

HEATHERWOOD SCHOOL End of Term Newsletter Christmas 2024



Dear Parents & Carers

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well. I can't believe how quickly time passes, yet here we are only a few days away from our festive break, nearly at the end of term! And what a term it has been! I hope you enjoy our newsletter; it shares just a small flavour of what our amazing young people have accomplished since September. School has been a hive of activity, with term culminating in a number of very special events over the past couple of weeks - a pantomime, sensory showcase, Music and Dance extravaganza, Christmas production (twice!), Christmas Fair, and yes, even reindeer and a visit from the man himself! Thank-you to you all for supporting our events in school, it has been wonderful to see to so many of our families in school recently.

It is with much sadness that we say a very fond farewell to Sol Barker at the end of this term. Sol will leave us to join the staff at Doncaster Communication College. Sol has been a great asset to our Key Post 16 team and will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. Thank-you so very much Sol, for all of the pupils that you have inspired during your time at Heatherwood. We wish you the very best for the future!

At this time of year, we look forward to the new year and the opportunities that this will bring. At Heatherwood, we continue to look at ways that we might improve school for our pupils and families. We very much value your feedback; please may I extend a warm welcome to my next Headteacher Coffee Morning, on Friday 31st January from 9.15am until 11am. Please pop in at any point during this time and don't feel you have to stay for it all!

On behalf of all our staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a wonderful 2025!

Best Wishes

Lyndsey

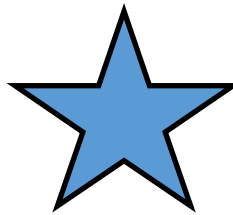
L.Y. Drouton



Blue Class



We have had an amazing term to start of a new school year in Blue class. This term we have been making amazing progress in our reading and are continuing to learn about new sounds and words within our Read Write Inc session while also working hard on our handwriting. In literacy we have been reading some wonderful books about castles and detective dogs where we have been able to form sentences about the characters in the books. We have been able to identify main characters, verbs and objects to build our own sentences. In maths, we have continued our learning on number and have been learning about 2d shapes and their properties. We have even begun to learn about place value. We have enjoyed swimming again this term building on our body strength in the pool. We have been so lucky to go on 3 trips this term, to Conisbrough castle, bowling and the Doncaster Lion's Christmas party. We cannot wait for all the fun next term. Have a wonderful Christmas. Blue Class .



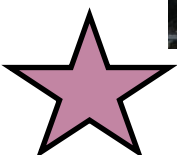
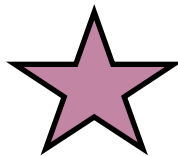
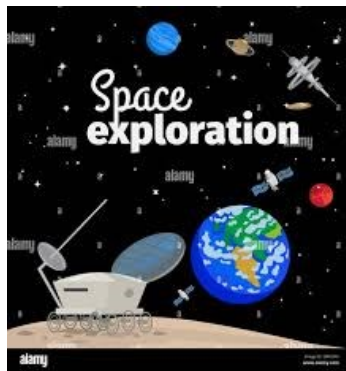
ARC

This term in ARC class we have focused on learning about Big Cities bright lights and we have chosen to learn about London. We have started with a sensory story "Lost in London". The pupils really enjoyed discovering all the famous scenery. We have been listening different sounds and songs, explored variety of objects and looked and listened interesting stories. Additionally, we investigated how the weather is changing and what are the seasons look and feel like. Made many art work and enjoyed working our body during PE sessions in the pool or on Rebound. It was great to spend some time in the wildlife and sensory gardens observing and experiencing the changes around school.



Early Years

What a busy term Early Years have had! We have enjoyed settling into the new school year and making lots of new friends. We have also celebrated Children in Need, Remembrance day, had a pantomime (Oh yes we did) and now it's Christmas! On top of all of this we have been exploring space with our Whatever Next story, and all aspects of autumn, including how seasons change. We have done this through lots of fun multisensory activities; so a lovely end to 2024!



6th Form

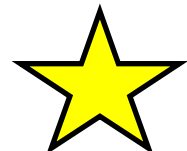
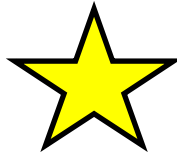
This term we have been learning about fairgrounds. We have been learning about the different rides and also stalls. We prepared hot dogs with a choice of onions and sauces – ketchup or mustard or both! We have practiced our skills around making breakfast where we make our own toast, pour our milk on cereals and of course wash up afterwards. Some of us have been working on identifying clean and dirty kitchen equipment and stating what they are using the symbols. We have been using the sensory studio and changing our environment. Through our movements, we have been able to change the colour and sounds. We have been out in the community and visiting Walkers Garden Centre to find plants and also to purchase a snack in the café.



Yellow class

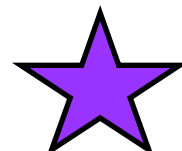
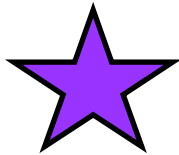
What a wonderful term in Yellow!

We have enjoyed our two sensory stories 'Lost in London' and 'Charmaine's Bonfire', exploring a range of resources both to touch and listen to! We started the term listening to and watching fireworks, getting messy with pumpkins and having a Halloween party! We have worked hard during music sessions, including dance, to showcase our work with DARTS and DN4 dance school. We also had the chance to visit Doncaster town centre, looking at and visiting the different buildings. We've enjoyed spending time outside, taking in the Autumnal scenery and exploring different types of weather.



Purple Class

What a wonderful term we have had. We have experienced the seasons changing through sensory play and exploration. Our favourite time of the day is Bucket time where we are doing so well developing our attention as Caroline shows us new and exciting things. We have made and tried different foods this term, experimenting with our taste buds.



Red Class

Red class have had an exciting and busy Autumn term. We have been space explorers, discovering moons and building rockets. We enjoyed a shopping trip to Asda to prepare for a picnic on the moon and then we were invaded by friendly aliens who love underpants!

We wonder what adventures 2025 holds in store for us!



The Key

This half term has been a busy one in the Key. We have spent lots of our time learning about stress, worries and managing feelings which has really helped us to settle into our new peer groups. We've also worked hard on our money skills, both in the classroom and when out in the community. The Year 13 and 14 pupils in our class have enjoyed visiting local colleges and post 19 provisions in Doncaster where we have been supported to think about making choices for our futures. Our year 12 students are looking forward to doing this in January. This week we had an amazing time at the Panto, then went to the pub for lunch which was so much fun. We had a brilliant term and we're looking forward to seeing what the Spring term brings!





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 MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025



Let's keep this
going for all the people
who are going through
a tough time.

For anyone who needs some
support right now. ❤️

CALM - 0800585858

Mind - 03001233393

No Panic - 08449674848

Bereavement - 08088081677

PAPYRUS - 08000684141

Samaritans - 116 123

SHOUT - Text SHOUT to 85258

Abuse - 0808 2000 247

Refuge - 020 7395 7700

Stay safe this Christmas.

