



Headteacher

Welcome to this spring edition of the family newsletter. We write this newsletter as the sun is shining and our thoughts turn to the onset of warmer weather & outdoor activities. Summer term is nearly upon us but before then we wish you a lovely Easter break.

Spring term has been very busy with a number of initiatives undertaken in school, from appointing additional staff to professional development and the upgrading of the premises.

This term we have also agreed to increase numbers on roll for September 2024.

In this edition of the newsletter we focus on the family in supporting the needs of learners.

Happy Easter to all in our wonderful school community

Jacqueline - Headteacher

MESSAGE FROM SARAH, FAMILY ADVOCATE

It's been another busy half term, as we are fast approaching the Easter break! Whether you need support with form filling, letter writing, accessing services that can support your child or young person, sign posting to information, then I am here to support you if I can.

A reminder that my workdays and times are Monday – Thursday from 10am-2pm during term time- 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) or by sending me a message in your child's communication book.

Sarah



GENERAL REMINDERS:

Hobbies at Home

A reminder that this is now live, please remember to complete the loan agreement and return to the school office as soon as possible. Even if you don't wish to borrow items at the present time, please do complete and return the agreement as this will help to minimise delays when you decide that you are ready to begin borrowing. We have over 80 items available to borrow, so there is sure to be something for everyone!

How it works?

- A catalogue of items will be available on the school website. Hard copies of the catalogue will also be available on request.
- Parents/carers will be asked to sign an agreement before they can borrow items.
- Once you have selected the item that you wish to borrow, please email Hobbiesathome@hhschool.org.uk or write a note in your child's journal. Please include the catalogue item number for the toy that you wish to borrow – we want to make sure that everyone receives what they requested!
- The item will then be sent home with your child.
- Parents/ carers can borrow one item at a time.
- Items can be borrowed for two weeks.
- Once the two week loan period ends, we ask that you return the item to school and complete the short feedback form that will be sent home in the bag with the item



GENERAL REMINDERS:

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

provides Information, support, childcare and things to do for families, children and young people up to 19 years (25 years with a disability/additional need)-
<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

LOCAL OFFER

With the Easter holidays fast approaching, don't forget to check out the SEND Local Offer for your area ideas of things to do during the holidays and at weekends. They are a great one stop resource for families of children and young people with SEND. 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.

- <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/send/disabled-children-register-and-max-card/>



GENERAL REMINDERS:

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 - www.did-card.co.uk/

LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM LIAISON NURSES AT STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL

Available from 8.30am to 4pm Monday – Friday, the learning disability nursing liaison team helps adult patients with learning disabilities and autism, and their carers, to access high quality care and to have a positive experience in hospital. The nurses can provide support with emergency admissions, outpatient appointments and inpatient stays. They can also help when you leave hospital, and support families and carers throughout the patient journey. For more information about the service, please [click here](#).

Although they work to support adults, I have spoken to one of the nurses and she has confirmed that they will intervene to support children and their families too if they can. The team can be contacted as follows:

Tel: 01296 316991

Email: bht.learningdisabilityandautismliaisonnurses@nhs.net

Karen: 07876 231051

Catherine: 07818 646262



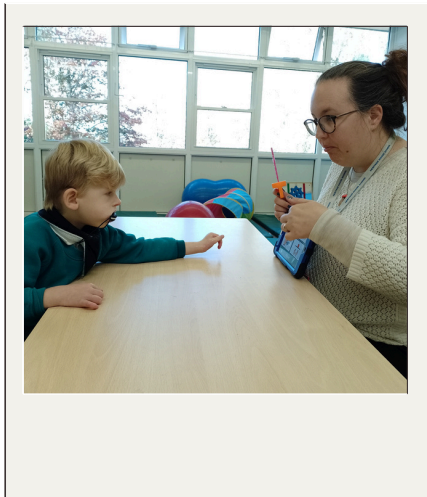


Lead Therapist



Congratulations to Alice Bennett who becomes our lead therapist in school. Alice will coordinate and lead all our therapy team to maximise our therapeutic provision for learners.

'I am excited to let you know that I have been appointed as the Lead Therapist for the school's multidisciplinary therapy (MDT) team. I will be continuing to provide speech and language therapy for your child if they are on my caseload. The MDT team are committed to a strengths-based approach to therapy and as Lead Therapist, I am looking forward to working with the team, teaching staff and school leadership to further shape the provision of high-quality occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy' **Alice**



SaLT

Liz Douglas, our speech and language therapist is leaving our school to take up a post nearer to her home. A huge thank you to Liz for all her interventions with learners and her professional development support to all our school staff. We wish Liz the very best for the future.





PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES – CARERS EMERGENCY PLANS



It can be all too easy to put off thinking about putting plans in place to support your child/ young person in the event that you are incapacitated or unable to provide care for any reason. But in the words of a wise old man (my Dad!) “failing to prepare is preparing to fail”. We would all want to ensure that our children and young people are safely and properly supported in such a situation to minimise any disruption to their lives.

One way of doing this is to complete a Carers Emergency Plan and making sure that it is kept regularly updated. Creating a plan can give you the peace of mind of knowing that you have done all that you can to be prepared for the unexpected.

Many organisations provide downloadable templates that you can use to create a plan – please click on the link below to access the plan template created by Carers Bucks. If you would like my support to create a plan, please do get in touch.

<https://carersbucks.org/carers-welcome-pack/>

PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES – HEALTH PASSPORT AND A&E GRAB SHEET

A Health Passport can be an extremely useful way to ensure that key information about your child or young person is readily available to those who care for them should they be admitted to hospital. It should include key personal details, how they communicate, their likes and dislikes. There are many templates available to download online. Please click on the link below to access a downloadable template to create a Health Passport for your child or young person.

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/health-coronavirus/health-guides>

An A&E grab sheet can be particularly useful in the event that your child or young person has to attend A&E. It can avoid having to repeat key information to the many professionals that you might encounter, and it makes sure that everyone has access to the correct information about your child/ young person. Please click on the link below to access a downloadable template that you can use to make a grab sheet

<https://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/documents/accident-emergency-grab-sheet/>

Please do get in touch if you would like my help to create any of these documents.





Meet the Head Teacher and EHCCo at The Potting Shed Café – Heritage House School

Heritage House School families are invited to meet our headteacher Jacqueline and EHC coordinator Natasha.

Three families attended our first meeting over a coffee and discussed the school's provision - from horse riding to hydrotherapy. We discussed how Heritage House informs parents and their initial visits to the school.

Parents were keen to hear from Natasha about her role in supporting the school. They were amazed at how much Natasha knew about the school, as well as her role in updating and finalising EHCP (Education, health and care plans).

It's an example of how helpful these chats can be as they gave great feedback. The time spent discussing Natasha's role supported parents to understand the process of how the LA support EHCP learners at our school.

The second week saw 4 parents and 2 grandparents grab a coffee and sit down for a chat.

We spoke on a range of topics from initial consultations with the SEND team when seeking school placements to school holidays.

One interesting discussion which the grandparents were keen to share was their visits to local café and restaurants with their grandchildren. Of course The Potting Shed café was a firm favourite (gold star for saying this to the Head teacher...) Their observations to go on initial visits to restaurants in quiet periods (Sundays around 4pm) and to engage with the staff creates a relationship so that subsequent visits are accommodating. So much so when the children have returned to one particular restaurant they are greeted warmly.

Two of the parents said they came as word of mouth had spread. The stickers in the learner's communication book was a good reminder!





Reflections & learning

Jacqueline (HT) - to continue the initiative half termly into the summer term 2024.

- Meeting families in this informal way opens up opportunities for information sharing on a range of topics
- Families sitting together hearing about aspects of ‘behind the scenes’ work of the school has been great to share
- Meeting with no agenda has fostered trust and communication
- Having grandparents drop in was an unexpected highlight and now will become a feature in the school’s newsletter

Natasha (EHCCO – I feel committed to continuing the initiative and welcome the chance to be at the school. Meeting families in person who I know well from paperwork has been a particular highlight. Sharing my role in supporting Heritage House school has led to greater understanding of the role of an EHCCO

A trial will run until the end of the spring term and an extension into the summer term will be reviewed based on this. So get involved! The next meet up is planned for Friday 17th May, 9am-11am. Please do drop into the café to catch up with Jacqueline and Natasha





FRIENDS OF HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL (FOHHS)

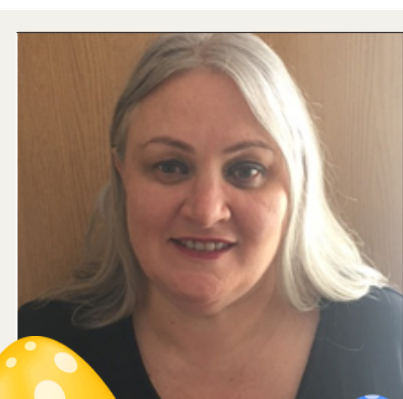
We now have a committee of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer – we are very keen to increase our numbers! We are Carole (Chair), Emily (Vice Chair), Patsy (Treasurer) and Sarah (me! Secretary).



I'm Emily, Vice Chair. Outside of this role, I work for a care farm in Great Missenden, I have three children and I enjoy being outdoors and active. My 14 year old son joined Heritage House School 3 years ago and we are very happy here. Join the FOHHS committee and help us support the great things at HHS, and have fun along the way!



I'm Patsy and I'm the current Treasurer of FOHHS. I grew up in the Welsh countryside before my work with animals brought me to Wendover. I settled and had a family, ending up with a career in pub/restaurant/hotel management. My daughter started at Heritage House School in 2018 when she was 3. I've been a secretary of another charity and spend my time advocating for my daughter as well as meeting her adrenaline junky and musical needs/talent!!



I'm Sarah, the current Secretary of the FOHHS. I am the Family Advocate and Deputy DSL in school. I am also a member of the Governing Body in school. My grown up son is a former learner, so I have had a long and varied experience at Heritage House School.





FRIENDS OF HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL (FOHHS)



Carole is Chair of the new Friends of Heritage House School PTA group. She grew up in Chalfont St Giles and has now lived with her family in Chesham for 24 years. Carole is a musician by trade and regularly teaches at The Beacon School and Chesham Prep alongside playing for theatre groups in and around the area. Her son Liam has been at Heritage House for 3 years and if you hear someone in the Leaf building clapping - he can keep a pretty steady beat and knock out a few rhythms - it's probably him.

Please do get in touch with me if you would like to be involved – we would REALLY welcome your support. Getting involved not only benefits our learners, but is a great opportunity to meet other families, whilst raising money and having fun! 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.





FRIENDS OF HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL (FOHHS)

The Easter raffle took place on Friday 22nd March 2024 in The Potting Shed Café at school. We are extremely grateful for the donations of our chocolate and Easter themed prizes. Special thanks to Nicky (Horticulture Coach) and our fantastic learners for creating the wonderful spring themed planters for us to raffle.

Prizes included a Hotel Chocolat Easter hamper worth £150, a savoury hamper, a Hotel Chocolat Velvetiser drinks maker, and colourful spring garden planters. Many congratulations to our lucky winners - we hope that you enjoyed your prize!



Alongside the raffle, we also ran two competitions – Guess the name of the Easter Lamb, and Guess the number of sweet treats in the jar. The winner of the sweet jar is Angelos, and the lamb will be heading home with Jack.

Thanks to your very generous support, we raised more than £700. Thank you!
Don't forget to check out and "like" our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/FOHHS2024>

You can also support us by playing the Bucks Lottery.





The Potting Shed Café

Our wonderful café continues to provide sustenance to all who visit – with customers granting fantastic feedback to our learners and café staff for the excellent atmosphere & service provided for our local community. A heads up if you are thinking of visiting the café for the first time; our busy times are between 11.30- 2pm so if you fancy a quieter period to start your day we are open at 9am for your first coffee of the morning. It is great opportunity to meet with friends & enjoy amazing food at great prices



Emily Rubin – June 2024 6pm -8pm

As you are aware we have managed to book Emily to share her expertise.

Emily created the SCERTS model which is a framework for supporting learners who have ASD. SCERTS has a focus of building competence in social communication, emotional regulation and transactional support. Staff at Heritage House have been trained by Emily to use SCERTS in school. The meeting in June is a joint work shop for families and school staff to explore the method together.

This promises to be an unique opportunity and I know it will be enormously informative and of benefit for families and school to work together in this way.





WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY

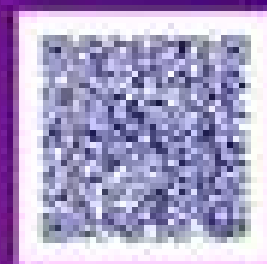


- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Help give our fundraising a boost
- Win up to £25,000



PLAY NOW:

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO
www.buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk
AND SEARCH FOR Heritage House

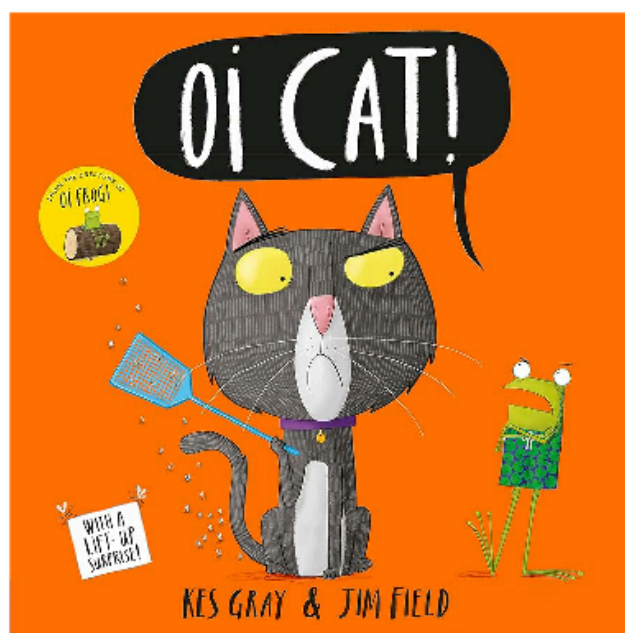




OI CHESHAM! Rhyming Challenge

Are you up for a challenge?

Inspired by Jim Field's famous 'Oi books'... come to the museum and join our family rhyming challenge.



Challenge 1: Claim your small chocolate reward if you can find our hidden 'chicks on bricks' from the Oi Cat book!

Challenge 2: Come and check out our exhibits and try to find a word that rhymes with each object e.g. xylophone bone bookhook. See how many you can come up with!

Remember, one of the famous 5 Bs of Chesham is bricks.





Discover, Play, Make!

Toys Through Time



Wed 3rd April and Wed 10th April
Timed tickets 2-3pm or 3-4pm

Book onto our family sessions to play with and explore toys from the past. You can see some very old toys that were made in Chesham's famous toy factories. You can also choose which toy from the past to make from our crafting table.



Chesham Museum, first floor
Chesham Town Hall, limited places
Tickets £3 available via
cheshammuseum.org.uk





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www.heritagehouseschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Jacqueline Clearkin

27th March 2024

EMILY RUBEN – at Heritage House School June 25th 2024 6pm -8pm

Dear parents & carers

Emily Rubin will be delivering a workshop focused on how a SCERTS approach can support learner autonomy. SCERTS focuses on Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Supports. Emily lectures internationally on creating positive learning environments where relationships and an appreciation on the neurodiversity of children is key.

All school staff have been trained by Emily on using SCERTS. We have found this approach to be highly effective and we are keen to share this with parents.

The workshop will be an opportunity to explore how we support learners in their choice making, enabling greater communication and emotional regulation at both home and school.

Emily is only in the UK for a short time and we are very fortunate to be able to offer this workshop.

The workshop will take place on the 25th June from 6- 8 pm and will be held in school. I appreciate the timing might not be ideal but it is the only slot available in Emily's schedule while in the UK.

We are able to offer 2 places per family and will be in contact again at the start of the summer term with details of how you can book for the workshop.

We hope this information will give you the best opportunity to make arrangements to join us in the workshop in June.

Kind regards

Jacqueline Clearkin
Head Teacher