

Value of the week:

We had a change to our programme focusing on health this week, because Mrs Dallas launched a Readathon in assembly on Monday, and you should have received an email about this earlier this week. More information can also be found at <http://readforgood.org>
Our Readathon is open now, and runs until the deadline of Friday 23rd March, raising money for children in hospital. Grown-ups, please feel free to join in and let's see how many books we can read by then!

Achiever of the week:

Minibeasts: Nell C
Minibeasts: Phoenix S
Tigers: Ethan H
Zebras: Jack C
Penguins: Yusuf
Giraffes: Finley P, Leo D and Liam B
Lions: Fenella McC
Meerkats: Abi D
Eagles: Ewan C & Richy G

Value of the week:

Minibeasts: Liam C
Minibeasts: Matty S
Tigers: Luke B
Zebras: Zoe E
Penguins: Valentin D
Giraffes: Artjoms M
Lions: Erin C
Meerkats: Seb D
Eagles: Jemma W

Arts Week review:

What a wonderful week of artistic and creative activities!
The school is looking lovely – and I know that you will enjoy looking at our displays during our Parents' Evening sessions the second week back after half term.
We would also like to give you the chance to come and see your child in class during a normal day: more information on this will follow after half term, but please keep the afternoon of Wednesday 21st March free (from 2.15pm.)
Thank you so much to Tammy and her team for the fantastic meal yesterday – the hall looked lovely and the food was excellent.
Some of KS2 took their hand at some origami – this may be something to continue to explore over the holidays, especially if the days are wet and cold, as many children really enjoyed trying to master this art!

Tuesday 20th February:

There is a lot happening on the first day back after half term!

Giraffes class – please remember that you are going on the farm trip, so please come in warm clothes and bringing wellies.

Year 5s taking part in cycle training – this is your first session and it is essential that you bring your bike and cycle helmet.

Parents' Evening sessions:

These are now open for booking. Please see the attached letter for more information. Please note that these meetings are not usually suitable for children as it is important to be able to have a frank conversation between parents and professionals, which you can then choose to explain as you see fit. If it is not possible for you to organise child care to cover the time of the appointments, you can bring children with you, but there will not be staff around to supervise them (and they can't simply go in to Wraparound unless you have already booked.)

Attendance for last week...

...was 97.1% - well done all!

Keeping Active...

There is some information attached about some Half Term Hubs, for 5-15 year olds in case this is of interest.

Homework in Year 1 and 2:

After half term all children in Year Two will be coming home with a piece of homework each Friday. It will be Reading, Writing and Maths for the first three weeks and then it will be a short piece of each sent home weekly. We expect the children to carry on learning their spellings each week and reading for at least 10 minutes each evening. This extra homework is set to help develop knowledge and skill needed for sitting their SATs in May. We strongly encourage your child to complete each piece of homework with you, with lots of discussion, ready to hand into their class teacher the following Wednesday. There will also be some practise SATs papers coming home with your child at the end of term too. Keep checking their book bags! The best never rest!

Year One will come home with one piece of Reading, Writing or Maths which will alternate each week.

If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to ask one of the team. Many thanks in advance for all of your support: working together really does make a difference to your child.

Half term challenge for reception!

Half term challenge for reception to tell their parents what they know about Chinese New Year, show them how to make lucky envelopes or lanterns and possibly create a Chinese 'junk model' dragon like those we saw in the online parade.

Reception Reminders:

Please remember to use the message book in the box outside the gate in the mornings to communicate things such as a change to pick up arrangements or that someone has had a bad night. It is essential that staff are able to concentrate on the wellbeing and safety of the children at the start of the day without distractions.

You will also notice that a member of the team shuts the small gate when children have come through, while they distribute wipes and get children into the classrooms. This is to make sure that we don't have any escapees! If you arrive after that small gate has been closed, please wait with your child until the other children are taken in and a staff member will come to open the gate and let them in. Thank you.

Request for resources!

Could children in Zebras and Penguins bring in 2 large (1-2 Litre) empty water bottles each for a DT project that is happening after half term.

Tigers, Zebras and Penguins will be working on a Superhero Topic next term: if anyone has any old comics that they do not need anymore, please bring them in to give to one of the team as this would be really useful. Thank you.

Parking and drop off:

We have been asked to remind parents to be considerate when they are parking near the school. Please take note of signs and of roadworks when choosing where to leave cars, and please ensure that you drive at a sensible speed: we have heard of a few cars driving very fast around the roundabout. Thank you.



Wraparound: a message from Steph:

Thank you to everyone who has completed a booking form for next term. There are still places available every day in Breakfast Club, however After School Club is extremely busy and close to being full on some evenings. Therefore, if you have a casual booking and no longer require the space please inform me asap to avoid being charged and allowing the space to be refilled.

This also means that parents can't assume that there will be spaces if they forget to book: when we reach our maximum number we simply can't take more children.

The Extended Services team need to always ensure the safety of our students. Therefore can I remind parents/carers **not** to let other parents or visitors into the school when a member of staff is not present. Of equal importance is the outside gate: I ask that this remains shut at all times.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact the team if you have feedback/information that would be helpful to know about your child or about the service in general. We strive to provide high standards, but to achieve this we always looking at ways we can polish what we do! Please speak to a member of the team or message me at swoodman@heyfordparkfreeschool.org.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 19th February – Inset day for school staff

Tuesday 20th February – first day back after half term

Tuesday 20th February – Giraffes on a trip to Greatworth Farm – please let Miss Chalmers know next week if you can support.

Tuesday 20th February – first session of Cycle Training for selected Year 5s – children should come home with a letter today: don't forget your bikes!

Wednesday 21st February – Parent Drop-in sessions 2pm and 6pm with Mrs Healey and Mrs Hughes

Thursday 22nd February – Lions on a trip to Greatworth Farm

Tuesday 27th February, Wednesday 28th February and Thursday 1st March – Parents' Evenings for Primary parents: booking will be open by the middle of next week and we will send an email out when appointments can be booked.

Tuesday 27th February – Meerkats on a trip to Greatworth Farm

Thursday 1st March – Eagles on a trip to Greatworth Farm

Wednesday 21st March – come and see your child in their classroom (from 2:15pm, more details to follow after half term.)

Have a lovely half term!

Mrs Hughes