



Headteacher

Dear Families & the HHS school community,

The school is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Our theme for decorations is 'Nordic and Natural' so lots of white lanterns and stars. We are busy creating natural decorations from wood, leaves, twigs and paper too.

We have been gifted a reindeer made out of tree trunks and twigs which now has pride of place near our front entrance.

Santa made an early visit on the 2nd of December with the Reindeer Dash across every classroom and playground - so yes we are feeling festive at Heritage House School.

The festive calendar has begun with lots of events for learners, staff and parents to enjoy this December.

I look forward to meeting you all at the events planned.

Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware we had an Ofsted Inspection on Tuesday and Wednesday 21st and 22nd of October.

The report is now published on the Ofsted website - please do share with families and friends.

We had two inspectors, Jo Petch HMI is the specialist Advisor for SEND and AP.

Inspectors visited all classes and observed examples of learning in classrooms in the hydrotherapy pool, rebound trampoline and the sensory room. The inspectors also reviewed our curriculum, learner's personalised planning, learning and observations.

Alice, our speech and language lead therapist, discussed AAC and together, Alice and Jo saw examples of this being used in classrooms.

Highlighted throughout the report is the expertise of the staff. Inspectors were impressed by staff engagement with learners, our curriculum pathways and professional development work

I met with staff to share the report. Our school community has a lot to be proud of.

Thank you also to all families for your engagement.

Jacqueline



Happy Ofsted Hour – Thursday 28th November

You will have received a flyer inviting you to our café to share in celebrating a positive inspection report. Thank you to everyone that could join us to celebrate all things HHS.



Meet the Teams – October 2024

Thank you to all families who attended the event. To see the wonderful autumn crafts created in each class and the joy learners have in seeing you all in school made the event so special.

“ Thank you for a lovely afternoon to see our child play in his classroom and to chat with the teachers ”

“ great to meet other learners and parents- would be great to have more opportunities to interact ”

“ Very glad to meet the team, loveable and very helpful towards children. Will look forward to more meeting events ”

“ It was wonderful to see our daughter in class with her teachers and peers. It was reassuring to see how familiar the teachers are with our daughter and her quirks. Thank you for showing us where she is every day and that she is well looked after and understood ”

Your feedback has highlighted how much you value joining in with your child’s learning. We will plan for you to be in school each half term with Christmas just around the corner you will see details of the next school event.





Information

Swim with your child - Wednesday 4th December

We know this has been a very positive experience for families with one parent saying it was her 'best yet', so Anna our swimming coach has organised for parents of learners in our multi-sensory phase to join in with a session. Our schools physiotherapist will be present as well to demonstrate how therapy is delivered in the pool.



Safety on the school site.

Recently we have been managing vehicles entering the school site at speed. Please be aware of your speed as you come off of Cameron Road. We will be advising re speed limits with signs across the school.

Car parking – as with other areas in Chesham we have been plagued with cars being abandoned in our school car parks. Often these cars are advertised for sale with deals being brokered in the car parks. You may have seen we have alerted that these cars are parked illegally and we have worked with partners to cease this trade. Today we have just one car parked in this area – this means we have space for staff to park. We will continue to monitor the car parks and keep you informed.

I know there are times parents & carers have struggled to park so it is important we monitor our spaces.



Information

Christmas events – yes it's that time of the year.

This year we have purchased festive decorations in the style of a Nordic Christmas which chimes with our low arousal natural approach to learning environments.

Each class will create festive items from natural resources such as branches, leaves creating a wonderful display for classrooms – so do look out for this from Monday 3rd December.

Christmas is Coming!

Heritage House is looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you this year, in particular we are looking forward to opening our doors and welcoming you into school to join the festivities with a Christmas Craft event. Your invitation was sent home on Friday 22nd of November.

Each class is busy preparing a fun activity for you to engage in with the learners. Please keep the date free, we would love to share our Christmas celebrations with you. Please return your completed invitation to secure you places.

We also have a variety of exciting events happening for the learners throughout December, a personalised calendar of events has been sent home to help prepare learners for each day.

A visit from the man in the big red suit will be a highlight for many of our learners as well as experiencing a live pantomime, a delicious traditional Christmas lunch served by the school leaders and the re-opening of our Pop Up Christmas Shop. What a fabulous December we are going to have!





Family Advocate

Whether you need support with form filling, letter writing, accessing services that can support your child or young person, sign posting to information, or just need to chat with someone who has experience of parenting a child with additional needs, then I am here to support you if I can.

I work during term time only, and my work days and times have recently changed and are now as follows:

Monday – I am available via email between 10am and 1pm.

Tuesday – 9.30am- 2.30pm

Wednesday – 9.30am- 2,30pm

Thursday- 9.30am-2.30pm

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

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/>

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.



DID UK Card

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/

Workshops and Drop in Sessions for Parents & Carers

I am currently putting together a programme of workshops and drop in sessions to start in the New Year– more details about these sessions in the next Newsletter.

Friends of Heritage House School (FOHHS)

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! 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.

We are now looking to recruit a Treasurer to our small, but friendly and supportive committee team. If you are interested or would like to find out more about the role, please do get in touch with me for an informal no obligation discussion!

FOHHS - Cauliflower Cards Fundraiser - Deliveries arriving soon.

We have been advised that Cauliflower Cards orders will be delivered into school during the week beginning Monday 2nd December. Once sorted, the orders will be sent home with your child. Thank you for your support – we hope you are pleased with your order.

November 2024



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 see the link below.

<https://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/our-care-and-support/patients-with-learning-disabilities/>

Though 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

Brunch With Santa

Exclusively for SEN children & their siblings

Includes –


- Breakfast, a gift and an opportunity for families to take photos with Santa
- Sensory quiet area and easy access toilets available
- Free parking

To book contact The Firecrest directly on 01296 628041
Limited Spaces Available

London Road, Aylesbury, HP22 6QG

Saturday 21st December £12.95 Per Child

Saturday 21st December 0930 - 1045



**We need
your help!**

**THE FRIENDS OF HERITAGE
HOUSE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE NEED
MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU!**

OUR MISSION:

The Friends of Heritage House School is like a PTA, we're a friendly team of parents who engage in activities to support the school and fundraise towards providing facilities or equipment that enrich all the Learners at Heritage House School.

FIND OUT MORE:

EMAIL SARAH FOR MORE INFO:



familyadvocate@hhschool.org.uk

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

You can be involved as much or as little as you like. We plan to have a meeting and fundraiser each main term if resources and manpower permit. We are looking for people to fill two roles that are vital for the Friends of Heritage House to operate as well as other friendly team players who will muck in!

- Treasurer role vacancy
- Secretary role vacancy
- We need more people to help with projects, events and to generate ideas



Introducing a free online support tool for Buck's parents

FREE FOR PARENTS FROM 1 DECEMBER

To provide early help and guidance and an online community of support, Buckinghamshire Council have partnered with specialist local charity Autism Early Support, to offer parents unlimited access to The Parent's Portal.

This is a self-guided learning tool, designed for parents of children aged 2-17 years who:

- Have noticed differences in their child

and they're exploring neurodivergence

- Have Googled, '*Is my child autistic?, or what is ADHD?*'

- Have an autistic child(ren)

- Are awaiting a Neurodevelopmental assessment



SCAN TO REGISTER

Funded by



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire
and Berkshire West
Integrated Care Board

Using the Parent's Portal

The Parent's Portal by AES is an online resource it contains

Resources to watch and read:

A multi media library of information available to view and download, available 24/7

Live Workshops and parent support groups:

Interactive sessions on the key topics, bookable in advance

Discussion forums:

Exchange ideas and perspectives with parents and practitioners

Information broken down into four sections.

- Understanding my child
- Supporting my child with education
- Supporting my child at home
- Family relationships and sibling support

There is no referral required for families make use of the Parent's Portal.

Registration is straightforward with Autism Early Support.



SCAN TO REGISTER

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