



# Heygarth Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Hazel Beamish

"Learning and Achieving Together for Life"

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

## HEADTEACHER'S OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Carers, Family & Friends of Heygarth,

I wanted to start this month's Newsletter by praising our fabulous children and staff for such a fantastic start to the academic year. Everyone has all been working really hard across the school this half term to give learning a real boost and ensure that our school is a place to love learning. Our children have been so busy with their learning throughout school - please check out your child's class Twitter feed to find out more.

### **Black History Month**

Across the school, children have been engrossed in their Black History studies this month. Please ask your child what they've learnt and which black historic person they have been studying. We have ended the half term with an exciting day with 'Zulu Tradition' - a group of Zulu Warriors who have taught our children about their culture, music, dance, art, language and much, much more!

### **World Mental Health Day**

Throughout school, children have been learning about how we look after our mental health, not just on World Mental Health Day but every day. We also teach your child about mental health through myHappyMind ( <https://myhappymind.org/> ) - ask your child to tell you what they've learnt this half term. You should have also received this term's issue of Mental Health Newsletter - more issues coming soon.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Thank you very much to all the parents who donated and bought cakes during our Macmillan coffee morning. We are pleased to say that £180 has been raised and donated to this very worthy charity, close to the hearts of so many of us all.



## Harvest Festivals

We held our Harvest Festivals in the school hall on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. A massive THANK YOU to everyone who made donations of non-perishable food stuffs - tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, sugar, fruit squash, coffee & tea, tinned tuna, custard, biscuits, instant mash, rice pudding, washing up liquid and much more. As I said during the Harvest Festivals, these items are going to be stored at school and used to support families at Heygarth and in our local community who need them. If you, or someone you know is struggling, please, please, please speak to Mr Lewis, Miss Blake, or myself at the gate any morning or contact the school office - we will always help you in any way we can.



## Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held virtually again this term as staff feel this is a much more efficient way of meeting with parents. They are planned for week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> November. Further information will follow. There will also be an 'Open Classroom' event after Parent Evenings, allowing you the opportunity to come into school to share your child's learning with your child.

## Attendance

Attendance at school matters... a lot! Our children learn new things every day in school so it is very important that children miss as few school days as possible. There is a **direct link** between children's **attendance** at school and their **academic achievement** (progress). Attendance also impacts greatly on your child's physical, social and emotional well-being. Please do not book holidays during term time as all absences can have a detrimental impact in your children's learning and progress.



**Attendance is recorded each week in our weekly newsletter 'The Heygarth Herald' and a reward is given to the class with the highest attendance each week.**

This year we will continue to follow guidelines issued by the ESW for attendance. Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate in the following circumstances:

- Attendance below 90% with at least 10 days lost due to unauthorised absence. These do not need to be consecutive.
- 5 days or more unauthorised absence due to holidays in term time, taking into consideration your child's attendance.
- A pupil arrives late after the registers are closed (using a code U) on 10 or more separate occasions.

Any parents wishing to take their child out of school during term time need to complete a form 'Application for Leave of absence of child from school in exceptional circumstances' and also provide a covering letter. This form is available from the school office and should be returned to the school office for consideration.

### **Parking**

We are continuing to receive complaints from neighbours regarding parents parking on grass verges, blocking driveways and blocking the road. Most recently, from residents living in Hillary Road and parents blocking driveways on this road and preventing our neighbours from leaving their homes to get to work and/or take their children to school.

Please be respectful of our neighbours by not blocking their driveways or parking on their grass verges.

Please also remember that stopping on the yellow zigzags lines outside of school is both selfish and dangerous not to mention illegal.

**Yellow zig-zag lines outside schools, hospitals, or fire, police or ambulance stations indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. The Highway Code states that you should keep these areas clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children.**

### **Staffing Updates**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November we say a fond farewell to Mrs Bethell who has worked in our office since 2018. She has been fortunate to gain a promotion in another school. We would like to thank her for her service to Heygarth and wish her well in her new post. Thank you!



Following a rigorous interview process, we will be welcoming Mrs J Harris to our school office after half-term to take the place of Mrs Bethell.

Mrs Hastings, who is expecting her second baby in January, is hoping to work up until the end of this term and we are currently advertising for a part time teacher to cover her Maternity Leave. As soon as we know who this is, we will let you know of course.

### **PTA 'Friends of Heygarth' Events**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, our PTA's spooky Halloween Discos were a fabulous success with lots of children making great efforts with their costumes. Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA, who in turn support our school. Thank you also to all of the amazing PTA volunteers who ran this event - these events wouldn't be possible without you!

The next PTA events is 'Fireworks Night' - an event not to be missed! Buy you tickets soon as they're selling fast!



### **Parent Governor Elections**

There was only one nomination for our Parent Governor vacancy, and that was our current Chair of Governors, Ms Jo Pires. Therefore, Ms Pires has been appointed as Parent Governors for a period of 4 years until September 2026.

### **Free School Meals/Universal Free School Meals**

Even though all children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free meal at lunchtime each day, we still need any parents who claim benefits to register for Free School Meals as this ensures that school continues to receive enhanced funding for their children and also ensures that they receive their free milk entitlement. Key Stage 2 children also need to be registered for Free School Meals if they qualify for the same reason, i.e. milk and school funding.

### **SIMS & ParentPay**

If you have still not got an account set up with either SIMS or ParentPay (payments), please contact the school office. Either ring or email [schooloffice@heygarth.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@heygarth.wirral.sch.uk).

### **Dates for your diary**

22.10.2022-30.10.2022: Half term

Monday 31.10.2022: School re-opens

Monday 31.10.2022-Friday 04.11.2022 - Year 6 Residential Visit to The Conway Centre, Anglesey

Friday 04.11.2022 - PTA 'Firework Event'

Monday 14.11.2022: 'Odd Socks Day' to start Anti-Bullying Week

Wednesday 16.11.2022: School Photographs - Individual & siblings

Friday 18.11.2022: 'Children in Need' Day - information to follow from School Council

Saturday 03.12.2022: PTA Event 'Christmas Lantern Walk'


Wednesday 07.12.2022: Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday 15.12.2022: 'Beauty and the Beast' Pantomime at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall

Friday 16.12.2022: **School Closes at 1:30pm for the Christmas Holidays**

I hope you all enjoy a lovely autumn half term with your families and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

Kind regards,



Mrs H. Beamish  
Headteacher