



HEATHERWOOD SCHOOL

End of Term Newsletter

July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another wonderful year at Heatherwood, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we have celebrated many achievements, milestones and special moments that make our school such a unique and caring community.

Our pupils have continued to impress us with their determination, resilience and enthusiasm. From engaging learning experiences and educational visits to therapeutic and enrichment opportunities, every day has brought successes to celebrate. We are especially proud of how well pupils transitioned into their new classrooms during the Summer 2 term. They embraced new environments, staff and routines with confidence and positivity, providing a strong foundation for the year ahead.

A particular highlight was the Post-16 residential, which gave students valuable opportunities to develop independence, confidence and friendships. We were also incredibly proud of our Duke of Edinburgh Award participants, who demonstrated commitment, perseverance and teamwork throughout their journeys.

Our school prom was another memorable event. We tried something a little different this year and, while there are aspects we will develop further, it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying the food, dancing and time spent with friends. It was a fantastic reflection of the strong sense of community at Heatherwood.

One of Heatherwood's greatest strengths is its exceptional staff. I would like to thank every member of staff and class team for their dedication, care and commitment to our pupils. At the heart of everything we do is our mission of **"Developing a Better Tomorrow for All Learners."** This remains the focus of our staff every day as they create opportunities, build confidence, encourage independence and help every pupil achieve their full potential.

As we reflect on the year, we also remember those members of our Heatherwood community who are no longer with us. They remain in our thoughts and will always be remembered with great fondness and respect as part of the Heatherwood family.

Our Celebration Assembly was the perfect way to end the year, recognising the progress, achievements and successes of our pupils. We are incredibly proud of every child and young person and all they have accomplished.

We wish all our families a happy, safe and restful summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Sam MacDonald

Executive Head





Red Panda Class

We have been so busy in Red Panda Class at the end of this term! We have moved to a new classroom and had lots of fun welcoming some of our new friends for Stay and Plays, as well as exploring aspects of summer and the beach. We have celebrated 10 Years of Nexus as well as Heatherfest and we had the theatre visit! On top of all of this we have done lots of fun group activities: parachute and ball games, rhymes, stories, exploring outside, counting songs and being creative; alongside lots of fun multisensory learning activities, so a fun and busy end to the school year. Well done to all of our little superstars, you have been amazing!





Giraffe Class

Since transition week, we have settled well into our new class. We are all getting to know each other and build relationships with our new teacher, support assistants and peers.

We have established new routines and are focusing on strengthening our abilities, especially physical potential and communication skills.

We have spent a lot of time enjoying our outdoor environment whilst playing games.

We have also read lots of wonderful new stories and created some summer themed artwork. It has also been fun participating in whole school events such as Heatherfest and the Seaside Sports Day.

What a great way to end the year!

Have a lovely summer and we look forward to spending the next academic year together.

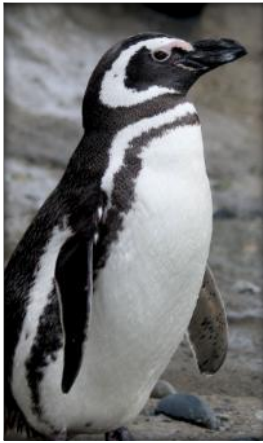




Lemur Class

This term has been full of exciting adventures. We explored the wonderful world of transport through our engaging sensory story, *The Transport Adventure*. Our pupils have immersed themselves in a variety of enriching experiences, from imaginative role-play activities to creative, hands-on learning opportunities that brought our topic to life. One of the highlights of the term was celebrating for 10-year Nexus Anniversary. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the colourful activities, taking in all the sights and sounds, and spending time with other children from different classes in school. I am so incredibly proud of what all of pupils have achieved so far! Well Done Lemur Class! You are all little





Penguin Class

Wow, what an amazing start to our time together in Penguin Class!

We have been making friends and exploring lots of different colours. This has supported our special 'Festival of Colour' days as part of the Nexus 10 Year anniversary. We have also been exploring different textures and paint to make our Heatherfest banners.

We are really looking forward to growing together to be the best we can be.

Have a lovely summer and see you all in September! 😊





Wallaby Class

Wallaby Class have had a wonderful start, enjoying lots of opportunities to explore, play and learn together. We have especially loved our water play sessions and spending time outdoors, where pupils have been developing their curiosity and confidence. Social snack and lunchtime activities have been a fantastic way to encourage communication, interaction and independence, and we are very proud of how well pupils are engaging. We have also introduced our independent work task activities, including posting, threading and mark making, helping pupils build their independence in a fun and motivating way. I am already incredibly proud of how well all of the pupils have transitioned into their new classroom and how confidently they are accessing a range of areas around school. It has been lovely to see their personalities shine through as they settle into new routines and build relationships with staff and their peers. We hope you all have a wonderful summer break, and we look forward to sharing more of our Wallaby adventures with you in the new term!





Meerkat Class

We have had a fantastic start in our new Meerkat class and have settled in really well. The children have enjoyed exploring their new environment, making new friends, and reconnecting with familiar faces. It has been wonderful to see everyone growing in confidence, and the staff have really enjoyed getting to know all of the children. We have especially loved our bucket time sessions, where the children have shown fantastic engagement, excitement, and enthusiasm for learning. With the lovely sunny weather, we have also had lots of fun outdoors, enjoying water play and making the most of our outdoor learning experiences. Our favourite times have been Heatherfest and the Nexus 10-year celebration, we had so much fun!!





Wolf Class

This term has been full of exciting new beginnings as we came together to form Wolf Class. We celebrated that although we all have different strengths and talents, together we are one pack, supporting each other and achieving more as a team.

We were proud to attend the Celebration Assembly led by our Executive Headteacher, Sam Macdonald, and enjoyed a fantastic performance from Blanketfort Theatre Company as part of the Nexus 10th Anniversary celebrations. We loved dancing in the sunshine to live music from Sundaze, taking part in relay races, and celebrating 10 years of Nexus with our friends.

Most importantly, we have loved getting to know one another, making new friendships and creating wonderful memories together. Here's to many more adventures as one pack! 🐾





Polar Bear Class

During transition period, Polar Bear class have focussed mainly on getting to know each other, and the adults working in the room.

We have created some fabulous masterpieces to decorate our classroom so it's ready for September, and enjoyed coming together for exciting school events, such as sports day, seaside day, Heatherfest, and the Nexus 10 year anniversary.

Everyone has settled really well into new routines, and all our young people are thriving in their new environment, we are becoming a close group of friends, who make the most out of our time at school, celebrate each others achievements, and have fun every day.





Leopard Class

Over the past few weeks, Leopard Class has made a fantastic start to their new transition, getting to know one another and settling into their new environment.

Pupils have enjoyed creating colourful artwork to brighten up the classroom, taken part in drama circle sessions to explore the importance of being kind and making fruit salads for pupils and staff around school. As part of our work on friendships and positive relationships, each pupil chose positive words and symbols to describe the qualities of their classmates. We have also enjoyed joining in the whole-school celebrations for 10 Years of Nexus, taking part in a range of fun activities, before finishing last week with Heatherfest. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful music and performances from a variety of talented artists! We are very proud of how well the pupils have embraced their transition and we look forward to welcoming them back in September.





Cheetah Class

We have been looking at places far away. We have looked at different countries, such as Egypt, Italy, Japan, Russia and have been trying food and sharing sensory stories linked to these different places. We have shared music and enjoyed water play in the warm weather alongside the fun end of year activities and exploring the outside areas of school.





Lion Class

We've had another busy and exciting term, with students enjoying lots of opportunities both in school and out in the community. We are incredibly proud of those pupils who successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Residential, showing fantastic independence, resilience and teamwork throughout the experience. We will miss our Year 14 leavers and wish them every happiness and success in the future. Students have worked hard during their work experience placements at both Heatherwood School and in Animal Care at Milestone Ranch, developing valuable skills, growing in confidence and preparing for the world of work. They also did a fantastic job representing the school at Bridgefest, where they met and chatted with parents and carers, and helped to raise money for the event.

It has also been wonderful to see so many students continuing to make great progress with their travel training, building their confidence and independence as they learn to travel safely within the community.





Tiger Class

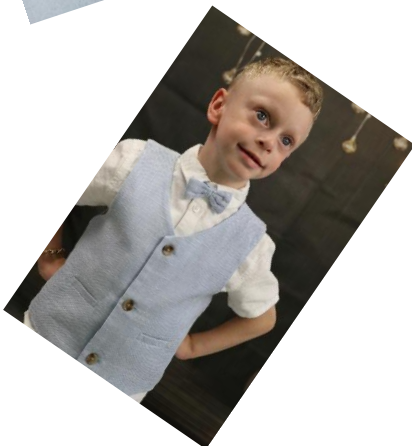
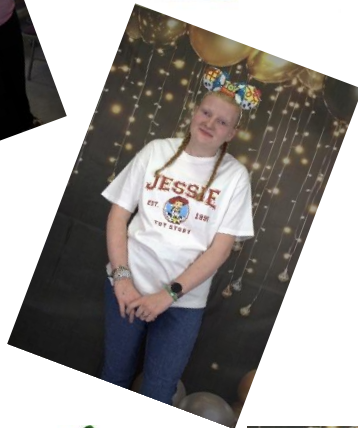
It has been another busy and successful term, with our students taking part in a wide range of opportunities both in school and in the community. We are proud to share that some pupils have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Residential, showing great independence, resilience and teamwork. We also said a fond farewell to our Year 14 students and wish them every success in the future. Students have worked hard on work experience placements at both Heatherwood School and in Animal Care at Milestone Ranch, developing valuable skills and confidence for the workplace. They also represented the school brilliantly at Bridgefest, where they ran stalls and helped to raise money while engaging with parents and carers. Alongside this, many students have continued to make excellent progress with their travel training, building confidence and independence when travelling in the community.



HEATHERFEST



Heatherwood Prom 2026



The amazing total raised
£4372.50



A great time was had by all during our Family Fun Sponsored Walk. All proceeds will go directly towards improving PE resources and increasing pupil motivation for movement.





Well done to
all our
Heatherwood
Stars
for all your
hard work
this term.

School Calendar 2026/27: HEATHERWOOD SCHOOL

September 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5	28	29	30				

October 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5				1	2	3	4
6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30						

December 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14		1	2	3	4	5	6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30	31			

January 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

April 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35						1	2
36	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
37	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
38	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
39	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
40	31						

June 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30				

July 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44				1	2	3	4
45	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
46	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
47	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
48	26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
53	30	31					

- School Holidays
- Bank Holidays
- Inset Days

Important Information

School closes for the Summer Holidays on Friday 24th July 2026
School reopens to pupil on Thursday 3rd September 2026
Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September are staff training days.

Please remember to contact the School Office if your child is unable to come to school.

The School Office opening hours are: 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday.
The school answer machine is available outside these times.

Transport:

If you need to cancel your child's transport for whatever reason these are the contact details you will need.

Unfortunately, school are unable to do this for you.

- 01302 737074 – Option 1
- transport@doncaster.gov.uk

If you are worried about a child and wish to speak to someone, you can contact the local authority safeguarding team by calling **01302 737777** in the **evening or at weekends call 01302 796000**. If this concern is not deemed to be immediate you will be directed to fill in the form. If you have urgent concerns regarding a child or young person's mental health, please call the duty team on 01302 796191. You will get a response from either our Early Help team or from Children's Social Care.

[Safeguarding concern - child at risk report form - City of Doncaster Council](#)

Where you believe there is an immediate risk of significant harm the police should be contacted on 999.

Useful Numbers for anyone who needs some support right now:

CALM – 0800585858

Mind – 03001233393

No Panic – 08449674848

Bereavement – 08088081677

PAPYRUS – 08000684141

Samaritans – 116123

SHOUT – Text SHOUT to 85258

Abuse – 08082000247

Refuge – 02073957700