

HEATHER GARTH STAR Monthly News



ISSUE 31

AUTUMN TERM 2 2023

REMINDER -

PLEASE NOTE - To book for the breakfast club, which is open from 7.30 am every morning, every school day, please contact Julie Quinn on 01709894149

SCHOOL BREAKS UP ON THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 2023

(FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2023 IS AN INSET DAY)

AND RETURNS ON

MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2024

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A LOVELY CHRISTMAS AND WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2024

FUNDRAISING

Non-uniform day, Tuesday 7 November 2023 - £185.15

Children in Need, Friday 17 November 2023 - £210.13

Thank you for your continued support.



COFFEE MORNING

Don't forget to visit our
coffee morning every
Wednesday

8.30am—10.00am
in the Blue Building



Our Parent and Toddler runs:

Tuesday 8.30am—10.00am

PARENTS/CARERS/GRANDPARENTS -

If you have a toddler and would like to join
us, please come along to the Blue Building.

YOU WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME!

Extra Curricular Clubs

<u>GRASSROOTS</u>	Day of Club	Time of Club	Number of Sessions
<u>Year Groups</u>			
Years 1 and 2	Monday (8 January to 5 February)	3.05 pm – 4.30 pm	5 weeks - No charge
Years 3 and 4	Wednesday (10 January to 7 February)	3.05 pm – 4.30 pm	5 weeks - No charge
Years 5 and 6	Thursday (11 January to 8 February)	3.05 pm – 4.30 pm	5 weeks - No charge

Year Groups	Day & Time of Club	Details of Club	Teachers	Number of Sessions and Costs
Year 1 and 2	Tuesday (9 January to 6 February) 3.05 pm to 4.05 pm	Cartoon Club - In the club, the children will have the opportunity to take part in exciting activities such as creating super hero masks, super hero craft activities, super hero yoga and will finish with a super heroes and villains party.	Mrs Jackson	5 weeks - £10.00
Year 3 and 4	Thursday (11 January to 8 February) 3.05 pm to 4.05 pm	Cooking Club - In the club, the children will be developing a range of skills as well as creating a variety of delicious treats. We will be weighing and measuring ingredients, developing skills of rolling, scooping, mixing and chopping and learning about food health and safety. The children will have the opportunity to create a range of different sweet and savoury foods.	Mrs Brown & Mrs Roach	5 weeks - £10.00
Year 3, 4 and 5	Monday (8 January to 5 February) 3.05 pm to 4.05 pm	Computing Club - In the club, the children will have the opportunity to deepen their learning by using webpages and apps that we have been looking at during computer lessons. EG- Coding in scratch, Drawing using digital paint, PowerPoint to create a presentation. <u>There will be no club on Monday 15 January it will be on Tuesday 16 January instead.</u>	Mrs Driffield-Mobbs	5 weeks - £10.00

SPRING TERM 1 & 2

NON-UNIFORM DAY - CITIZENSHIP DAY

15 JANUARY 2024

Our 3rd non-uniform day in order to raise funds to help reduce the cost of school education trips for parents and carers. £1.00 Per child.

Thank you for your continued support!

SAFER INTERNET DAY

[Safer Internet Day](#) is on 6 February 2024 and will be celebrated in the UK with the theme:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, MANAGING INFLUENCE AND NAVIGATING CHANGE ONLINE

Safer Internet Day 2024 celebrates the amazing range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, whilst also looking at how young people can separate fact from fiction.

6 FEBRUARY 2024

The campaign focuses on how we can decide what to trust online, supporting young people to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.

The day will also look at the emotional impact navigating a misleading online world can have on young people and why it is important to create a supportive, critical and questioning culture online that encourages debate and discussion. We want to give young people the skills to support one another, and the strategies to spot and speak out against harmful and misleading content online.

HALF TERM WEEK

W/C 12 FEBRUARY 2024

School breaks up for half term on **Friday 9 February 2024** and returns on **Tuesday 20 February 2024 (Monday 19 February is an INSET day)**

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

W/C 4 MARCH 2024

Fairtrade Fortnight sets aside two weeks every year in which the principles and products of fair trade are promoted and the links between consumers and producers are highlighted.

WORLD BOOK DAY

7 MARCH 2024

This year World Book Day is being celebrated on **Thursday 7 March 2024**. Reading is something we really value at Heather Garth and we understand the importance of children getting enjoyment from their reading. As a result, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school with a variety of fun and exciting activities throughout the day. As in previous years, children can come to school dressed as their favourite well known book characters. Children should **NOT** come as footballers or film characters; the aim is to get children thinking about the books they read.

Further details about the book fair will follow once we receive confirmation from the organisers.

SPRING TERM 1 & 2

SCIENCE WEEK

THE THEME FOR 2024 IS 'TIME'

W/C 11 MARCH 2024

Time is key to so many discoveries in science, technology, engineering and maths. Evolution looks at how plants and animals changed over a long period of time, the Earth's movements show us why we have seasons and different time zones. In fact, the study of all the celestial bodies in our universe are centred around time; we talk about stars and planets being lightyears away – the distance light travels over a year.

RED NOSE DAY

15 MARCH 2024

This year we are asking children to come to school wearing something **RED**, not fancy dress and no face paints please. We are asking for a donation for the non-uniform.

Also, we intend to order red noses which will be on SALE from the School Office. When they are gone, they are GONE! All profits will go to Comic Relief .

EASTER RAFFLE AND EASTER EGG COMPETITION

We are again having an Easter raffle. The staff at Heather Garth donate all the Easter eggs for this raffle so all money raised goes towards school funds.

Raffle tickets are £1.00 per strip and will be sent home with your child
(if you require further raffle tickets, these are available from the school office).

Please put your child's name on each individual ticket on one side of the strip and return with the cash in the money bag provided. Please return the raffle tickets to school no later than Tuesday 19 March in order for the raffle to be drawn on Wednesday 20 March.

20 MARCH 2024

We want all prizes to be claimed when we draw the raffle and therefore if a ticket is drawn out with no name on it, we will just pick out another ticket for that prize. There will be LOTS AND LOTS OF EASTER EGGS TO BE WON which will have been donated by Staff/Parents.

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Once again, we are holding an Easter egg competition. Please encourage your child to enter the competition by decorating a hard boiled egg. This will take place on Wednesday 20 March and the winners will be announced during assembly. There will be two winners per class and the prize is an Easter egg. You will be able to check out the winners on our website.

There will be a prize for every child who enters!

TWO WEEK EASTER BREAK

W/C 25 MARCH AND
W/C 1 APRIL 2024

School breaks up for half term on **Friday 22 March 2024** and returns on
Monday 8 April 2024

EYFS - FS1 NEWS

This half term has been very busy. We have learnt all about the Festival of Diwali, the festival of lights. We have made Diya's in clay, Rangoli patterns, and Mehndi patterns. We have also learnt about other festivals, such as Remembrance Day, Loy Krathong, Christmas and how these are celebrated around the world.

We have enjoyed learning about Bonfire night and what we have seen, heard and tasted and we created many wonderful firework images in different ways, painting, drawing, and building.

We have loved learning all about nocturnal animals and reading our focus text of 'Owl Babies' and we have busy painting the owl babies (Sarah, Percy and Bill) and the Mummy owl.

In phonics we have been listening to the sounds around us and how they are different. We have been identifying the sounds at the beginning of words and have been looking at body percussion and discovering the different sounds we can make with our mouths (like pop, shh, mmmm, and lots of others).

In maths we have been developing our skills counting to 5 and recognising objects up to five without counting (subitizing). We have also investigated objects weight and identifying things that are heavy and light.

In physical development we have been practising lots of different ways of moving and have been practicing finding 'safe spaces' ready to do activities. We have also practiced our cutting and our name writing and mark making skills.

We have had a fantastic time designing and creating some Christmas biscuits – they were yummy! This helped us to practise our gross and fine motor skills in a very fun way. We have also been enjoying all the fun things Christmas brings – we have created some wonderful surprises for Christmas (shhh it's a secret!), let's just say there was lots of glitter, glue and paint involved!

All the children have worked super hard with the Christmas concert and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did!

Everyone has worked super hard this term – enjoy the rest and we hope Father Christmas brings you lots of wonderful things. Enjoy the holidays – well done everyone!



Please take a look at our blog to see regular updates and photos of what the children have been up to and learning about.

EYFS - FS2 NEWS

This half term we have focused on different celebrations. As part of our 'Understanding of the World' focus – FS2 have been learning about 'Diwali' – the festival of light, 'Bonfire Night' and 'Christmas'.

We all watched videos of firework displays and talked about the different sounds the fireworks made. Some of us chose to write these words independently e.g. 'pop' 'fizz'. We discussed the importance of keeping safe around fire and fireworks. FS2 made some wonderful firework pictures using a range of materials.

We have all gained knowledge about how people around the world celebrate the Diwali. We made our own Diya lamps using clay. We also created our own rangoli patterns using loose parts. Children also enjoyed drawing rangoli patterns outdoors using chalk. We also used our class 'Light Box' to use different 2d shapes to create our own rangoli patterns.

The children focused on 'Remembrance Day' and the importance of wearing a poppy. The children were very creative in making different representations of poppies. We saw excellent drawing, painting and cutting skills displayed.

As part of our focus on 'Christmas' – we have made Christmas cards – lots of children have been independently writing their own messages in their cards using their phonics knowledge! FS2 have enjoyed a range of Christmas crafts! We have been singing songs and rehearsing for our performance of the 'Christmas Story'. We were very proud of our performance to our families. The children showed excellent concentration and were confident acting, singing and dancing. We have been learning about the story of the birth of Jesus. We have also learned about different ways people celebrate Christmas around the world – comparing them to our own traditions.

Our core texts have included the 'Owl Babies'. We have become confident re-telling this story, talking about the characters and key events in the text. We enjoyed drawing the characters and labelling them – showing good letter formation.

We are making great progress with our Phonics sessions. Lots of us can now read short words independently. We are also enjoying lots of maths learning – we are becoming more knowledgeable each week about shapes and numbers. We have been so impressed with the progress our children are making!



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SPRING TERM 1


FS2

FS PARENT SESSION—STAY AND PLAY, 'PREPARING FOR THE BALL'

As part of our focus on traditional tales and stories, we would like to invite you to our 'Stay and Play' session 'Preparing for the Ball'. Morning session will be 9.00 am until 10.00 am and the afternoon session will be 1.50pm until 2.50 pm. More details to follow.

30 JANUARY 2023

We will be preparing for the 'Ball' which Cinderella will be attending. Activities will include: baking buns, writing invitations, making decorations and sewing a dress for Cinderella.



YEAR 1 NEWS

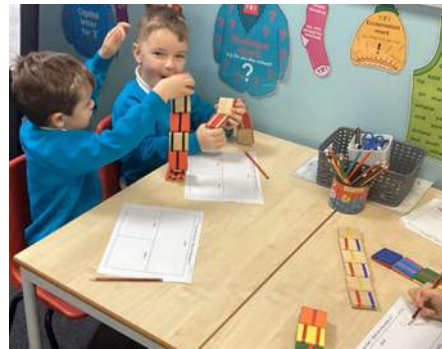
This half term, Year 1's learning has been 'Toys Then and Now'. In History we have been learning about Victorian toys and comparing them to our own toys. We have learnt how toys have changed over time and predicted what we think toys will look like in the future. We also took part in a workshop all about toys from the past. We had the chance to play with lots of toys from long ago. 'It was so exciting!'

In art our focus has been Painting and mixed media inspired by the work of Clarice Cliff. We really enjoyed practicing our painting skills through, painting with colour, printing with paint and exploring colour mixing. We created some Clarice Cliff plates.

In computing our focus has been coding. We have been learning about algorithms, decomposition and debugging.

In RE we have been focusing on Islam and why some places special. We talked about our own special place and why it was important to us. We also learnt about special places of worship for the Islam faith. We talked about why some times of the year are special to Christians and listened to the story about Jesus. We also acted out the Christmas story in small groups.

In Spanish our focus has been 'Greetings'. We have learnt how to say hello, introduce ourselves, and ask how our friends how they are feeling.



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SPRING TERM 1

YEAR 1

YEAR 1 VISIT TO CONISBROUGH CASTLE

5 MARCH 2024

Our History learning is Towers Tunnels and Turrets. We are visiting Conisbrough Castle to learn about what it was like to live in a Castle and who lived in a castle.

YEAR 1 PARENT SESSION- TOWERS, TUNNELS AND TURRETS

12 MARCH 2024

As part of Year 1's Towers, Tunnels and Turrets learning we would like to invite you to join us for a 'Creative Castles Session'. This will give you the chance to support your child to create their own castle.



YEAR 2 NEWS

This term in year two, we continued our Geography work by looking at and exploring Kenya.

We found out where Kenya was and looked at the weather, the landscape and how people live in Kenya. We looked at rural life and also urban life in big cities such as Nairobi. We also found out about the Maasai way of life and compared it to our own life! In DT we have looked at linkages and moving mechanisms. We have used split pins to create a linkage system. This is our 'prototype' for our moving monster!



In Literacy, we really enjoyed writing our story called 'Stardust'. We created some amazing sentences for our class story and then used these ideas to write our own stories. We are definitely becoming fantastic authors! In maths we worked really hard with addition and subtraction and we are practising different strategies for adding 2 two-digit numbers and solving word problems. The children are starting to see how known number facts and place value can help you to work out other number problems! We have just begun finding out about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties too.

We also had a great time with our grown ups at our parent session based around Africa. We could draw animals, make an African necklace, taste fruit from the story 'Handa's Surprise' and explore the African instruments!



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SPRING TERM 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 2 VISIT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES MUSEUM

31 JANUARY 2024

On the 31 January, Year 2 will visit the National Emergency Services Museum in Sheffield as part of their learning based on 'The Great Fire of London'. This trip will be interactive as well as informative!

YEAR 2 PARENT SESSION, EASTER CRAFTS

19 MARCH 2024

Come and enjoy an afternoon of easter crafts! Make Easter biscuits, an Easter card or an Easter wreath! Further details to follow.



YEAR 3 NEWS

This half term the children in year 3 have been learning about The Stone Age to The Iron Age. They have been learning about when this part of prehistory occurred in our history timeline as well as thinking about the achievements made then. It was also lovely to see so many parents join our learning on our parent session. The children have also been learning about the skeleton and muscles in science and about the functions of a skeleton. They then carried out an experiment to look at patterns between the length of our femur and the distance we can jump. In computing, the children have been learning about coding and how we can use the 'Scratch' software to help with this. They have looked at loops and how to debug any algorithms that they create. Year 3 have continued to work on their times tables and have focussed on 8 x tables this half term. They have carried out different games and quick fire questions to help learn these.



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SPRING TERM 1

YEAR 3

PARENT SESSION—MAKING SHADOW PUPPETS

30 JANUARY 2024

Linking with our Science work all about 'light', the children in year 3 will be making shadow puppets and would love for you to come and join us with this activity. Details to follow.

NATIONAL MINING MUSEUM VISIT

1 MARCH 2024

Our learning for the spring term is all about “Mining”. To support our learning we have arranged to take Year 3 children on a visit to the **National Coal Mining Museum on Friday 1 March 2024**. Here the children will have the opportunity to explore different mining exhibits and learn about mining life. They will also take part in a tour of the mine where they will experience some ‘hands on’ activities and areas of science.



YEAR 4 NEWS

This half term, we learnt about 'Mountains – The Alps'. As part of their geography learning, Year 4 have learnt what the difference is between a hill and a mountain, the names of some mountains and mountain ranges and what the highest peaks are in each continent. They have also learnt how mountains were formed and what the climate is like in mountainous places. The children have located mountains and ranges on a map and looked at the countries that the Alps spread over. They have learnt about how the Alps differs during different seasons and why so many tourists visit the Alps, this included environmental, social and economic impacts. As part of their science lessons, the children have learnt all about living things and their habitats including: being able to recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways, how to use classification keys to help, group, identify and name a variety of living things in the local and wider environment and recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose danger to living things. In Religious Education the children have looked at the impact of some of Jesus' teachings on Christians, how Christian places of worship care for people in need and how Christians in different parts of the world celebrate Christmas differently. Finally, a BIG, BIG thankyou to all of the parents that attended our Christmas craft parent session. Check out our blog for more information about our learning and to see more photos.



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SPRING TERM 1

YEAR 4

12 JANUARY 2024

19 JANUARY 2024

26 JANUARY 2024

2 FEBRUARY 2024

9 FEBRUARY 2024

SWIMMING LESSON—WATH LEISURE CENTRE

ROMAN HISTORY TO LIFE WORKSHOP

23 JANUARY 2024

In Spring 1 we will be learning about 'Romans' and as part of our learning we have invited History of Life to come in to school to deliver a 'Roman' workshop. The workshop will take place on Tuesday 23 January 2024. During the day, the children will learn all about the Romans through investigating Roman artefacts, find out about metal and bone work, wood and pottery household items, glass and money and much much more.

6 FEBRUARY 2024

CLAY ROMAN POT PARENT SESSION

As part of Year 4's history learning, the 'Romans', parents will be invited in to join their child in making a replica clay Roman pot.

23 FEBRUARY 2024

1 MARCH 2024

8 MARCH 2024

15 MARCH 2024

22 MARCH 2024

SWIMMING LESSON—WATH LEISURE CENTRE



YEAR 5 NEWS

Year 5 have been learning about Trade around the world. We have looked at importing and exporting goods around the world. We have focused on Fairtrade, and how this has made a positive impact on the world we live in today. We then looked at what is meant by a global supply chain, and how this impacts everyone in the world. When looking at importing goods from El Salvador, we looked at biographies from two children that live there and their daily lives, we quickly realised how lucky we are! During Design and Technology, we have been designing a book sleeve, during this we have experienced various fastenings and their advantages and disadvantages. We then realised sewing our book sleeves it took a lot of time and concentration, but not to worry Mrs Howe was able to share her expert knowledge with the class. Throughout Autumn 2 Mrs Driffield-Mobbs taught Dance in PE and we learnt how to create routines in sync with our partners, whilst Mr Rippley taught us more about gymnastics and how to progress on with our balances and rolls. In computing we spend the term coding, we quickly realised that creating the perfect music for a film soundtrack using scratch is what can make a film scene so important, as it gives you a deeper feeling of what is happening. During science, we looked at animals including humans and explored human life cycles, we learnt what happens to us as we become older.



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SPRING TERM 1

YEAR 5

YEAR 5 PARENT SESSION—GREEK MOSAIC POTS


9 FEBRUARY 2024

During Autumn 2 we will be learning about the 'Ancient Greeks'. You will be invited to attend our parent session on 9 February 2023 where you will be able to help your child to make/decorate a Greek mosaic pot.

GREEK DAY WORKSHOP

15 MARCH 2024

As part of year 5's learning 'Ancient Greeks' we have invited History of Life to come in to school to deliver a 'Greek Day' workshop. The workshop will take place on 15 March 2024. During the day, the children will investigate Greek artefacts, find out about Greek clothes, medicine, games and pottery. They will also find out about Greek children and schools and the role of girls and women. They will use the Greek alphabet to translate Greek words into English and translate the names of some Greek Gods. Finally, they will investigate what made the Classical Greeks so successful.



YEAR 6 NEWS

This half term, in history, Year 6 have studied the Ancient Kingdom of Benin. We have learnt about where it is located and compared it with what was going on in Britain at the same time. We have studied the societal structure, about the life of the Obas and how life differed for the rich and poor. We have also learnt about the importance of trade to the Kingdom of Benin and how the kingdom declined over time.

In Science we have studied Electricity. We have looked at electrical symbols and learned how to draw circuits using these. We created our own circuits and then carried out a number of scientific investigations to see whether bulbs or motors shone or moved differently when the circuit was changed.

In our Computing lessons, we have focused on programming and completed an introduction to Micro; bits. This has included learning about algorithms, writing codes and loops.

In art we have been focusing on painting and mixed media. We studied the artists David Hockney and Fiona Rae. We explored their works and how art conveys a message through imagery and symbols along with drawing techniques. We produced our own street art which conveyed powerful messages.

In RE we learnt how the Bible is a 'library' of books written at different times by different people and how the Bible conveys important messages about the Christian beliefs.

In PE we have been working on our dance skills and in Music we have looked at pulse and rhythm.

We also had a fantastic visit to Crucial Crew this half term where we learnt all about how to stay safe as we are becoming older and more independent.



Please take a look at our blog to see regular updates and photos of what the children have been up to and learning about.



SPRING TERM 1


YEAR 6

DRAX VISIT

2 FEBRUARY 2024

This half term, Year 6 will be studying sustainability and climate change as part of their Geography unit. As part of our studies, we have arranged a visit to Drax Power Station on **Friday 2 February 2024**.

The children will have a tour of the station which will include learning about the biomass domes, the cooling towers, the turbine hall, the control room and how they generate electricity now, as well as plans for sustainable energy, in the future.





JOIN THE PTA

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION

WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US

TO HELP ARRANGE AND RUN FUN EVENTS FOR OUR
CHILDREN

AND TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL

Thank you for all your support this Autumn term. Together we have managed to raise £163.80 from the Toy Sale held in November and a profit of £251.82 from the Christmas Fair.

You can find out more about the Heather Garth PTA via our facebook page. Search for us at Heather Garth PTA for all the latest updates and to find out more about what is happening.



Heather Garth
Primary Academy
Stars Aiming High