

HERONSHAW NEWS

OCTOBER 2020

FIRST HALF TERM BACK.

It seems like the start of the autumn term is now a distant memory. The first half term is always a busy time at Heronshaw. It was a pleasure to see our returning families during morning drop off and at pick up times. Also, it was a delight to welcome our newest families starting their journey here at Heronshaw.

For the majority of the children this was their first time back at school in over 6 months. The impact of being away from school has been huge and we do not underestimate this.

Our curriculum has been carefully reviewed and a recovery curriculum has been written with an emphasis on the key skills of reading, writing and maths. Through the teacher planning, regular assessment of children's understanding and additional interventions we are confident that our children will make sustained progress throughout the year.

During the first half term the staff led a series of booster groups for children, supporting those key skills of reading, writing and maths. We have reviewed the successes and will inform parents of the next series of booster groups that will run during the second half term. Children will be invited to sessions depending on their needs. All children will receive individualised support during this year focused on their needs and next steps.

The staff at Heronshaw have shown huge commitment to the children and the school since the pandemic began. Teaching has been quite different and the school staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that the children's wellbeing is at the heart of all we do as well as maintaining high standards of education.

I know that with government guidance and what seems like ever-changing goalposts for the whole country it can be a challenge at times. I am committed to ensuring that at Heronshaw we find solutions to respond to the ongoing uncertainty.

EMAILS AND TEXTS

We use Teachers2Parents, an online platform to send out important messages. These texts and emails go via the school database using information that is provided by parents on the initial registration form.

If you are not receiving texts or emails from the school then please do follow this up with the school office immediately.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR LEARNING

In year 2 we have been enjoying our PE sessions. We have been developing our skills of throwing, catching and bouncing a ball, and we most definitely have some budding MK Dons players after demonstrating some amazing dribbling and ball control skills this week. In addition to this, we also had a taster golf session which was a huge hit with the children.

In English we have been learning all about non-chronological reports. Our reports were packed with information and about space. Ask your children all about the amazing facts they have learnt! We enjoyed learning about space so much that we continued it into the art lessons. We made planets from paper mâché and painted them. We made a collage of Earth using different materials and drew pictures of the solar system using chalk. So, although we have had a rather messy half term, we have had great fun too!



NEW HERONSHAW WEBSITE

Our new school website launched in October. Over the coming weeks more functions will be added to the site. Please take time to explore the new site if you haven't already see it. Our school colours form part of the dynamic new site. There may be some small glitches and we are working on finding them.

News items will be featured in the site and all communication will also be saved here to make keeping track of events, news and details more manageable. We will continue to add links for parents and children to access. There is also a 'Contact Us' form when needed. Remember that we continue to have staff available to speak to daily.

Welcome to Heronshaw School



Parent Hub

A great place for parents and carers to find all the day-to-day



School News & Updates

Check out all of the wonderful things that have been happening



Children's Hub

A place for our children to learn more about exciting opportunities

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Join our Governing Body: We have spaces on our governing body for parents to join and become part of the team that ensure that we remain the successful school that we are. It may seem like a daunting prospect to be on the governing body, but the team will give you all the support needed to do this successfully.

What is required? You do not have to have experience of being on a governing body or working in education. A range of skills makes the team more productive. There are governor meetings held each term and decisions regarding the school are made collectively. We do need to increase the number of parents on our governing body. If you are interested to know more about the role and how you can help then please speak to Jamie Ainscow (Head of School) or Danielle Chapman (Chair of Governors).



READING BOOKS

Please share your child's reading book regularly and aim to read 5 times a week at home. This will support your child with their progress in learning new sounds; blending sounds to read simple words and to develop fluency.

The reading awards have been relaunched this year, so the more your child reads at home the more chance they have of winning a prize.



FUNDRAISING

Over the summer holiday the school invested in the development of the school playground. Our new addition, the sports pitch has been welcomed by the children. It is used daily for outdoor PE lessons and is enjoyed throughout break and lunch times too. We do have plans to continue with the development of the playground over the coming months and would welcome any ideas and fundraising opportunities. If you would like to be involved then please speak to the PTA or a staff member.



You can now find Heronshaw School on TheGivingMachine, a great fundraising site that lets you raise donations for Heronshaw School whenever you shop online. It's easy to use and doesn't cost you (or us) a penny!

TheGivingMachine is a fundraising charity setup to help other charitable causes raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via TheGivingMachine you will generate a free cash donation for us. With over 2,200 of your favourite retailers, including Amazon, Ebay, M&S, NEXT, Tui, Sainsbury, John Lewis & Partners and Waitrose & Partners, you are bound to find what you need and generate a donation.

To start raising free donations go to <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/heronshaw-school>

and join – it's that easy.

You can also download the free desktop reminder app to help you remember to always shop online via TheGivingMachine <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/shop-and-give/>

Thank you for your support.



BREAKFAST CLUB

If you are interested in your child attending breakfast club then you can book directly with Miss Sophie Lake.



7.45-8.40: Child 1-£3.50 (Sibling- £2.50)

8.00-8.40: Child 1- £2.50 (Sibling- £2.50)

8.15-8.40 Child 1- £1.50 (Sibling- £1.50)

STAFF TRAINING

We sometimes have parents ask about what the staff do during INSET days (**In-Service Training**). INSET and staff meetings focus on a range of staff development opportunities. Since September we have focused on:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Recovery curriculum and supporting children to make rapid progress
- English curriculum (reading and writing)
- Maths planning, mastery and challenge
- Importance of the environment to support learning
- Moderation of teacher judgments for writing

TERM DATES

AUTUMN 2 2020

School Starts - Monday 2nd November 2020

Break up for Christmas - Friday 18th December 2020

SPRING 2021

School Starts - Monday 4th January 2021

Break Up - Friday 12th February 2021

School Starts - Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Break Up for Easter - Friday 26th March 2021

SUMMER 2021

School Starts - Monday 12th April 2021

Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2021

Break Up - Friday 28th May 2021

School Starts - Monday 7th June 2021

Break Up for Easter - Monday 19th July 2021



ABOUT US

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