

HEATHERWOOD SCHOOL
End of Term Newsletter
Christmas 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this end of Christmas term newsletter finds you and your family well. The term has truly flown, and I can't believe it is already almost time for the festive break. We have had a wonderful term with our amazing young people, with some fantastic experiences across the school. It has been a very busy and festive end to the term with a visit from Santa himself, the wonderful reindeer, Christmas fun day, and Christmas productions.

I want to say a massive thank you to all the families for supporting the events in school. It has been amazing to see so many of our families taking an active part in the wider school events.

It is with great sadness that we say a very fond farewell to Anne-Marie O'Dell, who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Anne-Marie will be going to support another SEND provision, and I am sure she will have an amazing impact there. We also say a fond farewell to Charlotte Oatway, who has been a fantastic support across the school, both in classes and as rebound support. And last, but definitely not least, we say farewell to Daryl Bennet, who has been supporting the senior leadership team whilst Rachel is on maternity leave. It is without a doubt that every one of you will be greatly missed, and we wish you all the best for the future. We look forward to the new year and what further opportunities this will bring. We are continually looking for ways to develop and improve the school for the pupils and families, and as such, greatly value your feedback. We look forward to seeing you at our parent and carer events in the new year.

On behalf of all our staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful year ahead in 2026!

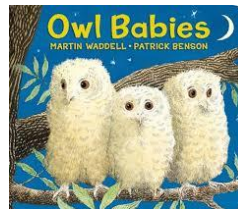
Best Wishes

Sam Lee

Assistant Head (Heatherwood School)

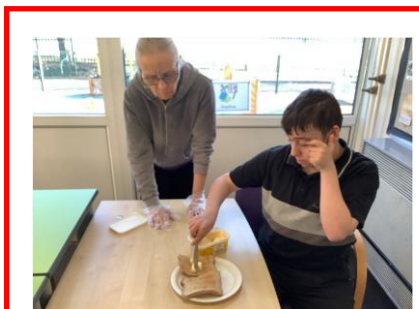
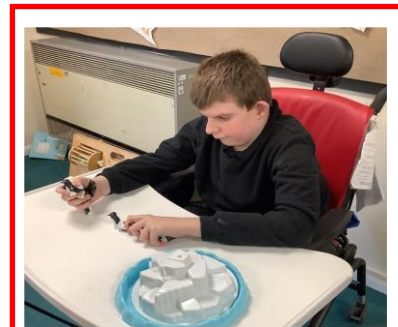
Early Years

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, and now it's Christmas! On top of all of this we have visited the museum and have been exploring different celebrations, having great fun with our 'Owl Babies' story, and exploring all aspects of autumn, including how seasons change. We have done this through lots of fun multisensory and musical activities. So, it has been a lovely end to 2025!



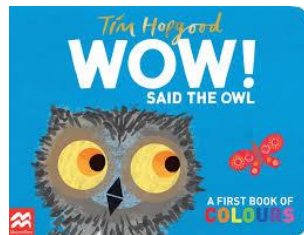
6th Form Hive

Over this half term, we have continued to look at different festivals, from festivals of light and colour, to different types of music festivals. We have also been completing our certificates in cookery skills, going shopping to purchase ingredients, and using these to make some wonderful treats. We have also been visiting lots of different places in the wider community, developing our skills in different contexts.



Purple Class

This Autumn term has been full of colour, curiosity, and joyful exploration inspired by 'Wow! Said the Owl'. The children have enjoyed a variety of sensory, communication, and play-based activities that encouraged them to notice and explore the vibrant world around them. Some pupils also loved special outings such as bowling and visiting The Range to see the Christmas decorations. We have seen growing confidence, friendship, and independence throughout all these experiences. It has been a happy and enriching term, and we are so proud of the children's progress.



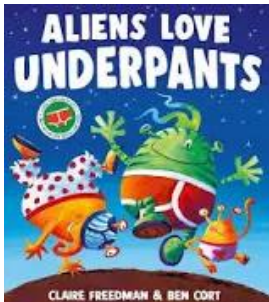
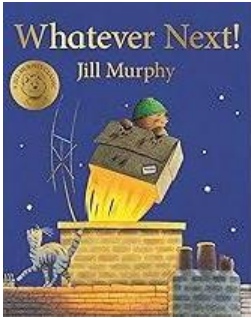
ARC

In the ARC we have been learning about celebrations this term. We have had a lot of opportunities to understand what celebrations are all about. There were birthdays and individual achievements, along with welcoming friends back to class happy and healthy. Christmas is coming up and our activities and lessons are about colour, smell, taste and drama. We had a lovely walk around Lakeside watching the season turning and we have visited Walkers Garden Centre looking at the Christmas lights and decorations.



Yellow Class

What fun we have had this term! We have loved our sensory stories 'Whatever Next!' and 'Aliens Love Underpants', maintaining our focus on a range of resources alongside the stories. Some of us enjoyed a trip to the Cinema and others went Bowling. We have spent time with Rosie on a 'Winter Wonderland' music adventure, exploring a range of instruments and listening to some angelic sounds. Yellow Class, you are all superstars! Well done for all your hard work.
Have a lovely Christmas 😊



Red Class

This term we have been learning about different buildings and also animals that live on a farm through our song.

We have been making choices using objects, photographs and symbols and using switches to listen to the animal sounds.

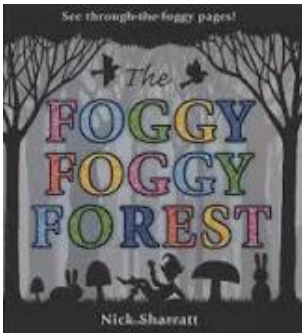
We have been building up our attention and engagement through our new EEP sessions.

We have been out to look at different buildings and also the local café. We have been learning about our bodies and how they move; rocking, swinging our arms and patting our tummy. We have been exploring mirrors and looking at our reflections too.



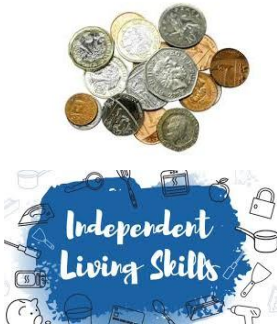
Green Class

Green Class have had a fantastic Autumn Term. We have explored a sensory story called 'Foggy Foggy Forrest' and engaged with a range of woodland activities, magic and fun. Our class had the opportunity to go to Sandall Park Café and enjoy a lovely class picnic and then walk around the park. We can't wait to see what exciting things we will get up to next term!



The Key

Students in The Key class have had an exciting and productive term, highlighted by their engaging trips to Meadowhall, where they practised real-life skills like navigating shops and making choices. In maths, they've been developing their understanding of money, recognising coins and notes, working out totals, and practising telling the time in everyday contexts. Their English learning has focused on improving reading skills, understanding texts, and building clearer sentence structures to express their ideas with confidence. Alongside academic progress, the students have also strengthened important personal skills, including cooking, maintaining good personal hygiene, and regulating emotions; helping them become more independent and self-aware in their daily lives.



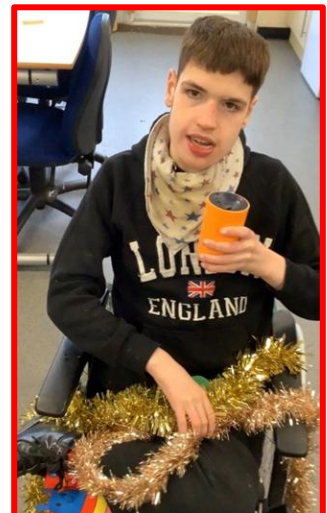
6th Form Hub

During this half term, students in The Hub have continued to learn about festivals and celebrations both in our country and around the world.

This provided great opportunities for some colourful art work.

We have practised skills during baking/cooking sessions towards accreditation in cookery.

Some pupil visited Walkers Nurseries to choose some decorations for the classroom and pupils have enjoyed Drama Circle sessions where scenarios around kindness and friendships were covered.



Blue Class

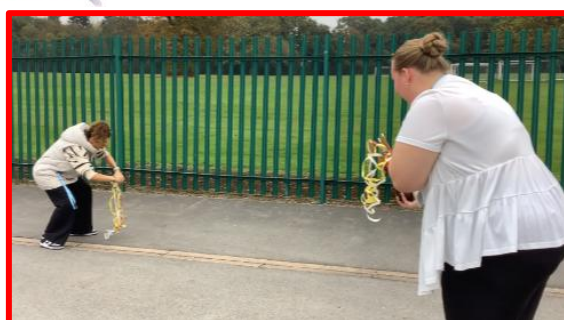
Blue Class have had an incredibly busy and exciting half term learning new things and having lots of fun along the way! We were lucky to have Forest School visit us, where we explored natural materials and created beautiful crafts.

Our Space topic has been a big hit — we made our own rockets and even launched them into “space” on launch day! We learned about the solar system, created our own planets, and loved every moment.

We also enjoyed a magical trip to the Lions’ Christmas Party where we met Santa himself.

Dance sessions with Anj have been full of energy and smiles, and we even had a surprise visit from a dinosaur! Another highlight was playing outside in the snow, catching snowflakes and watching them melt in our hands.

Our mischievous class elf has kept us on our toes too — he loves to climb and hide around the room! And of course, we celebrated loudly as we lifted the Heatherwood Boccia Trophy after winning the Class Championship Tournament. Kelly, our new class teacher, is super proud of every single member of Blue Class. What an amazing half term we’ve had — well done, Team Blue!





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



Heatherwood held its Spooktacular event on 16th October 2025.

Parents and carers were invited to join pupils in a range of autumn themed activities, including arts, crafts and messy play. The pumpkin patch photo booth was perfect for capturing lots of special memories.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, decorations or their time to make the event special for our pupils.



To all of the parents that are involved in Heatherwood Hands, your help is very much appreciated.



Our lovely Heatherwood Helping Hands held a bingo night back in October. They raised a fabulous £331. Well done HHH!



Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Fayre.

We raised a wonderful £359.72



This week, Heatherwood had a wonderful visit from Father Christmas and 2 of his Reindeer





A big Heatherwood “Thankyou”

At Heatherwood School we always like to contribute to fundraising causes. Here is a summary of what your kind donations have gone towards this academic year so far....



BBC Children in Need 2025 ~ £203.00



Jeans for Genes ~ £60.00



MacMillan Coffee Morning ~ £79.00



Royal British Legion, Poppy Appeal ~ £109.49





Important Information

Please remember to contact the School Office if your child is unable to come to school. 01302 322044

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.

Dates to Remember:

School opens to pupils on Monday 5th January 2026

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.



Find the best service for your illness or injury

Self care

Treat minor ailments such as diarrhoea and vomiting at home:
Keep stocked up: be prepared with essential medicines and supplies.

Useful items:

Aspirin; Paracetamol;
Antidiarrheal medicine;
Cough medicine; Plasters;
Thermometer; Antiseptic cream

Pharmacy

Your local pharmacy can help treat minor ailments including:

Acute ear infection;
Impetigo; Infected insect bite; Shingles; Sinusitis; Sore throat; and
Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs)



NHS 111

Non-emergency help:

- Feeling unwell?
- Unsure?
- Anxious?
- Need help?

Use 111 if you're unsure which service you need or require advice and guidance

Call 111 or visit www.111.nhs.uk

GP advice

Skilled team of medical professionals

- Lasting symptoms
- Chronic pain
- Long-term conditions
- Prescriptions



Doncaster Same Day Health Centre:

If you are unable to get an urgent appointment with your practice.



Call 0300 123 3103

Evening and weekend appointments available

Urgent care

Urgent treatment

- Simple fractures
- Sprains and breaks
- Cuts and burns

Mexborough Minor Injuries Unit:



Montagu Hospital,
Adwick Road,
Mexborough, S64 0AZ

Mental health

Donny Dot:

Connecting people of Doncaster to mental health and wellbeing information, advice, and support



In a mental health crisis, please phone the local service on **0800 804 8999** or call 111

Self-referral: 0800 112 0070 or call 111 Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)

- Red eye or eyelids
- Dry, gritty or uncomfortable eyes
- Eye irritation and inflammation
- A lot of recent discharge from the eye or watery eye
- Recently occurring flashes or floaters
- Painful eye
- Ingrowing lashes
- Recent and sudden loss of vision
- Foreign body in the eye

Emergency

Emergency Department or 999 for emergencies only:
Choking, Chest pain, Blacking out, Serious blood loss, Significant injury or trauma



Think pharmacy first

If you have sinusitis, shingles, sore throat, impetigo or a UTI, your pharmacist can help. Pharmacists can now provide treatment or some prescription medicine, if needed, for seven common conditions, without you seeing a GP.

Subject to age eligibility. Find out more, nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst

See your
pharmacist

Help us
help you