

# Heathlands Primary Academy

## A message from Mr McMahon

Welcome to our latest half-termly newsletter. I hope you're still enjoying the refreshed format, designed to help you quickly find the updates that matter most. Spring 1 has been a hugely productive half term, with a fantastic mix of in-school events, educational visits and brilliant sporting opportunities. We continue to build strong partnerships with external agencies and our work with Compass has been particularly impactful this term, with their team delivering valuable workshops to support our children's wellbeing. OPAL continues to go from strength to strength, transforming play across the school and we're delighted to have launched Voice 21, our new oracy programme, which is already helping pupils develop their speaking and communication skills with confidence.

Our weekly Wednesday parental workshops have also gathered great momentum, with attendance improving week on week as more families engage with the support on offer (read on for next 1/2 term's offerings).

As always, my sincere thanks go to our incredible staff for their dedication and positivity throughout such a busy half term. A quick reminder: attendance remains a major focus for us. Despite everyone's efforts, it is still significantly below where it needs to be, and we must work together to ensure pupils are in school, on time, every day they possibly can be. Your support makes a real difference, and we truly appreciate it

Best wishes,  
Mr McMahon

## Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

Despite the rain putting a pause on some of our outdoor areas, and a few days spent indoors, our OPAL adventures didn't slow down one bit. After all, there's no such thing as bad weather... only bad clothing! Being outdoors remains a key part of our play ethos, and the children continue to shine when given the chance to explore, imagine, and create in the fresh air.

A massive thank you to everyone who has donated resources so far. Your generosity has transformed our play spaces, and we are incredibly grateful. As some of you may begin a half-term spring clean, please keep us in mind and have a look at our

OPAL Bingo card, every little contribution helps bring our play vision to life.

We are also excited to announce that after half term, several brand-new OPAL areas will be opening, including:

- 💧 Water Play, 🌱 Gardening, 🧱 Construction, 👜 Dressing Up, 🌍 Small World Development and even more!

If you have any items not listed on the OPAL Bingo card but think they could support our play opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Wilson. Your ideas and donations help us continue building magical, creative, and inclusive outdoor experiences for all our children.

Here's to even more outdoor fun ahead!



Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO				
Floating bath toys	Cable reels	Waterproof coats All ages - adults too	Umbrellas	Plastic trucks
Buckets	Hard hats	Wellies All sizes - adults too	Artificial grass - any size	'Caution' and other barrier tape
Washing up liquid	Toolboxes	Tools	Garden Paint	Watering cans



# Visits

## Year 2's visit to Tamworth Castle

Our pupils enjoyed a fantastic visit to Tamworth Castle this half term, a real highlight! The day began with a guided tour of the castle, where children explored its historic rooms, learned about life in medieval times and discovered how the castle has changed over the centuries. A firm favourite was the visit to the armoury, where pupils were able to get up close to a fascinating collection of weapons and armour, sparking lots of curious questions and discussions. The children also took part in a range of hands-on activities throughout the day, helping them deepen their understanding of how people lived, worked and defended the castle long ago. Since returning to school, they've been building on this experience in their writing, producing some fantastic descriptive work inspired by what they saw and learned. It was a super visit, memorable, enriching and hugely beneficial to their learning.



## ThinkTank- Year 4

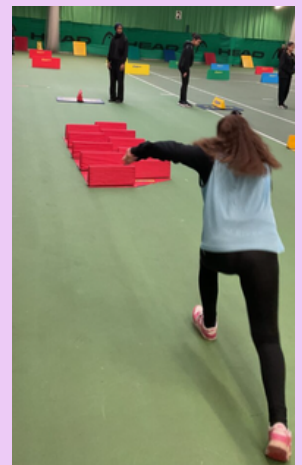
Year 4 visited the Thinktank Science Museum this half term. The children worked collaboratively in the Lego workshop to create vehicles which were controlled electronically using iPads. They took part in the 'Electrifying Science' show and participated in live experiments. This included making human circuits and investigating what happens when there is a break in a circuit. The children loved exploring different areas of the museum, giving them an insight into topics which they will look at later in school!

## Athletics

Our chosen pupils represented the school brilliantly and demonstrated our core values of perseverance, achievement, co-operation, respect, resilience and responsibility throughout the day. They also remained positive, kind and polite in every event.

Isla showed excellent leadership, guiding and encouraging her teams with real professionalism whilst Jaylen stood out to the event organisers and was awarded a special certificate for his fantastic attitude and effort.

Every child returned proudly with a badge and the achievement of representing our school at its very best.



## Racket Festival

The children were perfectly behaved and represented Heathlands brilliantly, Aiden excelled at Squash proving an expert at keeping the ball going with his partner Subhan. Both Khia and Keyaan were picked by the organisers for putting in the extra effort and won a t-shirt each! Safa and Hadiya both joined in coming out of their comfort zone and mixed with the other school's children. We had a few children partner up with children from the other schools too, showing respect, kindness and determination.



# World Religion Day

We were proud to mark World Religion Day 2026 in school this term, a day designed to promote understanding, respect and dialogue between people of all faiths and none. Each class explored the traditions, values and celebrations of a range of world religions, helping children appreciate both the similarities that connect us and the differences that make each faith unique.

Activities were tailored to different age groups: younger pupils enjoyed stories, songs and simple artefacts from various faiths, while older pupils took part in deeper discussions about diversity, respect and how people express their beliefs in different ways. Across the school, children showed great curiosity, empathy and maturity, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their own experiences with confidence.

It was a meaningful and uplifting day that supported our ongoing work on community, tolerance and understanding and helped reinforce the message that our differences are something to be valued and celebrated.

# Safer Internet Day



The whole school took part in Safer Internet Day 2026, with this year's theme focusing on Artificial Intelligence.

Children across all year groups explored what AI is, how it is already part of their daily lives, and, most importantly, how to use it safely and responsibly. We discussed the many positives AI can offer, such as creativity, support with learning and improved accessibility, while also highlighting the need for caution, critical thinking and safe choices online. Each year group approached the theme in an age-appropriate way. Reception children explored voice-controlled technology, having great fun experimenting with simple commands while learning that devices don't always get things right and that they should always ask an adult if something feels confusing. In Year 4, pupils looked more deeply at what is and isn't appropriate to ask AI systems to help with, thinking about personal information, safe behaviour and how to recognise when something doesn't seem quite right. The children showed fantastic curiosity throughout the day, and their discussions demonstrated just how important it is to keep building their digital awareness.



# Children's Mental Health Week

Just this week we marked Children's Mental Health Week, an important opportunity to shine a light on the wellbeing of our pupils and to equip them with strategies to understand and manage their emotions. The theme encouraged children to recognise what supports their mental health, how to express their feelings safely and confidently and where to seek help when things feel challenging. We were delighted to welcome Compass into school once again, as their team delivered a series of engaging and age-appropriate workshops across different year groups. These sessions helped children explore topics such as resilience, managing worries, healthy friendships and building a positive mindset. Pupils engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and taking away practical ideas they can use both in school and at home. Across the week, classes also completed a range of wellbeing activities, from mindfulness and creative expression to discussions about kindness, empathy and looking after ourselves and others. It was a meaningful and reflective week that reinforced the message that mental health matters, and that no child should ever feel they have to navigate their feelings alone.

# Noticeboard



We have had an increase in complaints from local residents regarding parking at drop-off and pick-up times. Please be mindful when parking. If you see something you are unhappy with, you can report this via Operation SNAP [HERE](#)

## WORLD BOOK DAY



WORLD BOOK DAY IS THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH. TO CELEBRATE OUR THEME IS 'BEDTIME STORIES' WE WELCOME CHILDREN TO COME TO SCHOOL IN THEIR PYJAMAS OR ONESIES



## Parent Workshops

Spring Term

EVERY WEDNESDAY 14:15 - 15:15

FEB <b>25</b>	<b>Online Safety</b> Mr Overton-Priestley
MARCH <b>4</b>	<b>Emotional Regulation</b> MCompass
MARCH <b>11</b>	<b>The Importance of Play</b> Mrs Wilson and Mrs Purshall
MARCH <b>18</b>	<b>Phonics (Year 1 parents)</b> Mrs Poole
MARCH <b>25</b>	<b>My Happy Mind</b> Mrs Purshall

ALL PARENTS WELCOME - PLEASE CONFIRM VIA MCAS OR INFORMING THE OFFICE



As per my previous communication, we are expecting to have the final plans for the free breakfast club ready to launch from the Summer term.

A firm proposal will be shared in due course with regards to the paid and free element of the club.



## Dates for your Diary

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

- 23.2- School reopens to all children
- 23.2- Virtual Skipping Day
- 1.3- St David's Day
- 1.3- Women's History Month begins- themed work will take place
- 5.3- World Book Day (theme is bedtime reading, dress in pyjamas)

- 8.3- International Women's Day- Year 5 Curriculum Promise work
- 17.3- St Patrick's Day
- 19.3 Eid ul-Fitr (projected date)
- 23.3 & 25.3- Parents Evening
- 26.3- Y1 Church visit
- 27.3- Year 4 Easter assembly to parents (9:15)
- 27.3- Children's last day before Easter break

# Signposting

Advice to keep  
safe online:



**PUPIL SUPPORT**

WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY AND A WELL-DESERVED REST. IF YOU NEED SOME GUIDANCE OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS THE RESOURCES BELOW MAY HELP.

**ChildLine**  
0800 1111

CHILDLINE IS MORE THAN AN EMERGENCY NUMBER, THEY HAVE GREAT RESOURCES AND GAMES THAT CAN HELP YOU UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MIGHT BE FEELING

[https://www.childline.org.uk/?in\\_type=under12service](https://www.childline.org.uk/?in_type=under12service)

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**shout**  
85258  
here for you 24/7

FEELING CONFUSED OR STRUGGLING WITH A FEELING YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN? TRY TEXTING THE SHOUT NUMBER FOR PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT WHILST NOT AT SCHOOL.

<https://giveusashout.org/>

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**kooth**

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN GET SUPPORT IS KOOTH. TRY LISTENING TO THEIR PODCAST ON SPOTIFY OR FOLLOWING THE HEALTHY TIPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. YOU COULD USE THEIR COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR FREE. LOG ON TO THEIR WEBSITE:

<https://www.kooth.com/>

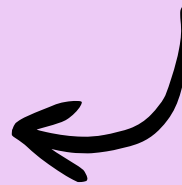
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**LUMINOVA**  
TALES OF COURAGE

LUMINOVA IS FUN, GAME-THEMED DIGITAL THERAPY FOR CHILDREN TO SUPPORT WITH ANXIETY. PERHAPS GIVE IT A TRY IF YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage

Other bits of  
advice:



If you have an immediate concern about a child's safety please contact 999  
If you would like to raise a concern to Birmingham Children's Trust then please contact:  
0121 303 1888

If there is a safeguarding concern that you need to inform the school about, which does not require an immediate response, please email [dsl@heathlands.uwmat.co.uk](mailto:dsl@heathlands.uwmat.co.uk)