

HEATHERWOOD SCHOOL

End of Term Newsletter

Easter 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It feels like spring has finally sprung at Heatherwood! I can't believe that we are already at the Easter holidays; even though Easter doesn't come until after we return to school this year. It has been an incredibly busy term and we continue to be blown away by the progress of all of our amazing young people! All of our classes have been busy embracing learning both inside and outside of their classrooms this term; we have had visits to Walkers Garden Centre, Lakeside, Post 16 providers, festivals, as well as visits from other schools looking at the best practice of our staff in school. We were privileged to be involved in the Ofsted inspection pilot recently, and were able to share our views on the changes proposed by the Department for Education. A huge thank-you to all involved.

We are very excited to welcome new staff to Heatherwood this week and after the holidays. Morgan Lill and Kirsty Maughan will be Learning Support Assistants working in Purple Class. Jessica Brown will join Red Class as a teacher working closely with Suzanne Fulwood. Kevin Addy and Kelly McCarthy will both be teaching in our Sixth Form Class. We are thrilled to be able to add teaching and support staff capacity to our school and welcome colleagues to the Heatherwood family. I will send out new class photo sheets, where appropriate, after the holidays, and we will create opportunities for families to meet our new teachers and LSAs in the near future.

We also want to take this opportunity to say a huge Heatherwood thank-you and a very fond farewell to Sadie Shuka! Sadie has been with us as a supply teacher for well over a year and has had a big impact on classes across our school. We know our paths will cross again in the future and wish Sadie the very best!

It gives me great pleasure to share that Cy Goucher will take on the role of Parent / Carer Academy Councillor with immediate effect. Cy has a lot to offer in this role and we are excited to be working with him.

Thank-you to families and friends that attended our Bingo fundraising event this week; we are thrilled to announce that we raised £646 to support trips and visits for our pupils. This is a record and we are so grateful for your continued support.

I am pleased to report that work on our roof has now reached completion. The final step was the installation of solar panels over the past few weeks. Not only are we now dry and leak free, we are on our way to becoming a more sustainable school with a smaller carbon footprint. We are working with Nexus to plan improvements to our outdoor area, as well as resurfacing the tarmac around the front of school to make it safer for our families, staff and visitors. We are also working closely with Doncaster Council around the proposed changes to the roundabout near Danum School, ensuring that any changes prioritise the safety of our school community.

Please keep an eye out for updates on our Summer Term activities on Seesaw after the holidays. We look forward to our Prom, Summer Fair, Heatherfest, Art and Dance Showcase, Celebration and Leavers' assemblies, Sports Days and much more – it promises to be an exciting term ahead!

I hope that you have a restful break, with time spent with those nearest and dearest doing things that make you happy. I look forward to continuing to work with you all next term and I thank-you for your ongoing support of our wonderful school.

Yours faithfully

Lyndsey



Purple Class

What an amazing term we have had. Our theme gave us the opportunity to look at growing, both animals and plants. We enjoyed our book *The Hungry Caterpillar* and explored the change from caterpillars to butterflies through art, communication and cognition.

Purple class have had weekly music with Simon, Active fusion and this term had the brilliant opportunity of having dance with Ang. The children have loved this and enjoyed exploring scarves, movement and sounds.

A wonderful Spring term and we look forward to Summer term.



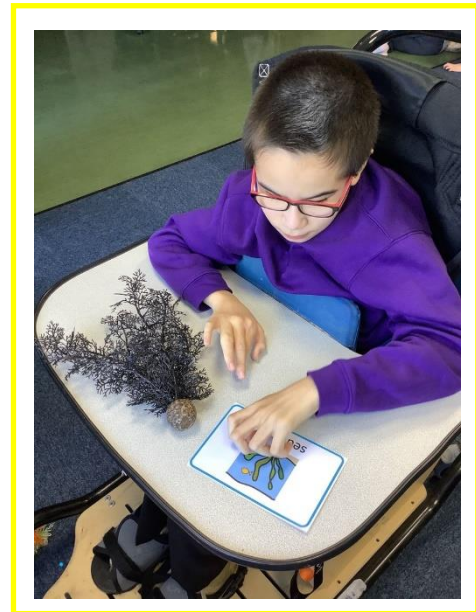
Yellow Class

We have had a wonderful time in Yellow Class this term. We have worked hard and had fun exploring our 'Under the Sea' themed activities. We have also enjoyed our introduction of 'box time' during our group activities, sharing and maintaining our focus on a range of sensory toys.

Rosie and Simon have spent time with us from DARTS, where we have made some beautiful music and supporting in us to try a range of new instruments.

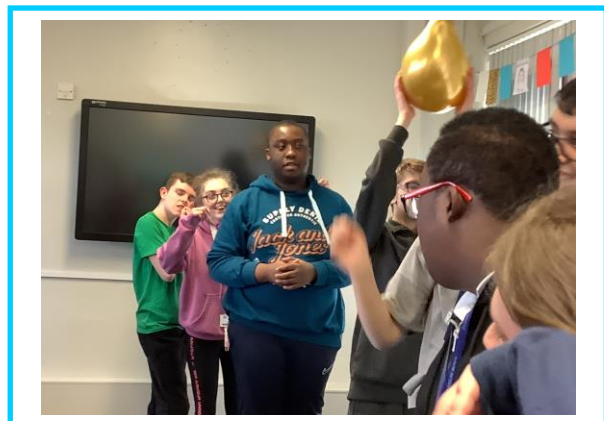
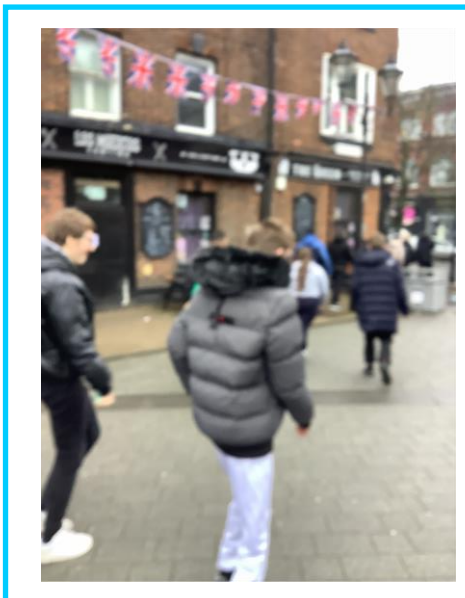
We also took part in our class trip as part of our Heatherwood 10 celebrations – enjoying a meal/time in pub with our peers.

Have a lovely holiday!



The Key

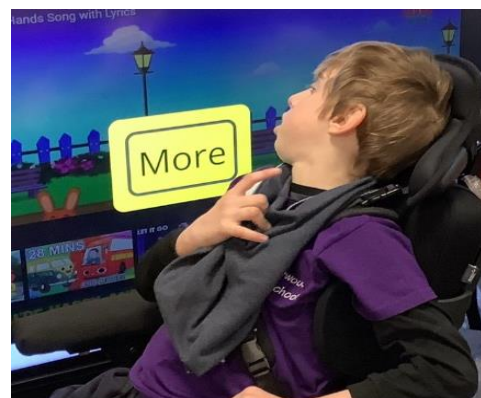
This term we have been very busy looking at potential next steps, taking part in work experience, looking at skills for the work place and practising these, whilst developing our independent living skills in the real world. We have had an exciting enrichment activity and have been developing our functional skills in a range of ways and contexts.



Red Class

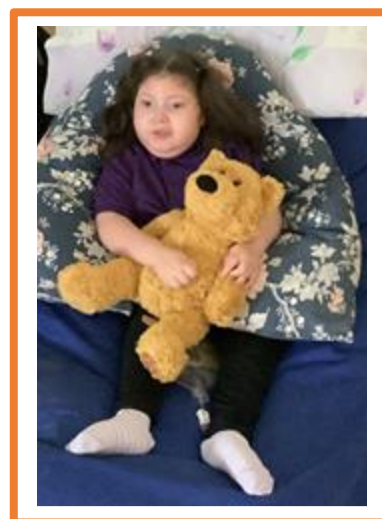
This term we have been learning about growing. Through our text 'The little seed' by Magdalene Tsirkas, we have been using objects, photographs and symbols to tell the story, plant the seeds and listen to different sounds. We have been making choices of which weathers we would like to help to make our seeds grow. In cognition, we have been learning about making things happen and have been reaching to out activate different items including the switches on the fan and also using the screen to listen to our favourite songs through Tar Heel. We have been exploring our outdoor environment and looking for signs of new life and spring as well as visiting Walkers Nursery and Garden Centre to see where we can buy our flowers. We also popped into the café for our snack. We have also been learning different ways to pass a ball to another person and also choosing who we would like to roll the ball to. We have been focusing on turn taking and applying this to different activities.

Well done Red Class, you have all worked really hard!



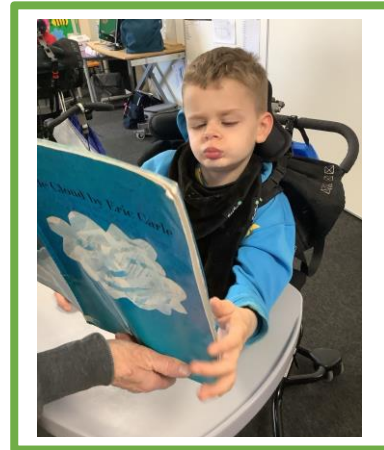
Early Years

Wow! What a term Early Years have had! We had lots of fun exploring aspects of winter and Polar Regions, and more recently we have started to look at spring with Jasper's Beanstalk and growing things. We have celebrated Red Nose Day, Chinese New Year, and Heatherwood's Got Talent, been on trips and had ducklings! On top of all of this we have done lots of group activities, music, rhymes, science, counting and being creative; alongside lots of fun multisensory learning activities, so a fun and busy term!



ARC

In the Arc class we have been learning about the Seasons and focused on Spring changes. We have also learned about what plants need to grow; Exploring soil, water and sunshine. We read stories about Spring and during our class Assembly we performed a lovely song. We have listened to music with Rosie and Simon that related to Spring time. We have had so much lovely exploration of musical instruments and it has been a great sensory experience. We made art work for our Spring display using variety of materials. We observed the ducks hatch whilst they were at Heatherwood. We went ten pin bowling and explored the environment around the lake at Lakeside. Our favourite story this half term was "Peace at Last" we have loved all the sounds in the story. We have loved this busy term!



SPRING

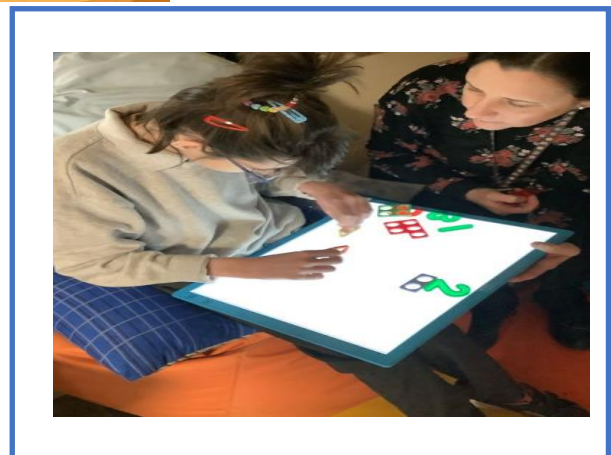
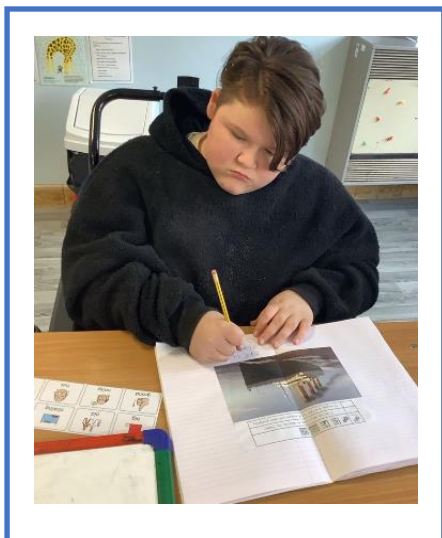
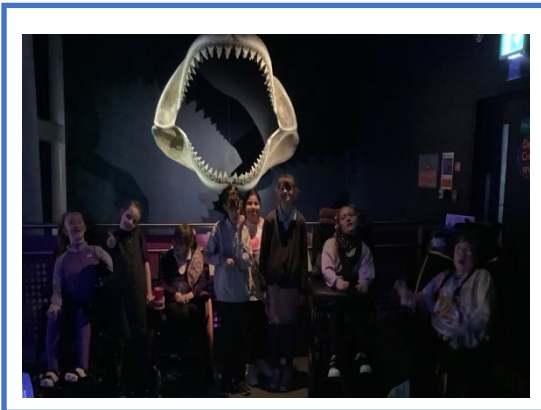




Blue Class



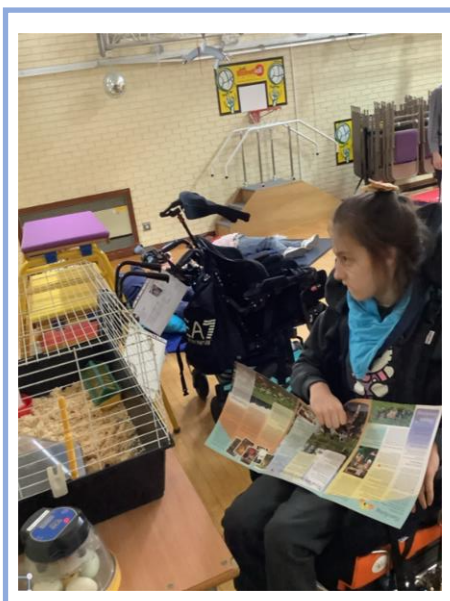
We have done some amazing learning this Spring term in Blue class. We have been continuing to make amazing progress in our reading and learning about new sounds and words within our Read Write Inc session, while also working hard on our handwriting. In maths, we have been learning to tell the time and making links with activities to specific times of the day. We have enjoyed our WW1 and Titanic topic, where we have learnt about key events in History and the world around us. We have also enjoyed a range of activities, including swimming and getting into the beautiful outdoors, now that the weather is getting warmer. We have had 2 amazing trips this term, one to the Doncaster museum where we stepped back in time and explored all the artefacts and the second to The Deep where we learnt about all the amazing sea creatures. We cannot wait for all the fun next term. Have a wonderful Easter break. Blue Class 😊



6th Form

6th Form have had an amazing Spring term. Through our topic of Catering, we have been able to explore different vegetables and practiced our cooking skills.

We've enjoyed visits out to Lakeside to see what real cafes are like and had fun cooking and serving pancakes to friends in school.





Well done to
all our
Heatherwood
Stars

For all your
“eggcellent”
hard work this
term.

Heatherwood School Duckling Diary

Heatherwood School were very eggcited to welcome some cracking duck eggs, here are our duckling diary duckdates to share with you:

Day 1 : Our duck eggs have arrived. We are egg-cited for them to hatch!

Day 2: Cracks have started to appear. Will we meet our new Heatherwood friends tomorrow?

Day 3: Heather hatched at 7:40 this morning. Welcome to Heatherwood, Heather!

Day 4: All five of our eggs hatched. Their names are Heather, Eco, Dee-Fa, Daffy and Mi-shell. They will be spending the weekend with one of our teachers and her family.

Day 5 & 6: Our ducks went on a little holiday to one of our teachers' homes.

Day 7: The ducks came back to school bright and early this morning. Our pupils are enjoying meeting them and practising being gentle.

Day 8: The ducklings loved having their bedding changed this morning. They are becoming bigger and more confident every day.

Day 9: Early Years enjoyed meeting the ducklings today.

Day 10: Our pupils love learning about the ducklings.

'Bringing nature into the classroom can kindle a fascination and passion for the diversity of life on earth and can motivate a sense of responsibility to safeguard it.' David Attenborough

Day 11: Everyone at school has enjoyed seeing the ducklings hatch and grow. On Friday, 21st March 2025, The Heatherwood community said "Goodbye" to the ducklings. They will now live on one of the farms owned by Incredible Eggs.

The Ethos of Incredible Eggs:

Our 7 branches cover England and Scotland and are run from 4 small farms, which are based out in the gorgeous countryside of Cornwall, Kent, Norfolk and County Durham. Each farm is family run with many years of small-scale poultry keeping/breeding experience.

Our company strives to have a positive social and environmental impact and this ethos underpins everything we do:

Education

Animal Welfare

Safeguarding Biodiversity

Wildlife Conservation

Supporting Charities & Social Enterprise





Heatherwood School Bingo Night

*A fun night was had by all at our
recent Heatherwood Bingo.....*

*An amazing £646.70 was raised
for school funds.*

A massive thankyou to all involved.



Important Dates for your Diary

14 th April	School Reopens
17 th April	Easter Enrichment Day
22 nd April	Earth Day
12 th – 15 th May	Post 16 Exams Week
23 rd May	Pride Enrichment Day
23 rd May (3.15pm)	School Closes for half term
26 th May – 30 th May	Half Term
2 nd June	School reopens
6 th June	Eid Al-Adha Enrichment Day
13 th June	Sports Morning – Parents welcome
20 th June	Summer Fayre – Parents welcome
20 th June	Year 14 School Reports to parents
25 th June	Year 14 Leavers Assembly – Year 14 Parents welcome
27 th June	Training Day – school closed to pupils
30 th June	Transition to new classes
3 rd July	School Prom – Parents welcome
7 th July	World Chocolate Day
7 th – 10 th July	Open Week
10 th July	Celebration Assembly – Parents welcome
18 th July	Heatherfest – Parents welcome
18 th July	School Reports to parents
29 th July (3.15pm)	School Closes for Summer Holidays

Times of events to be confirmed.

All Dates are subject to change if necessary.

Important Information

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 736359
- 01302 737231
- 01302 736081
- 01302 736281
- 01302 736002
- 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