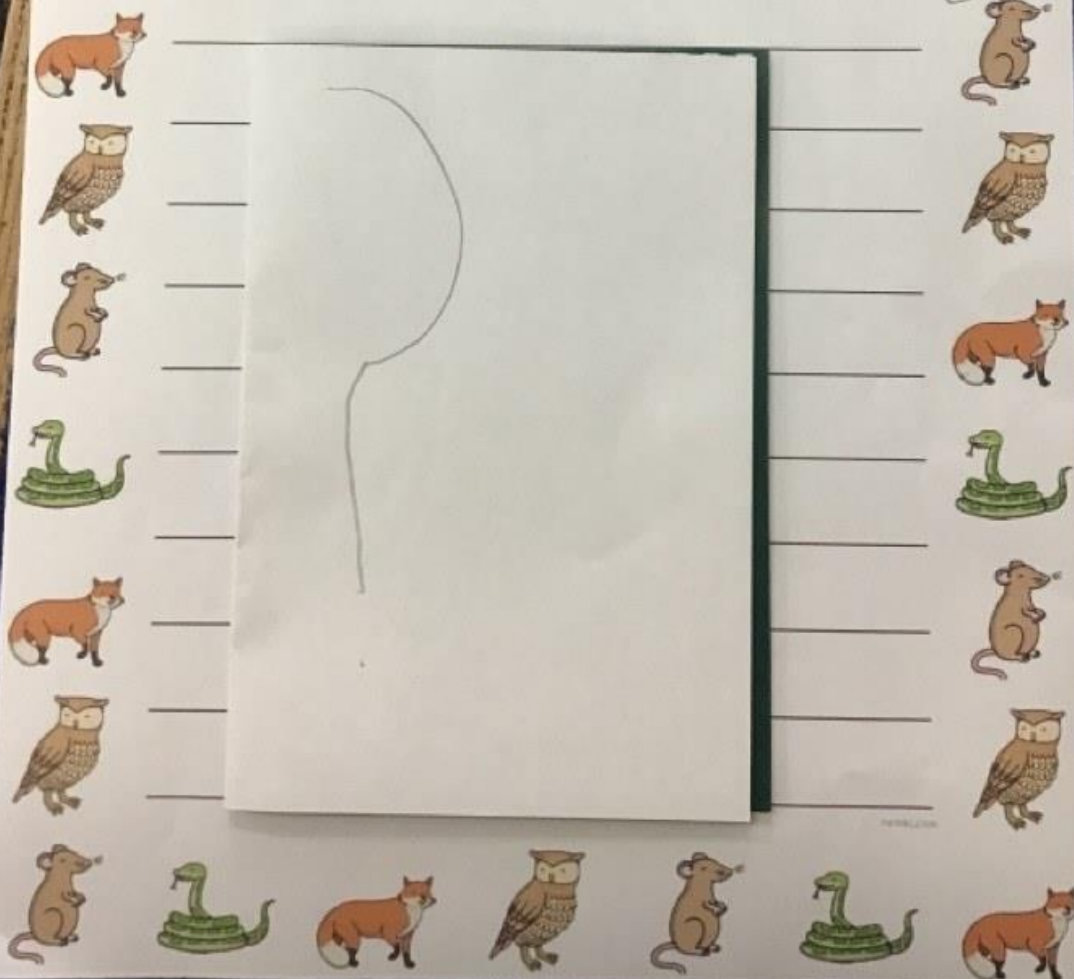


J a c o b

I a m b r o w n

I h a v e b l a c k  
e y e s.

I a m n o c t u r n





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*Ash class also had a fantastic time when they visited The Look Out recently on a school trip. The children were brilliant and had a great time!*

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## Maple

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*This term, Maple have been learning about pirates! They have been thoroughly engaged and really enjoyed this topic.*

*We have used a teabag to make a pirate map and then drew our own treasure map, with a X to mark the spot.*

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*We also made our own pirate ships. The class had to choose the material for their vessel and discussed if it would make a good waterproof ship. The class then designed their own pirate flags and attached it to the ship. We then tested our experiments to see whether they would float or sink.*

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*The highlight was when we made pirate swords out of balloons. We worked together to blow the balloons up and then followed the instructions. The class showed great imagination and were acting out the pirate characters.*

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## **Primary**

### **Willow**

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*Lessons Willow style...*

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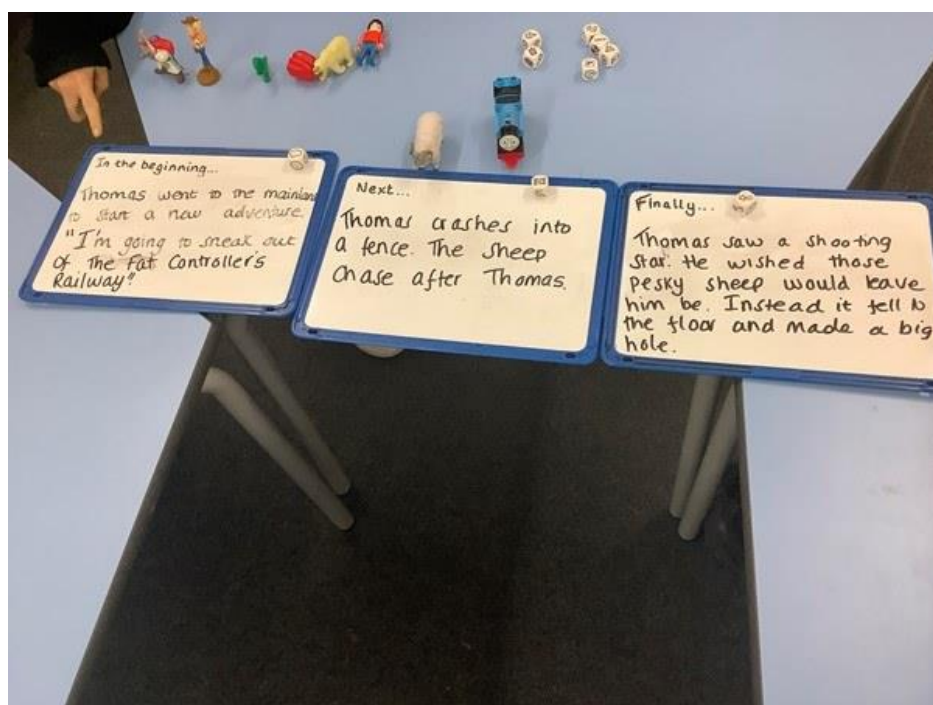


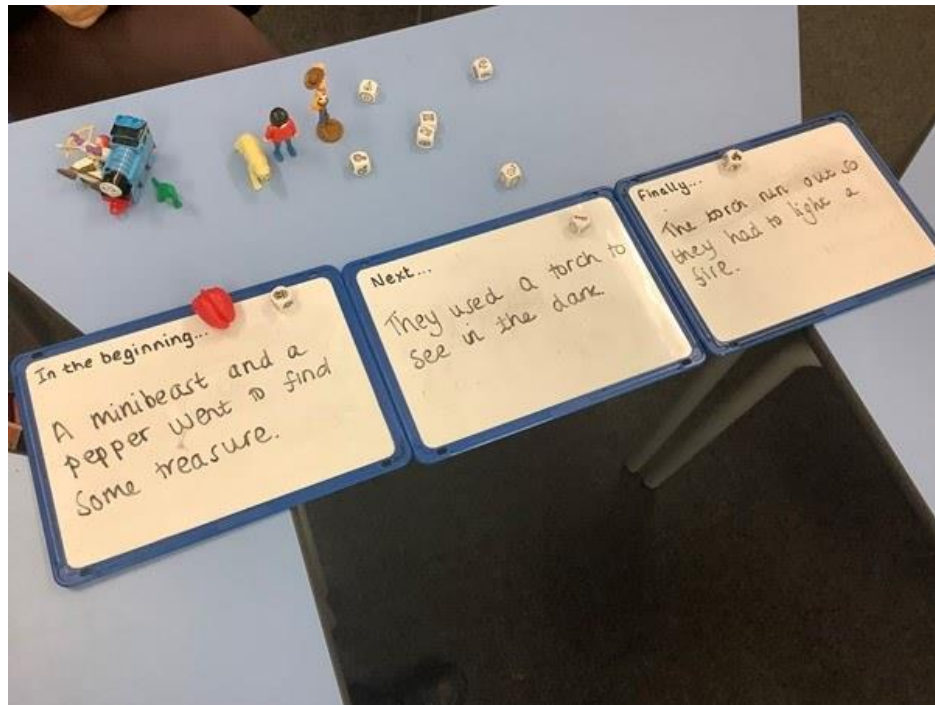



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*The students are being encouraged to create stories using story dice and props; also promoting turn-taking and listening skills.*

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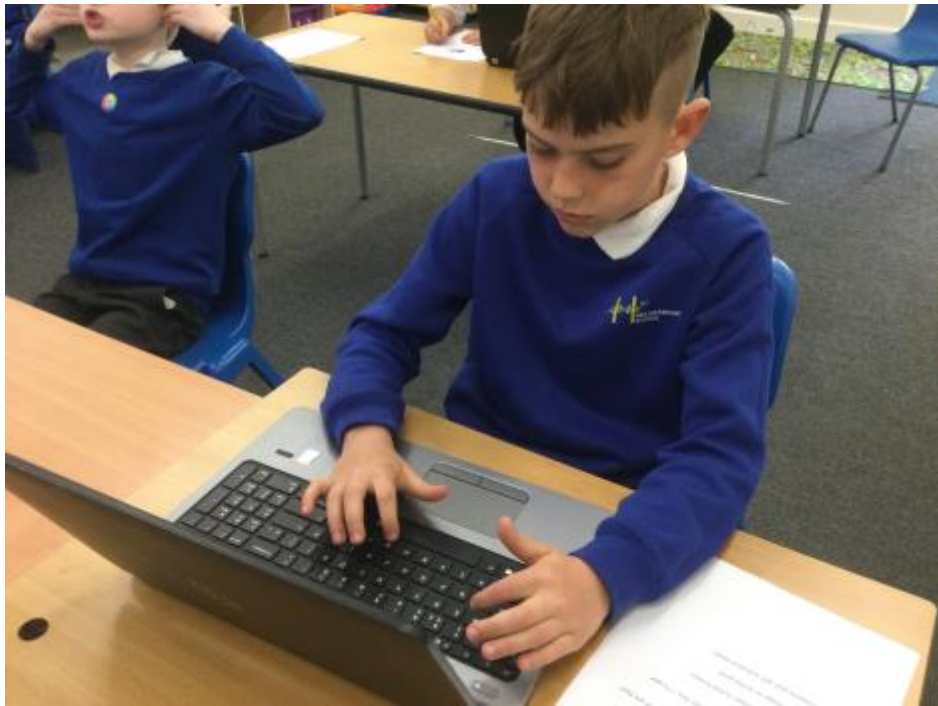


## Oak

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*Here are Oak Class using the laptops to research information for their Geography topic, learning about France and using a large map of the world to locate France.*

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## Maths

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*Here are a primary maths group working out the mean of sets of numbers.*

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## *Secondary*

### Earth

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*Earth enjoyed a day trip to Marwell Zoo where they were looking at animals' habitats and the different types of materials that could be found in their enclosure. They had booklets to answer questions on the different animals, and to have a go at drawing them too.*

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*Earth also spent this week planning and baking cupcakes, chocolate brownies, flapjacks and cookies. This counts towards their ASDAN qualification. The students did really well at practising their key skills, which staff have been working on with them for the last few years. They also made plate mats and crowns.*

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AMAZING!

## Business Admin

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The busy bees have been at it again! Business admin students continue to make a real difference to the running of everyday school life at Heathermount, while developing their skills and gaining qualifications.

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Tobias, a level 3 BA student, organised and conducted a school medication review meeting as part of his Level 3 Diploma qualification. With the help of the admin staff, Tobias prepared all the documents and took minutes at the meeting.





Amber, a level 2 business admin student, photocopying a few pages from a book in colour.



Eva, a business admin level 2 student, conducting work experience in receiving and making telephone calls with the guidance of admin staff.





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

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## Catering

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*Pluto are completing their **Skills for Working Life** folders. They are working on **Unit 366 Basic Food Preparation**. As part of this unit, students are introduced to preparing food for cold presentation.*

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## Science

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*In Science the children have been busy learning about Chemistry and Physics this term.*

**Mars** have been learning about how metals react with different materials, and have experimented reacting metals with acid, as well as learning about reactivity.

**Mercury and Neptune** have been busy learning about insulation and trialling different insulating materials.

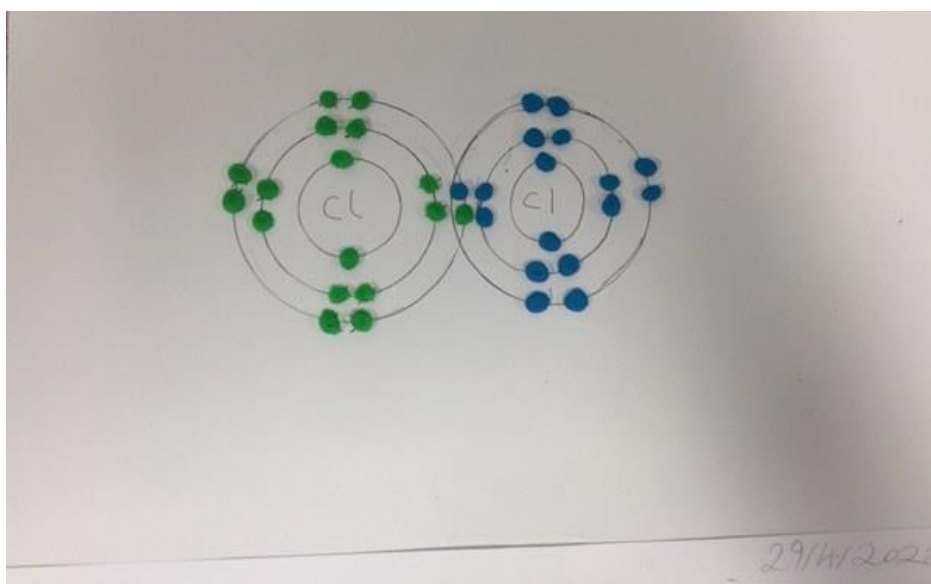
**Pluto** have been learning about planet Earth.

**Saturn** have been learning about different types of bonds and have enjoyed using different materials to help visualise what these bonds look like.

*Well done to **Jupiter** and **Venus** who have been busy revising for their exams.*

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We are very excited to welcome the ducklings at the beginning of next term and watch them hatch and grow for 2 weeks!

## PGL Trip

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*Twenty students attended PGL for three days and two nights, the first trip for two years! All of the students challenged themselves and actively participated in archery, Jacob's ladder, rock climbing, rifle shooting, raft building, campfire, zip line and sensory walk.*

*A massive well done to the students who encouraged and supported each other brilliantly.*

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wow!



Excellent!

## History Club

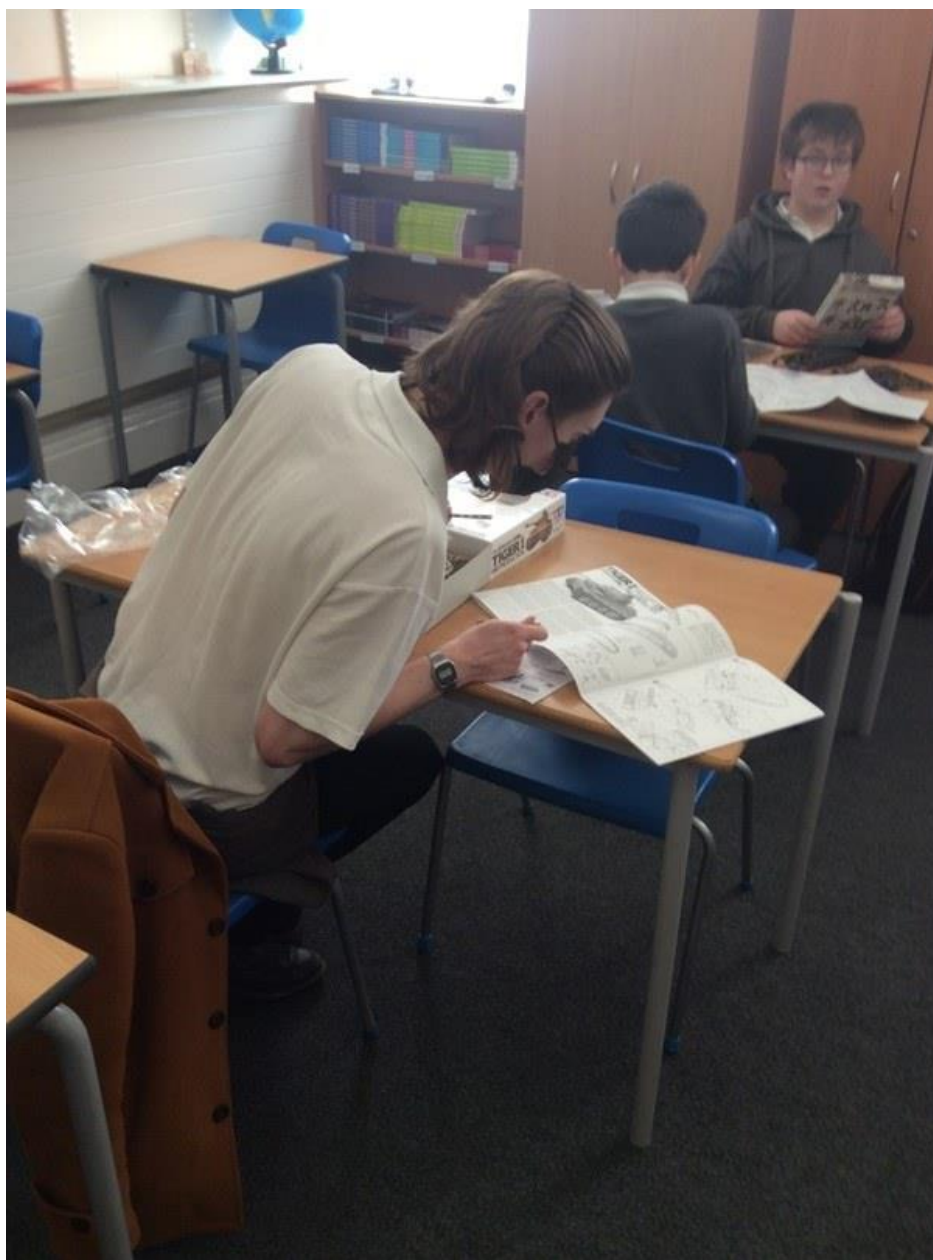
**LEISURE  
TIME**

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*History club is on Thursdays. It is one of the lunchtime activities that run during leisure time for secondary students. Here they are enjoying building models.*

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## *QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS*





## PLATINUM JUBILEE



On the last day of term, Heathermount celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Staff and students dressed up in red, white and blue. The British classics, fish and chips, and strawberries and cream were on the menu and students took part in activities throughout the day to mark the occasion.









PLATINUM JUBILEE



*Can you help?*

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**Ambitious about Autism** is the national charity for autistic children and young people. Please see a note from them below.

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***We're working on the SEND review and Schools White Paper and Bill to assess the impact on autistic children and young people and their families. We want to hear directly from autistic young people and parents, carers or relatives of autistic children and young people about how the SEND system is currently working, and what is needed to improve it.***

***We have created a [short survey](#) to support this and will share our findings with the Government's SEND Review team. We're delighted to have received over 1000 responses so far, but we would like to do a bit more promotion and reach as many parents, carers and young people as possible before we close the survey.***



*Have a lovely half term break!*



*Best wishes,*

*Heathermount Staff*

