



# HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL

## Newsletter

HHS – A Wonderful school Community !



**Headteacher**

This month's newsletter is dedicated to all things community as we celebrate the variety of ways we engage with our local community. Summer is always a great time to participate in events and summer 2023 has proved just the case.

We had 3 community events in one week , starting at Whipsnade Zoo ( funded by Chesham Rotary ) then a visit from Ark Farm with sheep, donkeys and chickens taking up residence in our blue playground. To complete the week we joined in the Chesham School Carnival. For the first time learners, staff and families joined in the parade walking from one end of Chesham to Lowndes park. It was a, joyful, and at points emotional walk as we made as much noise as possible to celebrate education in Chesham. Thank you to all families who supported this event – waving our flags as we dressed up as Celts.

In school, the learners are certainly developing their physical skills with many events both in school and the community, planned throughout the summer term. 'Heritage on Wheels' where learners were encouraged to move on wheels, was a fantastic event in the sun. Table cricket, tennis and sailing are big hits with learners and the Pentathlon where every learner participated in some form of physical exercise. Reading the updates from Sarka about the physical skills learners are developing is an exhaustive read!

The Potting Shed café ( open Thursday & Fridays term time) is becoming the destination place for many. The feedback, in person and on social media had been very positive – 5 star rating! As Nicky continues to develop the horticulture area, we are now 'growing our own' produce to supply fresh vegetables to the café. The Chiltern Society who transformed the horticulture area over half term are, as Nicky says, 'breathtaking'

I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter and it provides you with a flavour of what the HHS community is about!

Jacqueline

### Important Dates

Last day of Summer Term -  
Friday 21st July  
First day of Autumn Term -  
Tuesday 5th September

### Follow us on



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## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### Chesham Schools Carnival 2023

We were delighted to take part in this important local annual event and it was a fantastic turnout by learners and parents. We led the schools parade through the streets of Chesham to a wonderfully welcoming roar of support. Staff and parents were so very proud of our learners who represented the school as Celts. The Deputy Mayor was so impressed by us that he gave us an award! Not bad for our first parade entry for many years. Plans are already afoot to create an even bigger impact next year!

Learners and staff manned a stall alongside our sponsor SRL Accountancy. We sold gingerbread men, made by learners under the supervision of our in-house baking guru, Jennie. Sam (parent of Grasshopper learner Arthur) and her team had rounded up lots of fabulous prizes and did ever so well with a variety of games, tombola's and name the Unicorn! Not only a great day for our school to be represented in the community – over £1000 pounds was raised! Thank you so much to everyone involved, the staff team that gave their time on Saturday and especially Sam and her wonderful team at SRL Accountancy.





## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

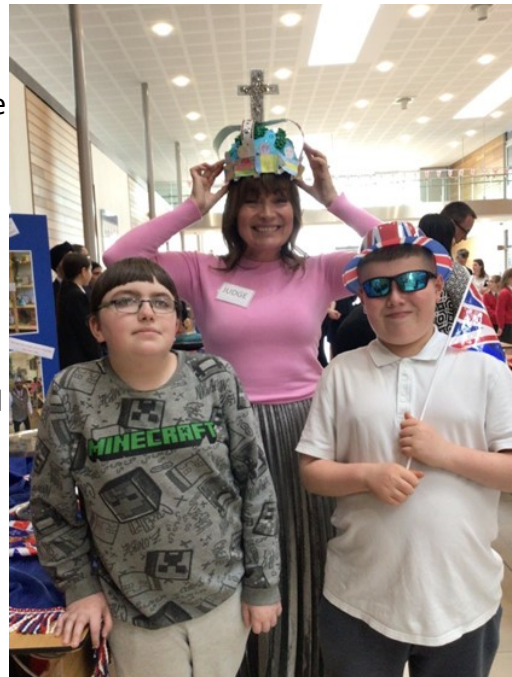
### Buckinghamshire School's Crown for a King competition

As well as the many celebrations we organised in school to celebrate the coronation of our new King, we also joined the schools across the whole county to design and make a crown fit for a King. Every class in school made a crown, which you may have seen on display if you have visited our Potting Shed Café. The crowns were all so great, we organised for the Mayor of Chesham to come and choose the one entry to represent our school. The crown he chose was from Clover Class.

There was much excitement when we found out that we had made it, out of all the schools in Buckinghamshire, through to the final in the Senior School Section. Representatives were chosen and Jay and Charlie made their way to Buckinghamshire Council Headquarters in Aylesbury for the big judgment day. We rubbed shoulders with some famous people including Lorraine Kelly, who was so impressed by our entry, she insisted upon trying our crown on!

Finally, the time came to announce the winners. You could cut the air with a knife, the atmosphere was so tense....and then when they announced that Heritage House had won Jay shouted out with excitement a massive YESSSSS!!

Way to go Heritage House.





## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### Rotary Visit to Whipsnade Zoo

We were delighted to receive a call from Chesham Rotary inviting 16 learners on a trip to Whipsnade Zoo. It was promising to be a really hot day as we set off in a convoy of three mini buses full of excitement. The learners represented the school so well and had a wonderful time spotting animals from Africa including lions, hippos and elephants. We saw enormous butterflies and the most amazing fish! The Rotary team provided the tickets, a mini bus and support on the day. What a day full of amazing memory making for all the learners involved. A massive thank you to Rotary.

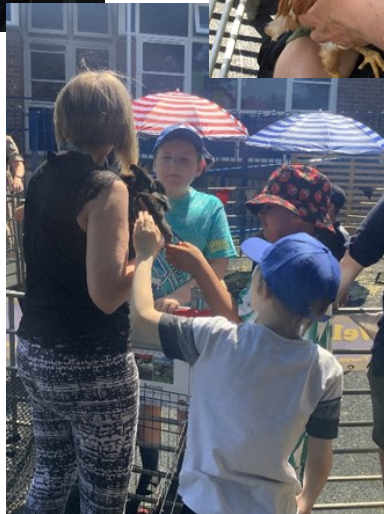




# HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

## Ark Farm Visit

To enhance our 'FARMS' theme in Adventurers, we arranged for a farm to visit us in school. All the learners in Adventurers (and a few more!) had the opportunity to meet animals up close and to learn about how they are cared for on the farm. It was wonderful to see the learners' confidence interacting with the animals grow within the time they spent in the animal enclosures. Some brave learners even handled the chickens! We learnt about sheep, goats, donkeys, pigs, chickens, rabbits and dogs. We may have inspired a few future farmers!





## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### **HERITAGE ON WHEELS FUNDRAISER Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

And on many wheels it was. So much variety – wheelchairs, pushchairs, walkers, scooters and scooter boards, trikes of many kinds. So many people got involved – learners, class staff, admin, café and multi-disciplinary team as well.



The whole idea of fundraising was based around a grant the school received from Chesham Community Board in spring 2023. Five thousand pounds was awarded to fund a purchase of brand new wheeley equipment for our afterschool Games Club. As the grant did not cover the full cost of our wish list we had to identify a source of additional income. Involving everyone was thought as the most inclusive way and the idea of Heritage on Wheels was born.

A huge THANK YOU to all participants, it was a huge pleasure to see you all in action. Our learners voted for travelling to WINDSOR CASTLE = 30,00 metres from our school. In the end the combined distance was much more than that, A FULL 43,332 meters!!!

### **Brushwood School Production**

We are forming great links with local schools and were delighted to receive another invitation from Brushwood School, this time to watch their year 6 leavers production. On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, Butterfly and Buttercup classes walked to Brushwood and enjoyed watching the performance of Robin Hood. It was a fantastic production and our learners represented our school well.



## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### Regional Competition in Table Cricket

We were invited to our very first competition in table cricket this spring. Stoke Mandeville Stadium hosted six teams in total and our super group – Alina, Aurelia, Iqra, Ciaran, Charlie and Jay made us very, very proud. We now have our very own table cricket table in school for our lunch club.



### Horse Riding

We are so lucky to have a link with the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA). Some of our older Adventures learners participate in riding lessons. It is great for building core strength, muscle tone and agility as well as confidence building.





## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK

The week of 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June we joined a very wide community of schools across the country to have a go at moving, playing, being active in many different ways. 20 minutes of physical activity a day is Chief Medical Officers' recommendation for young disabled people, we embraced that in style.

On Tuesday a charity *Wheels for All/Active in Community* came to visit and brought a wide range of very accessible tricycles/bicycles. Learners from across the school came to LEAF playground to have a ride and it was just incredible seeing some of our learners moving about on wheels. There were no serious crashes, we were learning fast. Very, very proud of them all!!!

On Friday we dressed as our favourite PE stars, ready for Chris Sugden from *Panathlon* charity who came in to support us with our Panathlon Day. We played Basketball Shoot, Beanbag Drop, Flight Path, New Age Kurling and traditional skittles. Sometimes we adapted the rules, sometimes we followed Chris's.



### TENNIS STARS

Tennis is in full swing in Halton Tennis Club this term. Our tennis squad – mixed group of WILLOW, BLUEBELL and CLOVER learners, is always keen to get to our weekly sessions, highlight of the week for many. Hand eye coordination, playing with a partner, listening to instructions from our superb coach Chris and having fun are just a few things we focus on.





## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### SAILING IN SUMMER

Many of us now know the way to Aquadrome, Bury Lake, Rickmansworth so we can tell Graham, our driver, to turn left at the White Bear pub. We also remember that lifejackets are a must when in the sailing club, we can locate them and put them away as well. Don't tell anybody that Šárka brought a lifejacket to school with her once. Everyone has been staying safe, no men over board so far. Our paddling technique has come on quite a bit and we are more familiar with all the parts of a paddle. Where would you think a T-bar is located? And some of us even tried to control a sailing boat. What wonderful sailors we are!!!



If your son/daughter sails with us, do try to book a weekend session with Colne Valley Special Sailors and quote Heritage House. [Cvssailors.org.uk](http://Cvssailors.org.uk)

### AFTERSCHOOL GAMES CLUB

Our group has grown and we now have sixteen learners who come to play with us on Tuesdays. A BIG THANK YOU to JEAN and her friend COLIN who organised maintenance of our bikes in Bovingdon Prison, free of charge. A BIG SHOUT OUT to all staff who supported the club throughout this year, we would not be able to play without you.





## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### **GOLD Mark Award**

We are delighted to announce that we, HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL, have achieved the School Games GOLD Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.



The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

### **Donations**

It has been wonderful to receive donations from across Buckinghamshire and further afield. I received an amazing contact from the Pawley family. Their son/brother attended our school some years ago. In his memory, the family have donated to the school.

Thank you!

#### **Mencap Chesham and Amersham district**

We also received a donation from our local Mencap group.

All donations are used to further improve provision for our school community.

#### **Pakistan Independence Day**

Parveiz Aslam MBE, visited school on Friday 30th June on behalf of Pakistan Independence Day and Peace in the Park projects.

Parveiz has two events planned in August and September which will raise donations for school projects. The first will be Sunday 13th August at the Elgiva Theatre to celebrate Pakistan Independence Day and the second, subject to approval, will be Peace in the Park; 16th September in Lowndes Park celebrating International Day of Peace. Both events will highlight our school community.

We already have projects in mind to further develop provision at school so donations are very welcome. If you wish to attend the event on 13th August (tickets £10) please contact Parveiz directly on 07757252468.



# HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

## Potting Shed Café open to the public

Well we knew our café was fantastic and the food was amazing but we didn't realise how popular it would become. Local residents have been enjoying the café each Thursday and Friday (term time.) To see our café staff now, especially the learners confidence grow, serving customers, taking orders and payments is wonderful. In fact we are so busy we have appointed additional staff member Amy, to coordinate all things hospitality with Dani.



Cafe

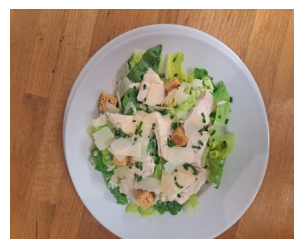
## Café and Horticulture

The menu now includes produce grown in The Potting Shed horticulture space.....lettuce has graced the salad bowls to accompany many a dish.



Soup containing basil grown in the Potting Shed

Chicken Caesar Salad featuring home grown chives





# HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

## Horticulture

During the half term holiday, we had a group of fantastic volunteers from The Chiltern Society who determinedly spent a day clearing the weeds and brambles that had accumulated over the last two years and had completely taken over one area of our garden. As you can see from the before and after photos, the results were breathtaking, and I am still delighting in the changes and enjoying the challenge planning the use for the new area. I am so grateful to this team and am looking forward to welcoming them back to show them how we have been using all the garden at some point in the near future.



The learners have also been working incredibly hard, producing some beautiful displays of summer baskets, sweet pea wigwams and of course, working in the vegetable garden. We have just started to harvest courgettes and pick herbs. However the strawberries continue to be enjoyed by the resident squirrels before we get a chance to enjoy them but they assure me they are very tasty indeed!





## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter



Family



Advocate

### FAMILY ADVOCATE UPDATE

#### HOBBIES AT HOME

Following a successful pilot, we are delighted to be launching Hobbies at Home across the school. This will give our learners and their families the opportunity to borrow toys, activity packs and reading books for use at home free of charge.

#### What is it?

We have over 60 items available to borrow, so there is sure to be something for everyone! We hope to add additional items in future.

#### How will it work?

- ◆ 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](mailto: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 (or for the duration of school holidays).
- ◆ 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.



## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### MY CHILD & ME

Earlier in the academic year, we participated in a pilot project in collaboration with the Local Authority Educational Psychology Team. The project was facilitated by Ella Cummins, Trainee Educational Psychologist and Sarah O'Donnell, Family Advocate at Heritage House School, in collaboration with a small, pilot group of parent carers.

The aims of the project were to support families to acknowledge and address their feelings and emotions as their child journeys through school life and beyond, to potentially roll out these workshops to a wider audience and to produce a resource to support families.

The project comprised a series of workshops, each involving a short presentation, practical exercises, group discussion and feedback.

The themes we explored included:

- Journey through school
- Supporting behaviour/regulation
- Puberty and transition to adulthood
- Managing my feelings

At the end of all of the sessions, the feedback was collated and a "Top Tips" guide was created, and will be distributed to families by the end of term.

### WORKSHOP SESSIONS FOR FAMILIES

I plan to hold a series of workshops for families in the new term- a calendar of these events will be sent to all families in the new school year once all of the dates have been finalised.

### 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. Now that the days of cancellations and lockdowns are behind us, 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 – 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.



## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

### **COST OF LIVING SUPPORT**

**Carers Bucks** have put together a resource containing information and links to organisations that can offer advice and support. It can be accessed via the Carers Bucks website, or by clicking on the link below:

<https://carersbucks.org/information-for-carers/adult-carers/money-legal-matters/cost-of-living/>

**Turn2us** ([www.Turn2us.org.uk](http://www.Turn2us.org.uk)) is a charitable organisation that provides information and support about welfare benefits and charitable grants through an accessible website and a free phone helpline.

**Buckinghamshire Council** have put together an information resource to support residents across Buckinghamshire. It can be accessed by clicking on the link: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living)  
Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hand Service is available to help individuals or families who are in need, on a low income or who are facing a financial crisis/emergency:

[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand)

### **REMINDERS:**

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

**Buckinghamshire:** <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/send/>

**Hertfordshire:** <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/the-hertfordshire-local-offer.aspx>

**Slough:** <https://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk/kb5/sloughcst/directory/localoffer.page?directorychannel=5>

**Hillingdon:** <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/4654/SEND-local-offer>

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/>

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.

Have a lovely summer

*Sarah*



## HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL Newsletter

Dear Heritage House

We are Lighthouse Safe Harbour, a free to attend Christian holiday club that runs **Monday 24 – Friday 28 July 2023**. We are designed specifically, but not exclusively, for children with additional needs and we are based at St Paul's CofE school in Wooburn Green, HP10 0QH, Bucks.

Lighthouse is a non-residential week long holiday club for children run by Christians from local churches working together, bringing churches and communities together around children. We are passionate about seeing children from all walks of life and abilities encountering God in a fun-filled week with teaching, activities, craft, performing arts and music. We welcome children of school age from 4 to 11 (Reception to Year 6).

If you have any children you think would benefit attending Lighthouse, and for more information, including the types of needs we aim to meet, please see our website by clicking the below link. Please note, not all children that apply are guaranteed a space, as we keep the groups small for the benefit of the children. We will be in touch in June to confirm if a place has been allocated. <https://lighthousecentral.org/lighthouses/safe-harbour/about>

We are also keen to find volunteers with experience working with SEN children who may wish to support us. The GREAT news is, everything has been planned and organised in advance, volunteers only need to turn up and support the children.

**Please note:** children and/or volunteers are not required to be Christians to attend, we are open to all faiths and none.

If you have any questions or wish to find out more, please contact us on [safeharbour@lighthousecentral.org](mailto:safeharbour@lighthousecentral.org) and we will be happy to organise a call at a convenient time.

Regards, Nicola

Nicola Rayner  
Lighthouse Safe Harbour Chair of Trustees  
Charity reg no: 1180779  
E: [safeharbour@lighthousecentral.org](mailto:safeharbour@lighthousecentral.org)

***Jesus meeting children where they're at!***

