

Welcome to our new look Newsletter!

What's on the week we return ...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Onside Coaching 3.15-4.30 £4.00 per session Multi Sports All welcome!	Theatre-Train 3.15—4.14 £4.50 per session Dance All welcome!		Music for Otters	Celebration Assembly

Dates for diary: PTA planning a disco on 10th November—more info to follow! Non Uniform day on 1st December!

After School Clubs

We are delighted to have two after school clubs starting after half term! We have spent a long time deciding on the best enrichment activities the school can host for your children, it is important we get this right!

Onside Coaching work with children in schools throughout Warwickshire and offer a variety of clubs; at Heathcote they are offering a multi sports club for all ages, covering a wide range of activities to support sports skills, gross motor skills and have fun!

We also have a dance club starting, run by a qualified teacher with a passion for drama and dance; again open to all ages.

We hope to have plenty of our children sign up to take part and places will be offered on a first come first served basis. If more sign up than the club can take we will establish a waiting list.

The letters for both clubs are on the website if you have missed them, please pop into the office to sign up before the end of the week.



Counting and den building in Hedgehogs this week!

Memory Boxes in Otters

This half term Otters topic has been focussed on making their memory boxes. The topic is all about their "living past", this has included exploring artefacts, sharing personal memories and looking at comparing their experiences with those of others in different cultures and countries.

Today the Otters shared their memory boxes with the Hedgehogs in a special exhibition in the hall, explaining exactly what it was all about.



**Tegan and her
Memory Box**

Spotlight on Excellence...



Reading is an essential life long skill, a skill that not only provides much joy through life but enable children and adults to access learning. Heathcote sees reading as an opportunity to develop a love for learning and we aim to inspire children through our own love of books and passion for stories.

As you will now be aware books will be going home with your children, some have words and some, in Hedgehogs, might not. We want you to enjoy sharing these books with your child. Through thorough research, practice and experience I do not see the impact on a child's progress through sending home lots of homework sheets to complete. For this reason we do not send home piles of homework. However, it is absolutely essential that you share the books that come home with your child to support their reading progress. It is lovely to read the many comments we see in their reading diaries and great to see that enjoyment of sharing a book together. It is sad if we see that a book hasn't even been taken out of the bag, we know pressures on time are great, but 10 minutes a day will make all the difference. Mrs Jeffries

Myths and Legends...

A selection of comments and misconceptions we sometimes face

"My child is doing better than my friend's child"

Engaging with a competitive Mum or Dad is a 'lose-lose' situation! If your child is 'ahead' of theirs, they may hate you for it, if yours is 'behind theirs' you will end up fuming at their smugness! The fact is, that all children achieve at different levels and are better at different things. What really matters is that ALL children make great progress at their own level and enjoy learning.

Academic Year 2017-2018

Please note—check dates, as one was incorrect last week. These are all on the website calendar.

Autumn Term 2018

Staff Inset Day	Friday 20th October
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 23rd October
Parents Evening	Monday 13th November
Parents Evening	Tuesday 14th November
Christmas Fayre 3.30	Friday 15th December
Nativity School Hall 2.00	Tuesday 19th December
School Finishes for Christmas	Friday 22nd December

Spring Term 2018

Staff Inset Day	Friday 5th January
Children Return to School	Monday 8th January
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 19th February
World Book Day	1st March
Parents Evening	19th March
Parents evening	20th March
Easter Event	Thursday 29th March
School Finishes (Easter)	Thursday 29th March
Bank Holiday	Friday 30th March

Summer Term 2018

Children Return to School	Monday 16th April
Bank Holiday	Monday May 7th
Staff inset day	Friday 25th May
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 28th May
Staff Inset Day	Friday 22nd June
Parent Meetings	Wk beg 25th June
Sports Day 2.00	Monday 2nd July
School Finishes (Summer)	Friday 20th July

These dates may be subject to change if necessary.

New and amended dates shown in bold.

Parents Evening

As you can see, we have scheduled our parents for the year, the first in November and the second in March. We will also meet with parents, if required, following reports being sent out at the end of June.

Our very clever website will soon allow you to book appointments online. I understand parents have work commitments, so we will have this up and running as soon as we can. By providing two days and different time options we hope to be able to meet with all of you. If for some reason you cannot make the appointments given we will arrange another time, however we ask if you could please try and

Playground and Punctuality

Over the half term we are expecting our playground to be resurfaced and the land prepared and seeded to give us a beautiful grassy field for the summer! In the meantime I must ask you not to let your children run on the field...not only does this cause muddy problems for Clive (our amazing caretaker) it will also stop the seeds from taking.

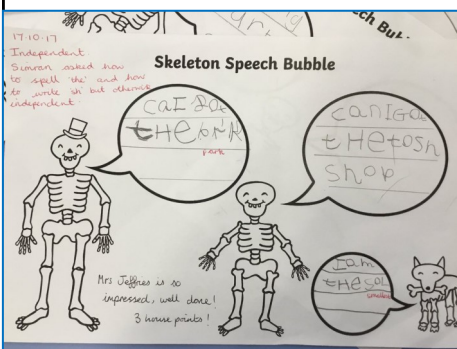
I must also stress the importance of children getting off their scooters and bikes in the morning and not getting on them until they are out of school in the afternoon. It is not safe to have children biking and scootering around the playground.

We discussed the importance of attendance in last week's newsletter and I would like to reiterate the need for your children to arrive in school on time. Not only does this mean they are ready to learn right from the start, but it is stressful for them if they arrive a bit late and walk into a class already settled and working. Being there right from the beginning of the day is really important.

I know these messages may seem like nagging—but they really are important for us all to remember.

The Importance of Early Years

In Hedgehogs we set up role play areas. Role play is important for children's cognitive development. Children will be called upon to recall past experiences and to act accordingly in the 'game'. They might be acting out using the 'supermarket', or going to the "doctors". Children will have to solve problems, communicate with other 'actors' and learn about other experiences. This week the role play has been based upon their class text "Funny Bones" - I think I have been diagnosed with something a number of times!



**Some
super
writing,
Simran!**