

# Heathfield Primary School

School Newsletter – January 2025



## A message from Mr Kirby-Bowstead Headteacher

*“Motivation is what gets you started; habit is what keeps you going!”*

It feels odd writing to you talking about 2025 already when we haven't even got Christmas out of the way yet, but we know you appreciate being given school updates as early as possible – so it's well worth keeping a screenshot of this newsletter (or picking a paper copy up from the front office) so you have anything important at your fingertips.

At this time of the year we think a lot about new year resolutions and doing things differently – I wonder if you have given any thought around this to your child's attendance and punctuality? We have a number of children who are late regularly – and they tell us they hate this! These children say they feel embarrassed coming into school late, that they feel like they are always one step behind their peers and that it makes them feel sad for the whole day. Our children with poor attendance tell us similar: they say that they feel they always need more help because of the things that they have missed, and that they feel they miss out on playing with their friends and having fun. We all know that attendance and punctuality is important – and all of our parents and carers *must* do their part to ensure their children don't feel this way! Get into those good habits of setting an alarm early, ensuring children are up and have had breakfast, and make sure the journey to school is well-planned to avoid lateness. And remember, we have our free breakfast club available for those who need it too – please check with the office if you require a space.

In terms of good habits, it has been great to see so many children meeting the challenge of reading *at least* three times a week at home – if not more! We have really enjoyed taking our Bookworm winners on their special visit to Waterstones to choose their very own book, and we will continue to do this every half term for those children who are in the good habit of reading regularly. We send a massive thank you to all of our parents and carers who support their children with this – whether it is reading with them, or giving them a reminder that they can read independently. Regular reading is not only a good predictor of later life success, employability and income, but also a good predictor of positive mental health – and I know your children's happiness is very important to you all.

See below for a few important upcoming dates for the Spring term – and a very happy new year to you all!

### **Important Dates**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January: School closed (PD Day).

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January: School reopens to children for the beginning of the Spring term.

wc. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January: We will be marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Sir William McMullen.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January: Using some of the money from our fund raising activities, our Early Years children will be welcoming a magical visitor into school for a magic show!

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January: Silent Disco Day – watch this space for more details!

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January: Escape Room Day – watch this space for more details!

Wc. Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Children's Mental Health Week – we will be marking this special week by learning even more about how to keep ourselves physically and mentally healthy.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February: Mental Health and Me - As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we will be holding an open evening for families to join us after school to take part in a wide range of activities focused on positive mental health, happiness and belonging.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February: NSPCC Number Day - As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we will be inviting children to come to school in number-themed attire!

wc. 17<sup>th</sup> February: World Religions Week – our children will be thinking about the different religions around the world, and how lucky we are to be part of such a diverse and inclusive community.

*The Heathfield Virtues:*

*kindness   courage   curiosity   fairness   resilience   respect*