



Heathermount School – Newsletter

December 2025

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2025!

After a busy and rewarding term, as we head into the festive season, I'm delighted to share some of the remarkable learning experiences our young people have been involved in - including wonderful festive performances, visits from reindeer, and a very merry Santa's grotto! Do have a look at our [Highlights of Term 2 news article](#) and [photo Gallery](#) on the website.

Christmas Performances

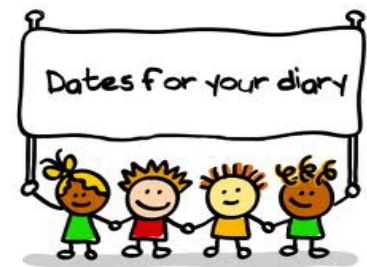
We have been privileged to watch three wonderful Christmas performances to get us into the festive spirit. They were truly amazing – full of talent and energy, with plenty of proud parents in the audience (and maybe one or two happy tears!).



A huge thank you to all the staff who made these performances possible; it really is a team effort. Special thanks go to Jess for directing and pulling everything together, to Heather for the music, JT for the tech support, the class teachers, Megan for her artistic talent in creating the scenery, Craig and the site team for their organisation and muscles and the kitchen team and catering staff for the refreshments.

Christmas Lunch

A special thank you also goes to our kitchen and catering team for their hard work in creating a lovely festive lunch last week. Adorned in Christmas jumpers, students enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal in a beautifully decorated room filled with music,



Monday 5 January

Start of Term 3 for students

Wednesday 4 February

Parent coffee evening - virtual
(6pm to 6:45pm)

Friday 13 February

Wear Yellow for children's mental health)
Last day of Term for students

Monday - Friday 16-20 May

February Half-Term

Monday 23 February

First day of Term 4 for students



Congratulations to all our stars of the week this term:

- o Ben C
- o Joshua
- o Alex S
- o Kady
- o Oliver H
- o Jacob P

laughter, and plenty of festive cheer. They did a repeat performance for staff on the inset day!

Festive Visits

We were delighted to welcome a very special visitor this term - Father Christmas set up home for the day in our learning hut by the fishing lake. All of our Primary and Foundation students had the chance to visit him and enjoy toasting marshmallows by the fire pit, making it a truly magical experience.



We also had a wonderful visit from real reindeer, which was a highlight for our younger students. Foundation and Primary classes were able to meet them up close, adding even more excitement and sparkle to the festive season.

Charity

Thank you all for your generous donations! We raised over £300 for **Children in Need**. Combined with the money raised for **Wear It Pink** Day earlier in the year, that brings our total to over £720 for charity so far this year – an incredible achievement. Alongside the minibuses full of donations for our Christmas Charity - **The Cowshed**, we have been blown away by your thoughtfulness and community spirit.

Duke of Edinburgh

Our Duke of Edinburgh students have been braving the weather for their expedition practice this term. They've done brilliantly despite the not-so-pleasant conditions.

Parents' Coffee Morning

At the end of November, Craig, Lily and I met with parents to discuss what topics might be most helpful to cover in future meetings. At our virtual meeting at 6pm on 4 February, we will have a mini focus on homework, alongside our usual termly catch-up.

Staffing

Following Craig's appointment as Headteacher starting from Easter 2026, we have been busy interviewing for a Deputy Headteacher. We are pleased to announce that, subject to due diligence checks, we have successfully appointed someone who will be joining us at the start of the summer term 2026. I will share more details as soon as possible.

Wow Moments

Well done to all our students who had wow moments:

Foundation:

- o Ishaan
- o Marco
- o Olivia
- o Acer
- o Theo B
- o Montana
- o Noah KT
- o Jasper
- o Albie
- o Harrison
- o Noah Di

Primary:

- o Charlie-Ray
- o Buddie
- o Lauren
- o Bethany
- o George C
- o Nathaniel
- o Theo S
- o Christopher M
- o Christopher S
- o Robin
- o Alice
- o George V
- o Luke
- o Brody B
- o Dennis
- o Arthur
- o Jake
- o Mylo
- o Noah W
- o Billy-Joe
- o Zachary
- o Jacob

Secondary:

- o Billy
- o Bradley
- o Stanley W
- o Ben C
- o Lamine
- o Paru
- o Georgie
- o Isaac A
- o Cohen
- o Amaan

We are also excited to welcome Rebecca back as our Science teacher in January, and Laura, who has now finished her maternity leave, will return to her post as English teacher. We would like to thank Esther for stepping in while Laura was away and doing a fantastic job.

As we say goodbye and thank you to our TA Marta, we are delighted to welcome Niamh who will be joining the TA team. With Niamh joining the school, we are now fully staffed, which is a fantastic position to be in!

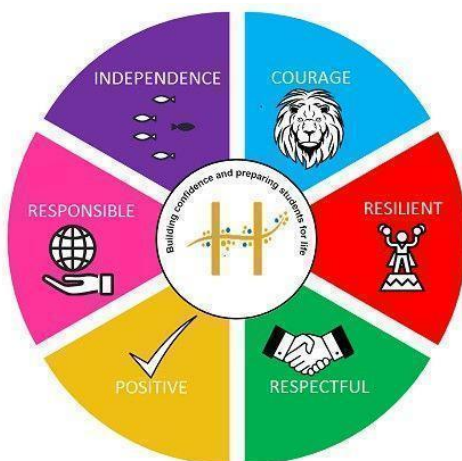
Festive Wishes

As we head into the festive break, we hope everyone has a lovely time with family and friends. We also want to remember those who find this time of year difficult - please take care of yourselves and each other.

We look forward to welcoming all our students back to school on **Monday 5 January** for the start of the new term and a new year!

David Stewart
Headteacher

- o Sam F
- o Lochlan
- o Tobias
- o Erik
- o Alex G
- o Stanley W
- o Ethan W
- o Noah DW
- o Tyler
- o Tom
- o Isla
- o Alex S
- o Stanley C
- o Lucas
- o Ben MB



Core Values

Each term, the whole school focuses on one of Heathermount's core values. At the end of term, staff nominate students who they feel have demonstrated the core value really well. An overall winner is then decided for foundation, primary and secondary. This term we have focused on **independence** and our cup winners are:

- **Foundation - Marco**

Marco has shown significant improvement in his behaviour choices and has tried hard to work with adults to help regulate himself. He has developed his ability to manage transitions smoothly even though we know these changes can sometimes be tricky! Additionally, his exceptional attitude and consistent effort towards his work, particularly in writing, have been amazing! Well done Marco!

- **Primary - George C**

George has worked incredibly hard to write more independently and his efforts have led to wonderful progress.

- **Secondary - Oliver B**

Oliver B for taking the lead on activities within class and helping to guide his peers during group tasks. For always being punctual, responsible and demonstrating maturity by offering to help staff and peers off his own back. He is a supportive and proactive student

Whole school attendance 93.8%

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the fantastic overall attendance figures this academic year. Please continue to keep us informed of your child's absences. It is important to notify us of each day your child is not in school.

The greater the attendance in school = the greater the achievement

Is my child too ill for school?

Please follow the NHS guidance on when to send your child to school
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

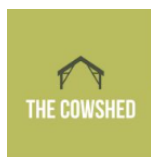
Subscribe to the school calendar

The option to subscribe to the [school calendar](#) is now available on our website. Click on the Subscribe button above the calendar and follow the instructions for your device to keep up to date with events at school. Key information will appear on your calendar.

School Lunches

The new [menus](#) for next term 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.

The Cowshed donations



This Christmas our student council decided to support [The Cowshed](#) which provides love and support to those experiencing hardship in Berkshire. Thank you so much for all your donations of clothes, towels, bedding, curtains and toiletries, these will make a real difference to those in need and are very much appreciated. The response this year was phenomenal! **Thank you.**

