



Firstly, a very warm welcome to all the learners and families who have joined this year; eighteen families in all. Speaking with you this week I know that your children have settled into their class groups, across the school from nursery age to 16 years.

As the numbers of learners have increased so to have the class groups – we now have 13 class groups for nearly 120 learners. We also have 4 phases; Adventurers, Investigators, Discovery and Preparation for adulthood.

It's a busy school with a strong sense of community. You will find our team of learning support assistants, therapists, teachers, coaches, family advocacy and site & admin here to support you and your child as they progress through the school.

We have held three events for parents so far this term. A welcome to the new school year, a chance to meet your child's teaching team and an opportunity to see how snack time is focused on communication and life skills. In addition Sarah, the school's Family Advocate has organised 2 workshops. These have focussed on supporting communication at home and this week, sleep patterns.

You will have the opportunity to read all the news from each class and discover each phase theme ; from 'all about me', 'old & new', & "volcanoes". I know from visiting classes that the learners are finding the themes to be very interesting; stimulating exciting responses in the art & literacy work displayed around the school. We have certainly engaged the learners curiosity.

In the holiday many parts of the school premises underwent either a complete transformation or a refresh. Do look at the photographs in the newsletter to get an idea of all the developments that went on.

So watch this space for new initiatives as we turn our focus on improving the outside spaces for our learners.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and wish you all a successful, happy school year full of curiosity, learning & community.

**Jacqueline - Headteacher**

## Donations

We have received a number of generous donations this school year from the local community and friends/families associated with our school

**Chesham Mosque** held two events in August raised a total of £3535.25. Members of the mosque also visited the school to meet members of staff and learners. It was a wonderful community initiative.

**The Palety family (Oak Class)** raised £1000 from a family gathering.

**The Winspear (Buttercup Class)** family donated £75

All donations will be used to enhance and develop the outside of school





It was lovely to see parents this week for the 'Meet The Team' event on Tuesday – and especially learners faces seeing their parents in their classroom! Two further events for Grasshopper, Bramble and Young Persons 2 are planned for this term.

As well as meeting the class teams it was an opportunity to highlight the curriculum planning and processes embedded to support learning and progress.

I also highlighted the co-production element where a joint stress reduction support is created by all involved in each learners life.

Families will receive their child's personalised plan, stress reduction support and a visual timetable. You will also receive an observation form which you can use to comment on progress at home. I know the teaching teams welcome your input and are delighted when a focused area is generalised at home.



On Friday 20th October, all Heritage House staff have a fantastic opportunity to undertake training on The SCERTS Model, delivered by Emily Rubin, MS, CCC\_SLP and co-author of the model. The SCERTS® Model is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary educational approach designed for autistic children and young people. The ethos of SCERTS emphasizes the presence of positive, supportive and trustworthy relationships as the foundation of an effective educational programming. When we, as interactive partners, modify our interactive style and the environment, we can help our neurodivergent learners feel safe, connected, and actively engaged.



Further information on The SCERTS Model can be found here: [www.scerts.com](http://www.scerts.com)



It has been a wonderful start for our new learners in Grasshopper class. The learners are exploring lots of exciting activities and getting to know new routines.

It has also been an adventure to explore parts of the school and going to different places such as the physical development hall, the sensory room and the outdoor trampoline for Rebound therapy.

Getting to know each other and building relationships with one another is the most important aspect of learning & progress. I am delighted to report everyone is getting on – just fine!

### Ella & the team



Bumblebee have had an exciting start to the Autumn term. They moved into a new classroom at the beginning of September and now they are focusing on this terms topic 'All about me'. A great opportunity for the class team and learners get to know each other.

The Autumn term gives us the occasion to celebrate the Harvest festival and we have been discovering a variety of foods that have been harvested in our local environment. The learners have been encouraged to use their senses to explore the different foods and we have a few photographs to show their reactions.

### Dierdre & the team



It's been wonderful to start the new school year and welcome new learners into the class.

Our topic is 'All About Me' and we have had fun sharing photos of our families and of people and animals that are important to us! We have also learnt that we all like different things and demonstrated that by all selecting different items to play with during our choosing times. We did discover that a lot of us enjoy dressing up! We have been busy enjoying the last of the Summer weather and have noticed that changes happening in the woods as the trees and plants prepare of Autumn.



**Lisa & the team**



In Dragonfly class we have been looking at "All about me" as part of our theme this term. We have been looking at our interests and activities that we like within the classroom and outdoors. We have been looking at special people in our lives, such as our family. We have also been working on our cutting and pouring skills in food tech and exploring new things relating to the theme. We have also been looking at our body parts and creating portraits in art sessions.



**Amela & the team**





Buttercup class have been busy settling in to our new class and have been exploring our theme 'Old and New' by reading fairy tales. This week we read 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and sequenced the story pictures.

We have also been turning old things into new things by exploring junk modelling! The learners have been using materials such as glue and tape for their creations.

**Karen & the team**



The theme this term in class is Old and New. We have been learning all about old and new toys, songs & stories. The learners have enjoyed listening to old and new stories – older traditional tales such as the Gingerbread Man and Jack and the Beanstalk, and newer stories such as The Old Toy Room. The learners have been creating stick puppets from the stories and practising mark making. The learners have been learning and choosing from old and new action songs – older songs such as head, shoulders, knees and toes, and newer action songs such as open, shut them.

**Sky, Molly & the team**





As with the other classes in Investigators phase, the theme is 'Old and New' and the learners have been listening to and exploring props linked to our Sensory Story 'The Smartest Giant'. They have been dressing up as George - the Kindest Giant in Town.

**Carolyn & the team**



This term we are researching Old and New and our class book in The Smartest Giant in Town. This is about the main character who swaps his old clothes for new, helps others, but realises he feels happier in his old clothes and is liked for what he does and not how he looks.



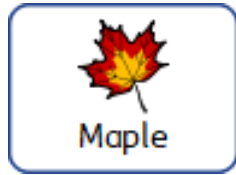
We have also looked at older people in our families and who are the new people, is it them or a younger sibling?

Art has focused on the changes this season, creating displays of old and new foliage, but watching how the new gets old quickly. We look forward to you seeing the outcomes of all their hard work.

**Alistair & the team**



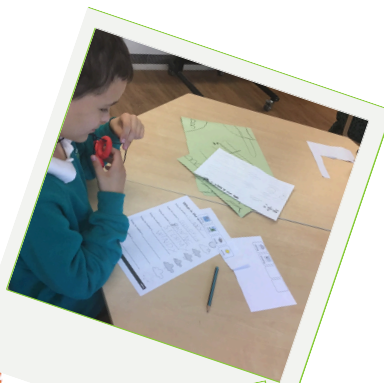
Maple class have settled well into the Autumn Term starting the year off with the theme “Old and New”.



Learners have engaged well in exploring how nature changes with the passing of the seasons. This has included natural collages, chalk leaf rubbings and observing the changes in leaves through the changing months.

Learners have been developing their independence when counting and sorting items such as fruit for snack, coats and bags and even washing up! The learners are loving our sensory stories “Smartest Giant in Town” and “Red Riding Hood” focusing on old and new clothing . Learners have also been investigating their facial features and created some wonderful salt dough faces. Speech and language sessions with a variety of sensory resources such as bubbles, Thera putty and helter-skelter games have been a highlight of some learners' weeks. What a fantastic way to start the Autumn term!

**Lindsey, Emily & the team**



Willow are exploring our new theme of Old and New. Our current reading for writing book is The Velveteen Rabbit. As well as writing predictions, sequencing, etc we have used this as our inspiration to explore Old and New toys. The learners have created a timeline of toys and investigated just how long ago some toys were created. We are looking forward to sharing our knowledge of London and looking at its past and present. We have crafted lovely art, based on old toys such as teddy bears, using a variety of materials. In Science, we are investigating the weather and how this changes with the seasons and where you live. The children enjoyed interpreting weather forecasts and seeing what a monsoon in Kerala looks like!



**Rachel & the team**

## Young people (YP 1)

As well as a new name for the class group we have moved class!

YP 1 have had a busy start to the term, not the least with the theme, Mountains and Volcanoes. The learners have been busy finding out facts and have begun to make a papier mache mountain! It's been great to get back to exploring the local town centre using public transport.

For a light refreshment a visit to the Elgiva café was planned. Whilst there we were treated to a look around the theatre! We all felt very lucky!



## Young people (YP2)

### Catherine & the team



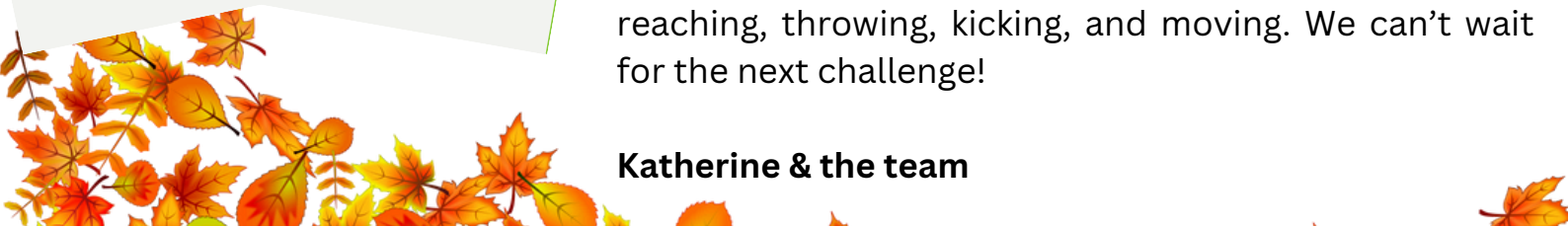
Our theme this term is mountains and volcanoes, with our sensory story being 'Move Mountain'. Can LEAF 2 pull or push the mountain so he can see the sun? Will we need help from squirrel, bear and bird? We will be using our body, and our senses to help mountain see the sun.

We have already started to get messy exploring spaghetti lava and cream lava. We have been using symbols to communicate their likes and dislikes. They both picked "like" for these messy activities!

Our weekly hydro, construction and horticulture are a huge hit with all our learners. Music therapy on Fridays - a firm favourite. And already the developing talent will have Simon Cowell on the phone.

It wouldn't be a new term at Heritage House without a sporting challenge from Sarka. We took on the fitness day challenge with enthusiasm and had a great day reaching, throwing, kicking, and moving. We can't wait for the next challenge!

### Katherine & the team





Oak

The learners in Oak class are enthusiastic about the theme of 'Old and New' We have already made some class displays during our art lesson. We are learning to sort pictures of old and new toys and different modes of transport.

The learners continue to enjoy the weekly construction sessions making all things wooden and especially hammering nails into wood –and I mean lots of nails!

### Anjana & the team



We have been physically busy already, no surprise there, we do love to be on the move. This happens in our school based lessons as well as out and about.

Sailing is carrying on until October half term and we keep our fingers crossed for a reasonably dry weather each Monday. Learners from Maple, Willow, YP1&2. Sailing takes place at the Aquadrome, Rickmansworth. Tennis squad, from YP1, Willow and Buttercup classes, has started going to Halton tennis for a weekly coaching session.

To further use community facilities learners from Maple and Willow classes have weekly swimming sessions at Chesham leisure centre.

A big hurray!!! The Tuff trikes are finally here and already very popular. Three different sizes, simple to use and adjust. They were purchased from a grant which we got from Chesham Community Board last year. THANK YOU!!!

**Sarka - Physical Development Co-Ordinator**





It has been a busy start to the autumn term in the garden, harvesting the produce grown over the summer is almost complete. Tomatoes and courgettes have been the most successful crops, whilst the leeks, potatoes and chillies continue to grow we will be gathering these soon.

Looking ahead to our spring garden, we have been planting all kinds of bulbs, from daffodils and tulips to onion and garlic.

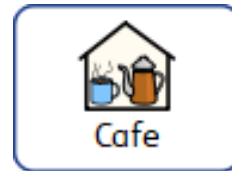
The learners have been helping to design how the garden should look next year, with ideas of which plants we should be growing and coming up with great ideas to keep the squirrels away from our hard work! Scarecrows are a popular idea and so I am hopeful we can start to make our own scarecrow trail here very soon.

If anybody has any plants they would like to donate to the garden, we would happily take them and look after them.

### Nicky - Horticulture



What a wonderful start to the year we've had at the Potting Shed Café – our learners have settled back in amazingly and have served up some delicious food. We have been working on customer service skills, as well as cooking and preparing food for staff and customers. In such a short time, we have seen our staff grow in confidence, it's so great to see how they take initiative and relish in the responsibility.



### Dani & Amy - The Potting Shed Cafe





It's been a great start to term and myself and the learners have already started on some exciting projects, including constructing a new bug house, car making and even refurbishing some items that will go into the café.

I have also started working with the younger classes - Grasshopper and Bumblebee and although we are not creating anything just yet, they are very enthusiastic about learning how to use the tools.

### Phil - Construction Coach



It's great to be back in the pool supporting learners, to increase their confidence in water. Watch this space as we are planning to offer parents a swim session with their child.

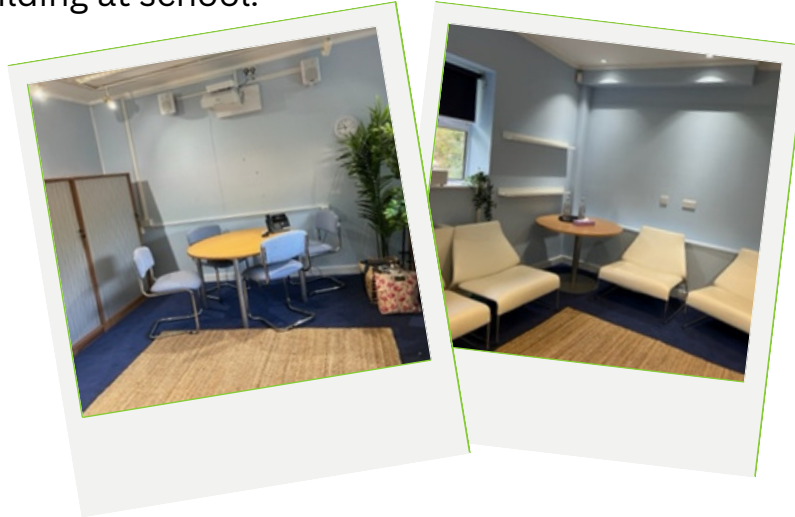
### Anna - Swimming Coach



October 2023



Welcome back to another (already busy) school year! I am now based in the new Family Room in the LEAF Building at school.



My work days and times are Monday – Thursday from 10-2 during term time only- please do get in touch if you would like my help. You can contact me via the school office, by email ([familyadvocate@hhschool.org.uk](mailto:familyadvocate@hhschool.org.uk)) or by sending me a message in your child's communication book.

### **UPCOMING DIARY DATES -PARENT/CARER EVENTS**

- 10-11.30 on 11/10/23 – Sensory Regulation with the therapists – **THIS SESSION IS CANCELLED AND WILL BE RE-SCHEDULED FOR LATER IN THE YEAR.**
- 10-11.30 on 01/11/23 – Fun with food (with Karen, OT)
- 10-11.30 on 08/11/23 -Preparing for Adulthood – FOR FAMILIES OF THOSE IN YEAR 10 AND ABOVE

Come and meet the Transitions Team (Social Care and Education) who can support learners and their families as they begin to prepare for adulthood.

We plan to make recordings of these presentations available on the school website for those who are unable to attend in person.





## **THE FRIENDS OF HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL (FOHHS): AN UPDATE**

The Friends of Heritage House School was established towards the end of 2019, with our second event being held just as the first lockdown was announced. We are very keen to attract new committee members and enthusiastic volunteers to help us raise lots of money for our school! Getting involved not only benefits our learners, but is a great opportunity to meet other families, whilst raising money and having fun!

We now have volunteers for the roles of Chair and Secretary, but we need a volunteer to be our Treasurer and as many people as possible to help organise fundraising events – please do get in touch with me if you would like to find out more about the role.

Whether you are interested in becoming a committee member or have lots of ideas for exciting fundraising events, we want to hear from you! Please do consider getting involved in whatever way you can, your support is absolutely key to our success.

### **REMINDERS:**

·Don't forget to check out the SEND Local Offer for your area ideas of things to do during the fast approaching half-term break. They can be accessed as follows:

**Buckinghamshire**

**Hertfordshire**

**Slough**

**Hillingdon**

If you haven't already done so, you might like to sign up for the Buckinghamshire Additional Needs Register (BANDS) which helps the Local Authority understand need in the local area. When you register, you can also request a Max Card which entitles families to discounts to lots of attractions throughout the UK.

**[Apply here](#)**

DID UK Card – is a nationally recognised Disabled Identity Card. The aim of the National DID Card is to remove the need for individuals to carry their paper documentation with them at all times. The card will have a photograph of the cardholder and will only be issued to disabled people who are in receipt of some form of disability allowance or medical evidence to support your application. The card is valid for two years and can be applied for online or by post.

**[Apply here](#)**

**Sarah - Family Advocate**

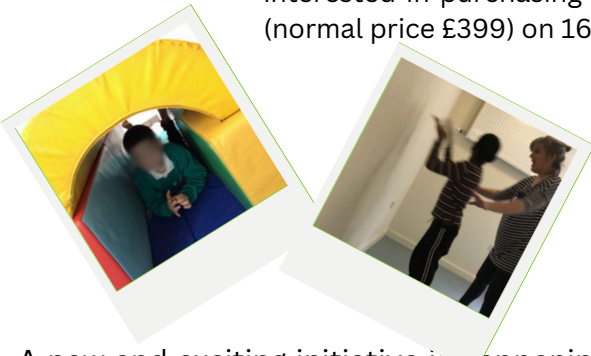


The Multidisciplinary Therapy (MDT) Team are so excited to work with all our learners again this new school year. We have a new Occupational Therapist from The Sensory Smart Child - Welcome Christina. October is AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) Awareness Month!

Last week our Speech and Language Therapists (SALTs) ran a parent workshop on using Core Boards (a type of AAC) in the home. The SALTs and Communication Assistants have also been working with teaching teams to use AAC in the learning provision. And October is also Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) Awareness Month!

Next half term, our Occupational Therapists (OTs) will be running a parent workshop on introducing children with SPD to new foods. The beginning of a new school year sees our OTs and MDT Assistants organising new equipment for learners that have grown over the summer! And they have also been enjoying providing sensory integration sessions for learners again, supporting sensory and emotional regulation for readiness to learn.

The AAC app we use at school is called 'Grid for iPad' by Smartbox. Some parents have been interested in purchasing the app to use at home. This AAC Awareness Month, the app is half price (normal price £399) on 16-20th October 2023 only! [Click here](#)



## The Therapy Team



A new and exciting initiative is happening – our very own resource library. This will be a borrowing scheme – designed to help families have access to new resources and support developing independent play.

Hobbies at Home resources have been divided into two categories: playing activities and academic activities (although of course they can be intertwined!). Resources include threading, alphabet beads, therapy, train tracks, building blocks and marble runs.

### How it will work:

- Families can look at the catalogue of resources on our school website and we will send out a paper copy too. To ensure you have an up to date list, we recommend you look on the school website
- Families can request to borrow a certain item by writing in the communication book, or by emailing the school office
- If the resource is available, it will be sent home on the closest Friday to the request being made. If the resource is already being borrowed, you will be notified that your name is on the waiting list. You may then wish to borrow a different resource in the meantime
- Families will be able to borrow one resource at a time, for a maximum of two weeks. If you wish to re-borrow the same item, your child's name will be added to the waiting list
- A home school agreement will be signed by families wishing to borrow resources to ensure that resources and equipment is used and cared for whilst within family homes
- When families show an interest in borrowing an item, but are unsure of what to choose, teachers can support in pointing in the right direction. The communication book is the best place to have these conversations. Families may wish teachers to direct them towards skills that are being worked on in the classroom
- Please provide any feedback to your class teacher or via the office – we are always striving to improve



It's great to see the majority of our learners in our fab school uniform. All learners are now expected to wear the sweatshirt/ cardigan. It can be purchased from:

<https://www.differentclassschoolwear.co.uk/collection/heritage-house-school-uniform>



Over the summer break, we had a lot of renovations take place. Our flat (located in the LEAF building) is now complete, with a new sofa, plants and new bed – a great hub for learners to make their lunch after travel training, and learn all important life skills being independent at home.

The salon has also been completed, with new mirrors and work stations for learners to have their nails and or haircut. A simple and calm space for learners to get used to looking after themselves and getting support with self-care.

The bathrooms near Bramble class have also had a makeover, and are a wonderful, welcoming environment for our learners to use.

And, lastly, our Staff Room has also received some much needed improvements and is now a relaxing space for our team to enjoy their lunch break in.

