

# Heatherwood School

*an academy within Nexus MAT*

Leger Way, Doncaster DN2 6HQ  
Tel: 01302 322044  
[www.heatherwoodschool.org](http://www.heatherwoodschool.org) [www.nexusMAT.org](http://www.nexusMAT.org)  
Headteacher: Mr Sam MacDonald



4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful half-term break. We are looking forward to an exciting final half term of the academic year.

Firstly, we would like to thank all parents and carers who have taken the time to provide feedback regarding the recent changes to our class names. We greatly value your input and appreciate your engagement with the Academy.

Following some of the questions raised, we would like to clarify that the new class names do not directly correlate to the previous class names. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible support for all pupils, we have made some adjustments to class groupings. These changes have been carefully considered to ensure that groups of learners are supported effectively and can continue to thrive within an environment that best meets their needs and is suitable to their ability.

The grid below outlines the new class names alongside the learning pathways and key stage represented within each class.

Class Name	Key Stage	Learning Pathway(s)
Red Panda	EYFS/KS1	EYFS
Meerkat	KS1/2	Active
Lemur	KS1/2	Bridge/Intentional
Giraffe	KS2	Active
Wallaby	KS2	Active/Bridge/Intentional
Penguin	KS1-4	(The ARC)
Polar Bear	KS2/4	Active/Bridge
Wolf	KS3/4	Bridge/Intentional
Leopard	KS5	Active/Bridge/Intentional
Cheetah	KS5	Sensory/Active
Tiger	KS5	Intentional
Lion	KS5	Intentional

More information about each learning pathway is shared in the curriculum section of our website [Heatherwood School - Curriculum](http://www.heatherwoodschool.org/curriculum). If you are unsure which learning pathway your child is on, please ask their class teacher, who will be able to share this with you.

We are also pleased to share the story behind our new class names. Earlier this year, members of our Academy Council were given the opportunity to vote on a new naming theme for classes. After careful consideration, they selected animal names, helping to create a sense of identity and belonging across the Academy.

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To make the names even more meaningful, each class has been named after an animal that pupils can find at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. We hope this will provide opportunities for learning and celebration throughout the year, while also reflecting the interests and voices of our pupils. Our new class teams are keen to get to know the pupils in their class and to meet their families.

We understand you will be keen to meet staff too. I have included some key dates below which will provide an opportunity to see your child in their new class and to meet their new class team.

- Heatherfest – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July
- Open morning – Seaside themed day – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July AM

Specific details of these events will be sent closer to the time. In September, we will welcome some new, additional staff to our team, who you will be able to meet in the new school year.

Unfortunately, we are not able to send home photos of all staff members. Instead, to support families, we will be ensuring the staff photo board is accessible in the reception area of school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to working together throughout the remainder of the academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Seagrave  
Deputy Headteacher

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