



## HEATHERMOUNT SCHOOL - NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2023

#### Headteacher's welcome

Welcome to our newsletter covering October to December 2023. Every year, this term is always very busy and somewhat long, with a steady build up to Christmas and some wonderful opportunities for students to perform in front of their parents! I am so impressed with the courage that many of our students show by stepping onto a stage and showing their confidence and skills in equal measure.

As you look through the newsletter, you will get a sense of what our amazing students have been getting up to both inside and outside of the classroom. Enjoy!

#### Learning in the classroom

From soil sampling to soup making and magazine designing, these are just a few activities that our students have been working on this term.

Creating personalised, fun, challenging and engaging learning opportunities for the students are what we strive to do, and our teachers do a fantastic job, supported so well by our wonderful teaching assistants.

#### Trips and Visits

One of the highlights this term has been the increase in the number of trips and visits that the children have benefitted from. I was fortunate enough to attend the trip to Wembley stadium to watch the Lionesses beat the Netherlands in front of 71,000 people. Just one of a number of trips that has helped develop a wide range of key communication and coping skills and part of our mission to prepare students for life and life after Heathermount.



#### Christmas performances

Congratulations to all of the students who performed in the Secondary Showcase and the Primary Christmas play, including Foundation. Two very exciting performances that were enjoyed by all the parents who came to support. Have a look at the pictures of the lower school performance [here](#).

#### School values cup and WOW moments

Congratulations to Pieter Brian, Isaac M and Natan for winning the Core values cup, these students have exemplified the core value of being "independent" this term! Congratulations also go to all the "Stars of the Week" and winners of "WOW" moments throughout the last seven weeks.

#### Children in Need

It was lovely to see the staff and children in their colourful patterns for Children in Need and we are happy to announce that we made £105.50.

## Christmas celebrations



The children enjoyed Christmas jumper day and enjoyed a fantastic Christmas dinner cooked inhouse by our wonderful team in the kitchen.

## Virtual Parents coffee evening

We had a great turn out for the online parent coffee evening which, this term, was held virtually in the evening. I was joined by Craig and Jax and between us we gave an update of the school and any future plans, and staffing. We discussed school trips and activities within school and opportunities and enrichment. We look forward to the next face to face session in school on the 27 February 09:15 - 10:00.

## Staffing

We're sorry to say goodbye to two members of staff in December - Max, our PSHE Teacher who is leaving education and is going to work for border control at Heathrow. And Fizz who is leaving to organise her daughter's wedding and may well be returning later in 2024.

However, we do have good news!

We welcomed Claire Little to the Admin team in November, who has joined us in Reception and is settling in well. It is wonderful to announce that we have several new staff joining us in January:

Ros Gilbert will now become our PSHE Teacher.

We will be welcoming Laura Smyth, our new English teacher.

Kelly-Ann Chorley will be joining the Admin team as our Assistant School Business Manager

Amanda Bown, an experienced Teaching Assistant will be joining us

Thank you to all parents for your continuing support and commitment to working closely with us in order to do our very best for the children. I would also like to thank all of the staff who always come to work with a desire to make a real difference and provide the very best specialist education that we can.

I hope that the next few weeks go well, as not everyone finds Christmas easy, and I hope that students use their calm plans and self-regulation strategies as and when they need to.

I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming all the children back on Wednesday 3 January 2024!

Do read more of what's been happening in our [Term 2 Round up!](#)

## Wow Moments

### Foundation

All of Foundation  
Brody B

Noah  
Brody B, Billy-Joe

### Primary

Isaac  
Brody A, Toby  
Georgie  
Jacob Y, Isaac M  
Jacob P, Isaac M, Jamie

### Secondary

Erik J, Bradley H, Isla, Bradley, Billy, Alex, Traivys, Leo M, Charlie D, Charlie E, Alessandro, Oliver W, Saarim, Leo E, Oliver B, Jay P



Bailey Thornhill  
Cohen Parsley  
Ben Chandler  
Isla Reed  
Paul A  
Amaan

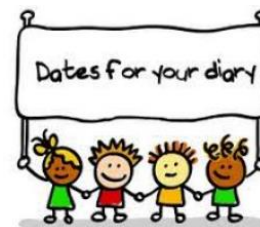
### School Lunches

The new menus are now on our [website](#) - please remember to pay for your child's lunches via the Arbor parent portal or Arbor App. Any top up amount can be added to your child's account.

Here is a YouTube to give you an [overview of the parent app.](#)

### Permissions

We do try our hardest to include as many children as possible in the newsletter or on our website. If your child doesn't appear, please do check your child's permissions on the Arbor app as if they don't appear, it may be because we haven't received your permission



Back to school: Wednesday 3 January  
KS3 Warwick castle trip: Friday 2 February  
End of Term: Friday 9 February  
Start of Term 4: Monday 19 February  
Coffee Morning: Tuesday 27 February  
Leaver's Reunion: Wednesday 28 February  
World Book Day: Thursday 7 March  
Secondary Project Day: Friday 8 March