



# Heathlands Primary Academy

## A message from Mr McMahon

As we reach the end of the first half term, I wanted to break away from the weekly bitesize news and give a more in depth summary of what has been happening in a hugely positive return to school. This half term has been packed with enriching opportunities for our children, including exciting visits, inspiring visitors and a wide range of in-school activities which will be mentioned in this newsletter.

We were also pleased to host a well-attended Parent Forum, where the key takeaway was a shared commitment to further engaging our school community in future events. Thank you to all who contributed—your voices help shape our school.

Attendance continues to be a key focus. While our current rate stands at 94%, which is 2% below our target, we are proud to celebrate the 124 pupils who have achieved 100% attendance this half term—an excellent achievement!

We look forward to building on this strong start as we move into the next half term.

I hope you have a restful week and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Best wishes,  
Mr McMahon

## OPAL Outdoor Play



We're thrilled to share how OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) has been transforming lunchtimes across our school! Thanks to your generous donations, we will be able to enrich our outdoor spaces with exciting new stations over the next half term.

This half term children have embraced mixed-year play, building friendships and developing social skills across age groups. We've seen a noticeable increase in physical activity, creativity, and cooperative play. What's more, first aid and behaviour incidents have significantly reduced, showing the positive impact of purposeful, engaging outdoor experiences. We are delighted that our trim trail is now in use- just remember not to use this outside of school hours!

**'There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing'**

We want to increase outdoor play over the winter months and we are asking that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather. We are encouraging children to bring welly boots into school and to wear water proof coats.

Thank you again for your continued support—your contributions are making a real difference!

# Visits and Visitors

## Year 4's Roman Visitor

Our day was led by Sergio, we journeyed back in time to discover the fascinating history of Rome and its legendary figures. We learnt about how the Romans expanded their empire including invading Britain or Britannia as the Romans called it. The day was packed with so many fun events – from playing an ancient Roman game called Delta where we had to try and score the most points, to solving a thrilling classroom quiz by hunting for hidden clues. The highlight was re-enacting the dramatic final battle of Queen Boudicca! Our workshop helped to bring the past to life and we have been able to use everything we learned to enhance our learning in the classroom.



## Selly Manor- Year 5

The children of year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Selly Manor, where they explored fascinating aspects of Tudor life. They had great fun discovering and playing with traditional Tudor toys such as quoits, cup and ball, spinning top, and their very own version of bowling. They also found it intriguing to learn how the Tudors prepared their food — from cooking over open fires to using ingredients (very different from what we eat today). They were amazed at how much easier it is for us to cook and eat in modern times compared to the effort and time it took during the Tudor period!



## Blists Hill

Year 6 had a brilliant day exploring Blists Hill Victorian Town, immersing themselves in the sights, sounds, and stories of the 19th century. They wandered through cobbled streets, visited traditional shops, and observed skilled craftspeople at work. The children learned about Victorian school life, home routines, and the kinds of jobs people did during that era. It was a hands-on history experience that brought their classroom learning to life and sparked lots of thoughtful discussion back at school.



## Ward End's Red Watch Visitors

Year 4 enjoyed a visit from the firefighters from Ward End's Red Watch. We learnt about fire, road and water safety. We practised how to make a 999 phone call and what to do if we discovered a fire. We also learnt about what to do if our clothing caught fire. Some of the children had the opportunity to demonstrate the Stop, Drop and Roll technique.

We discussed the importance of staying safe near water and what to do if we fell in. The advice we were given was to float like a starfish. Firefighter Liam told us that if we clenched our bottom it would help us float.

It is so important that every home has working smoke alarms. If you haven't you can contact Ward End Fire Station and they will visit your home and fit a smoke alarm for free.



# Year 3's Harvest Assembly

Year 3 have had a busy few weeks rehearsing for our Harvest Assembly. The dress rehearsal for KS 2 took place last Friday and was followed on Monday 20th with a performance for parents and year 2. The assembly was a mixture of information, singing and a short play about the King and the Seed, which had the message of being careful about reaping what you sow. The children worked hard learning lines and singing, and special thanks must go to the children who stood in for those who were absent on both the Friday and Monday at such short notice. We were excited to share our assembly with everyone.



## Black History Month

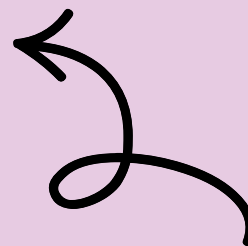
Our celebrations of Black History Month this year began with a Key Stage 1 assembly where we looked at the importance of being treated equally. With this year's theme being 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride' we looked at some truly iconic people such as Martin Luther King Jr.

In classes there have been a range of people and key events from history that have been explored. From truly talented poets such as Maya Angelou and Benjamin Zephaniah to famous artists and musicians such as Kudaushe Matimba. In Key stage 1 and Early years children have explored the Kwanzaa Celebrations and the race car legend Lewis Hamilton.

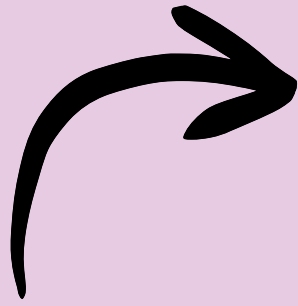
There has been some wonderful discussions and information shared and gathered by our children during this year's Black History Month. Please ask your child/ren about key people or events they have looked at throughout October and let them share all the wonderful work and learning they have done!

## Councils

As reported in one issue of our bitesize news, our new councillors have been elected for our Eco and School council. Below are some initiatives that they will be looking at starting next half term- lots to look forward to where our children can make a tangible difference to school life.



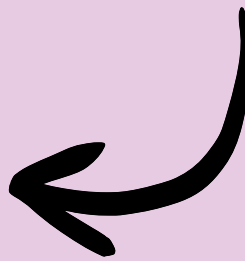
We will be encouraging children to walk to school again this year. Children who walk at least once a week will be able to gain a badge each month!



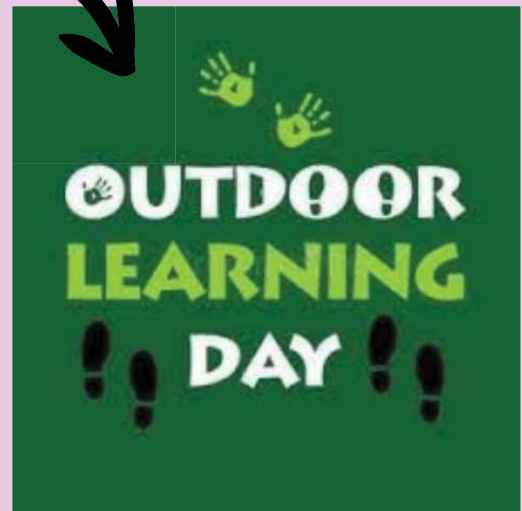
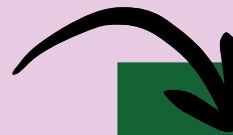
The first week back after half term we are supporting a campaign to help children eat more beans, lentils and pulses as they are packed with fibre and good for the planet. We will be including a beans option every day during this week, encouraging children to make healthy choices, rewarding them with stickers.



Children in Year 5 will be taking part in the National trust competition 'Blossoming space'.



In November we will all be taking part in the Outdoor Learning Day where we celebrate how learning does not need to be confined to indoors!



## Dates for your Diary

A selection of key dates- these will be repeated, and any new dates updated, in the weekly

- 3.11- Return to school
- 4.11- Year 3 Stone Age workshop
- 10.11- Anti Bullying week begins
- 11.11- Year 1 Aston Hall visit
- 13.11- World Kindness Day
- 14.11- Year 5 Visitor

bitesize news:

- 24.11- Hula-Hooping Day
- 11.12- Christmas Jumper Day
- 11.12- Rocksteady performance
- 12.12- EYFS Nativity (9:15 & 2:15)
- 19.12- Last day of Autumn Term