



# HEATHERWOOD SCHOOL

## Celebration of our Year

## End of Term Newsletter

### 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year, and what an amazing year we have had at Heatherwood School! There have been so many fantastic trips, themed days, special events, visitors, clubs, assemblies, residential, celebrations, sporting events, choirs...the list is endless! Our incredible young people have had so many opportunities this year! A few highlights this term include our Heatherwood Prom, the Summer Fayre, Nexus Olympics, Sing & Sign and our very own, now annual, "Heatherfest"! No matter what your child enjoys, there has been something for them this year.

Classrooms have been buzzing for the past four weeks, as some of our young people transitioned to their new classes! Our staff teams have worked so hard getting to know new pupils, and families and our pupils have welcomed new friends to class. Thank-you so very much to parents and carers who have offered their feedback to us on our transition process, I will update you all on some changes that we will make to support our families further at Transition, next year, in a future newsletter.

You can see from the pages below, how much progress our young people have made over the past half term. End of year reports overflowed with descriptions of how far they have come this year! It was such a pleasure to read them and all of us at Heatherwood celebrate your children's achievements with you!

It has been so lovely meeting so many of you over the past term, at meetings, events or on the doors in the morning. My door is always open, and I am so grateful to families who attended my Coffee Morning, earlier this term. A strong and effective partnership between school and home is so vital, in ensuring that our young people thrive whilst they are at school, and we always welcome conversation, updates and suggestions from our families. I will be holding half termly coffee mornings next year, with a specific focus on an area that parents and carers have requested to know more about. Some examples are moving and handling, intimate care, medication and our curriculum. I will write to you in early September with dates and times, and to extend a warm invitation to as many families as possible.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer break with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming our young people back into school on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

Lyndsey

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As I prepare to leave Heatherwood School; I would just like to take a moment to say a huge thank you to you all. Firstly, thank you for my lovely cards, flowers and gifts – please pass on my thanks to your amazing children and young people, I am very grateful.

It's with a heavy heart I say goodbye; though I do hope it's more a case of, "See you later!" As my new role gives me the pleasure of being Lyndsey's line manager – so I'll be having regular visits to school; as well as visiting Doncaster's other family of Nexus Schools.

Heatherwood has been so much more than a school to me, and my job has been a true vocation – however, it is time to turn the page and start the next chapter – and, as I said in my Leaver's Assembly, there is no one I'd rather hand the school over to, than Lyndsey.

Heatherwood's wonderful: staff team, leaders, our families and of course, our children and young people have had a profound impact on my life; the memories we have created will always hold a special place in my heart.

Saying goodbye is never easy, and it would be remiss if I did not mention the children, young people and members of our community, who we have said goodbye to over the past 15 years – I'm glad Heatherwood was a little part of their journey.

And, on that note, thank you all for being part of my journey.

Have a wonderful summer – let's hope the sun keeps on shining.

Also, before I go.....one last word(s)!

Congratulations to: John Trickett for achieving the National Professional Qualification in Early Years  
Rachel Wilson for achieving the National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership  
Rochesca Moody for also achieving the National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership  
Beth – for achieving a BA Honours in Health and Social Care

Finally, please join me in wishing a fond farewell to:

Chez – who leaves us to further her career at a school in Nottinghamshire.

Liz – who leaves us to continue her finance and admin work at Head Office.

Zena – who's following Chez and will also be continuing her career at a school in Nottinghamshire.

Pat – who is hanging up her 'chalk' and sailing into retirement – with a new grandbaby on the way.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your hard work and commitment to Heatherwood School.

*hisa*

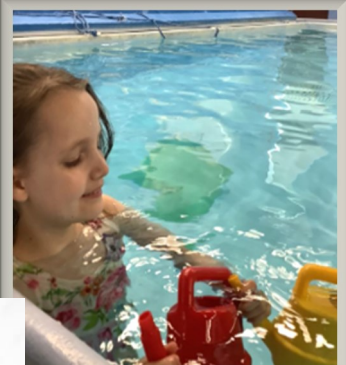
# ARC

In the ARC class we have been learning about safari animals. We have also learnt about contrasts and compliments. We read stories about wild animals such as lions, giraffes, tigers and elephants. We have been listening to the sounds these animals make, how they move and what they eat. We have made art work using the patterns of their fur and compared their colours. We went on our own little safari; singing songs and dancing to music. We have used our senses to recreate and discover the environments to which they belong. Our favourite story this half term was *Yum and Yuck!* It was a funny story about a little monster called Grizel and the story gave us plenty of opportunities to improve our listening skills.



# Blue Class

We cannot believe the year is nearly over and what a fantastic year it has been! This term we have been doing lots of activities focusing on our mind and body. We have been doing yoga each week where we have learnt to focus on our body awareness and mental health. We have had two amazing opportunities to perform our wonderful singing and signing skills this term; one at the choir event and the other at the *Sing and Sign* event where we performed our Blue class song, *Keep Moving*. Our favourite trip was the reward trip to McDonalds. For this, we collectively achieved 200 stars throughout the year which meant we could choose where we wanted to go for a reward. It was amazing! We have also participated in swimming this term which has again boosted confidence in and out of the pool. We have welcomed a new pupil into Blue class and we are so proud of the kindness everyone has shown towards her. We have had so many achievements this term and we are all so proud of each other. We cannot wait for another year of incredible learning and fun! Have a wonderful and well rested summer.



# Early Years

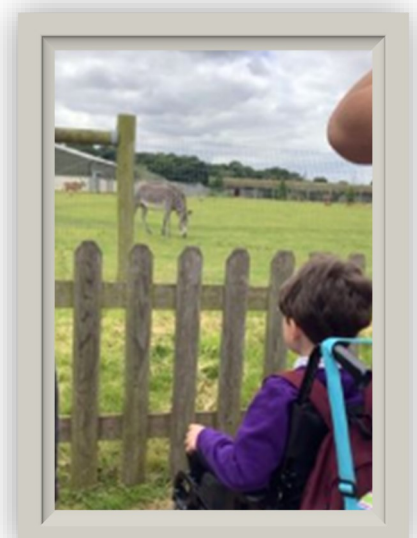
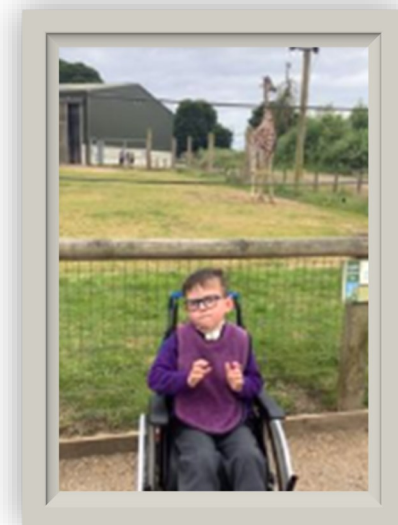
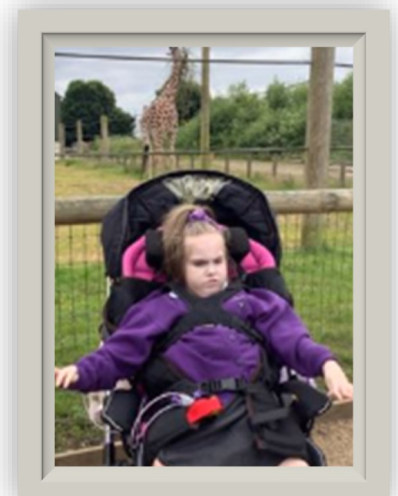
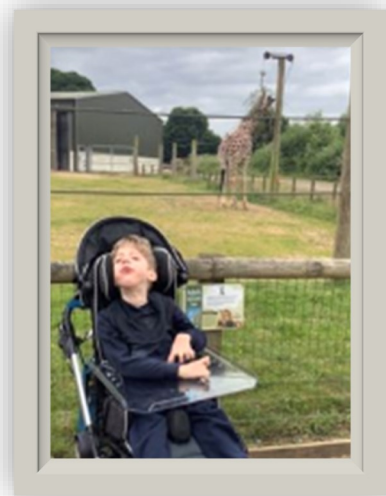
What a busy term we have had in Early Years! We have enjoyed learning about life under the sea and around our beaches. We have said goodbye to some friends and hello to others! We enjoyed our trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park and to the Primary Olympics (where we had a fabulous time). We have had a great Sport's Day and Summer Fayre. We have also enjoyed lots of outdoor learning, multisensory activities, counting songs, music and ICT. So it's been a very busy and fun term of learning!



# Red Class

This half term we have been learning about all things, “Under the sea” and have explored an underwater sensory story. We have been listening to number songs with a sea theme and have been working on our cause and effect switch skills. In Science, we have been exploring hot and cold fruit – which we have then blended together to make our own smoothies! This term we have enjoyed our class trip where we visited Yorkshire Wildlife Park to see the animals!

We have also recently transitioned into our new class and so have been working on our social skills as we get to know our new class friends. We have also enjoyed our Heatherfest celebration – enjoying live music, ice cream and (finally) some sunshine!



# Purple Class

What a great half term we have had here in Purple class. Our theme has been *On the Beach* and we have also had stories and activities about Pirates. In communication, we have focused on vocalising our responses to stories and activities. In Early phonics, our Launchpad focus has been on matching colours. Our cognition work has been predominantly on cause and effect. We have enjoyed switching the fan on and off during the warmer days.

At the beginning of June, we had a wonderful visit to Angler's County Park and the class loved the fresh air and open space. They challenged themselves on the playground as well. We have also had a great time with Simon, who has come to us for weekly music sessions. Well done to all the children who have been in Purple class this year. We are really proud of you. We hope you have an equally great time next year.



## 6th Form

This term we have been focusing on *Festivals*. We have been learning about different festivals including Glastonbury, Radio 1 Big Weekend and some local ones as well. Some of us have researched where the festivals take place and located them on 'Google Earth,' as well as finding out the cost of tickets and the reason behind the events. We have been making flags and banners for our festival by printing using our hands and feet. We have been making our own music using iPads, Chrome Lab and also musical instruments. We have been learning about what clothing we may wear to the festivals and, of course, the weather! Each week we have focused on a different genre of music from rock to headline acts and we have chosen our favourite for our Friday afternoon class festival. Have a lovely summer and see you in September!



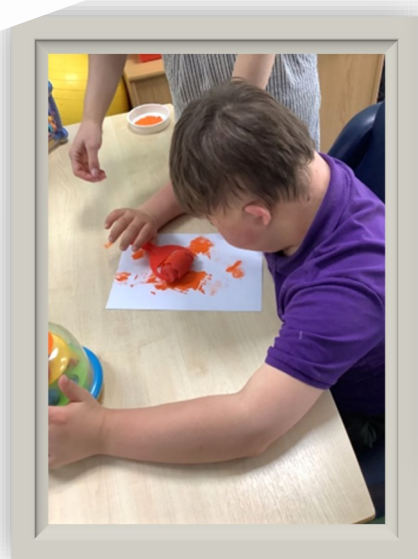
# Yellow class

We have had a fantastic summer term in Yellow class.

We have enjoyed getting in the festival spirit, ready for our very own Heatherfest! We have made lots of decorations to brighten up school and become top fans of Glastonbury and Radio 1's Big Weekend!

Tac Pac and Shabang have been firm favourites too, where we have made choices and communicated our preferences through symbols and photographs!

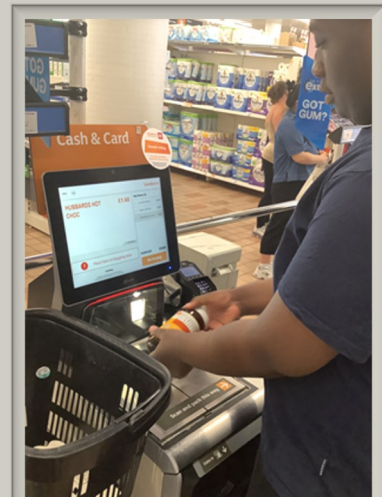
We have developed our team building skills by working alongside each other during PE and activities outdoors!



# The Key

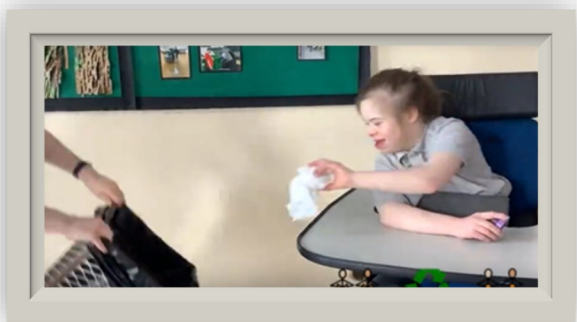
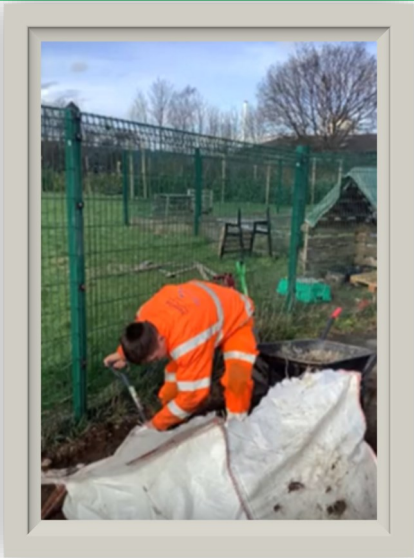
What a lovely warm welcome I received after becoming the new teacher of The Key. It has been great meeting the students and their parents and carers.

The class have had a great year taking part in sessions such as Forest School, art and computing. Students have had opportunities to run a café with other schools at The Bridge and they are developing excellent customer service skills. More recently we have explored Doncaster town centre, using public transport and buying ingredients for our Life Skills sessions.





**This term, the Eco committee have worked hard to create a video, explaining to their friends why it is important to look after our environment. We used big mac switches and Makaton to explain to our friends and teachers that they must remember to turn off the taps and the lights, recycle and look after our outside spaces. We shared our video on the school website, and we're very proud of it! We have also worked really hard to take care of our outside spaces; weeding and planting wildflowers, making sure the wildlife garden is accessible, and looking for minibeasts!**

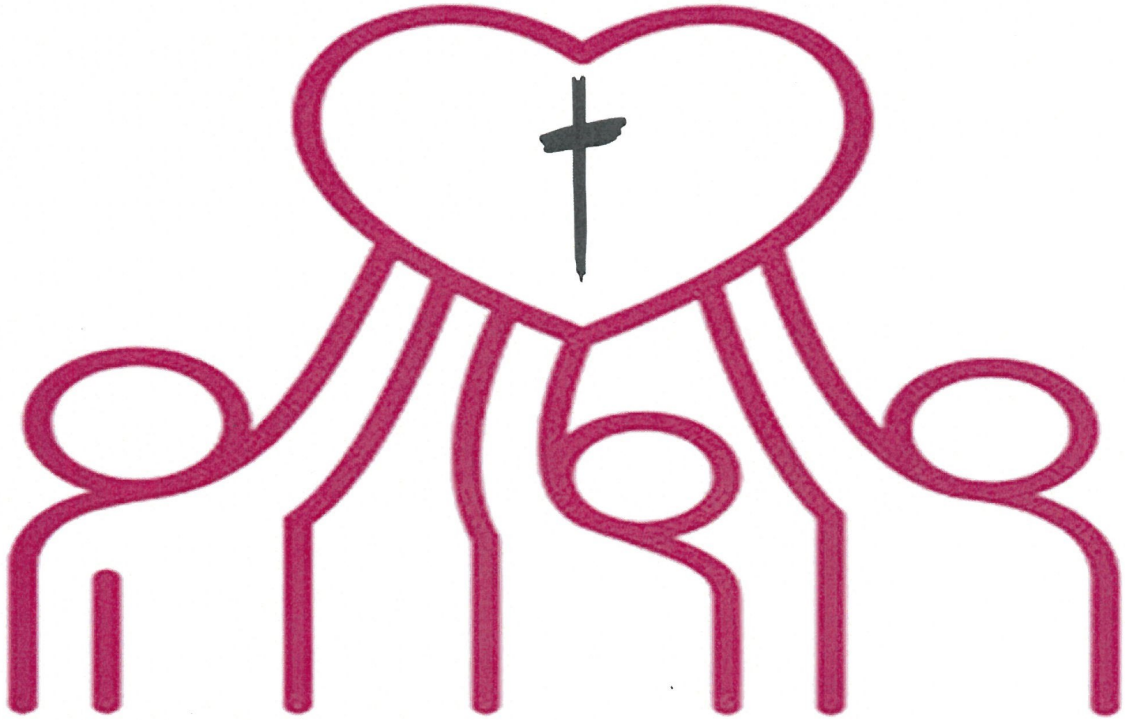


# Stars of the Year!



All Heatherwood  
Pupils for being  
amazing!

# Rejoice



## **A Church Service for Neurodiverse Individuals & Families**

**This first service  
is a come and  
meet us service**

**4.30pm  
Wednesday 28th  
August 2024**

**Includes cake &  
Refreshments**



**Email: [admin@  
resurrection  
doncaster.org](mailto:admin@resurrectiondoncaster.org)**

**St Aidan's Church  
Wheatley Hills  
DN2 5PE**



**St Aidan's Church  
Wheatley Hills  
part of  
Resurrection  
Doncaster**



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**SCHOOL OPENS TO PUPILS ON WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER,  
2ND & 3RD SEPTEMBER ARE STAFF TRAINING DAYS.**