



**Jacqueline Clearkin**  
**Headteacher**

## Spring Term 2025

The start to the New Year has brought with it a plethora of fresh opportunities for learning across the school.

In January we welcomed 5 new learners from Adventurers to our Young Peoples phases. We now have 134 learners across our school community and will see this number rise again in September.

We have 14 classes across the two school buildings.

Our staff team has increased to support our growing community; with over 50 LSA's, 20 teachers, therapy team, vocational coaches and admin support.

You will be aware that one initiative from central government is for special schools to support our mainstream colleagues. In respect of this we have been able to support a number of school across Buckinghamshire, through Outreach support. We have also welcomed visitors to school to observe our provision & range of initiatives. This includes support from stress reduction to personalised planning and the provision of therapeutic and teaching support.

In the summer term we will be extending this provision with the appointment of an outreach teacher.

The school continues to flourish and we are proud of the educational offer to learners in our school community.

In this Spring term newsletter we highlight therapeutic interventions with Adventurers learners, our physical development opportunities, healthy eating and information for families.

After half term, we welcome all parents to come to their child's class to see how we raise the profile of online safety with our learners. We hope you will be able to attend this event.

We will also follow the class visits with a practical work shop for parents on this subject. So do look out for the invitations popping up soon.

I look forward to seeing many of you in school after half term for our work shops.

*Jacqueline*



Information

## Reminders

### Heating Food

Please note the Handling Food Safety guidelines prohibit us from re-heating food in school.

### Student Absences

Should your child be absent from school on any day, you must inform the school office on the first day of absence as early as possible, as well as Transport. Transport are not obligated to pass messages to the school.

### Diarrhoea/Vomiting

Following the Health Protection Agency advice, if your child is sick with diarrhoea and/or vomiting, please keep them at home for at least 48 hours following the last bout of either.

### School Uniform

Please could you ensure all of your child's clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name. Uniform is mandatory - school sweatshirt only.

If your child needs them, please also send in clearly labelled spare clothing along with any other personal care items.

### Lateness

School opens at 8:50am, please note that arrivals any time after 9am are recorded as late.

### Appointments

When possible, medical appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours. If your child will be absent due to a medical appointment, you must inform the office and provide a copy of the letter/screenshot of appointment confirmation for our records.



Rosie Naylor OT  
& Jess Griffiths  
MDTA

## Fun with Food

Grasshopper and Ladybird classes have commenced a weekly group session focussing on Tactile Processing and having 'Fun with Food', led by the OT and MDT assistant, supported by education staff.

We have started with dry edible textures which we will continue to explore and then we will be working through the tactile hierarchy to mixed and wet textures to support our learners to develop their tactile processing and tactile discrimination skills.

This area is a crucial foundation skill required for the development of sensory-motor skills, motor planning, fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and more.

It is often an underdeveloped area in our learners; sometimes seen through mouthing of objects or seeking additional touch feedback through their hands or mouths, or sometimes through tactile defensiveness and dislike of certain textures, discomfort during self-care routines or food avoidance.

Activities included in the sessions involve preparing our bodies for tactile input, with proprioceptive input (through vibration and shoulder squeezes - as tolerated), a hand wipe/wash and dry with deep pressure hand massage and squeezes, practicing oral motor skills by blowing light items off our hands or to produce a visual response, before playing with the food items; such as posting Cheerios, crunching and sprinkling Weetabix, moving diggers around in the crumbs, using paintbrushes/pastry brushes to move the crumbs around and some learners are even enjoying a little snack by exploring licking and eating some of the edible material.

*(NB: food allergies/intolerances /swallowing difficulties are always checked before introducing a new food).*

A lot of the food ends up on the floor, but after a sweep up the room returns to normal!





Rosie Naylor OT  
& Jess Griffiths  
MDTA

In **Grasshopper** Class, Liliana used her bilateral coordination and practiced her motor planning skills by pouring Cheerios from one cup to another, Lleyton fed his sensory need for tactile and visual feedback by sprinkling Cheerios and crumbs and Ellie initiated stirring when she picked up a spoon.



In Ladybird class, Dontay practiced his pincer grip as he posted Cheerios through holes, James focussed and coordinated his movements across his midline by sliding Cheerios down a short marble run and Grace was supported to engage in the activities in her own space when she found it overwhelming to join the group at the table.





Information



## Pop-Up Shop Annual Report

We were delighted with the support shown for our learner run Christmas Pop Up Shop, we know the learners enjoyed selecting the presents for their friends and family. Hopefully everyone was delighted with their gifts.

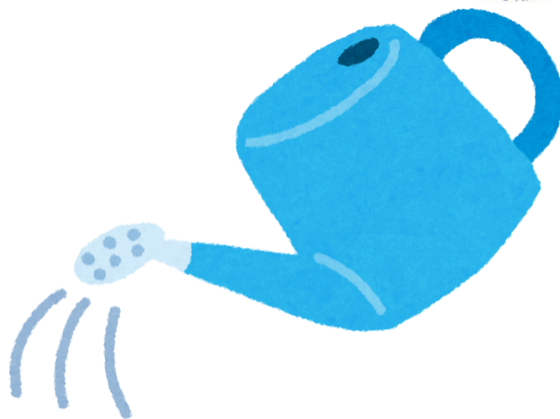
YP2 were fantastic sales assistants and demonstrated excellent wrapping skills! We have checked our sales and expenses and we have made a small profit from the sales, which we will reinvest in the shop next year.

Thank you for supporting this opportunity for our learners to buy gifts and take part in experiencing the joy of giving!





Information



## The Potting Shed & Horticulture

Claire our horticulture lead has wasted no time getting areas around school ready for the Spring.

The horticulture area is being given a makeover with support from the local community such as Chesham Rotary Club who have maintained the potting shed. We were also contacted by Eames Horticulture who are a family- based organic gardening business, very local to Chesham.

You may have seen the amazing wooden reindeer outside the front entrance over the festive period which was donated by Eames Horticulture.

Sam and his team are now volunteering once a month in our Potting Shed to maintain a sustainable future for the area. The dream team are mending raised planters across the whole area. They also donated some lovely topsoil to fill up our new planters in Leaf area. We are very thankful for their help and support and look forward in working with them on other projects and days.



**Are you a budding gardener who could support Claire in the Potting Shed area and work with learners? If so apply for volunteering role ready for the Spring 2025.**

**We would love to hear from you.**



### WANTED

Size 5 - 10 wellington boots for learners to use in our garden area

Ankle height wellington boots preferred, please contact the office if you are able to donate!



Information



## Swimming with your Child

This popular event was the turn of Bumblebee learners and parents this term.

On a cold Tuesday in January parents had the opportunity to experience the joy of the schools hydrotherapy pool. It might be cold outside but at 33°C it was certainly a warm cosy swim for the group

The photographs say it all what an experience!



**In March 2025 it's the turn of Buttercup class – so swimming costumes at the ready parents. Be prepared to be amazed at your child's skill in the water**



## Information

### THANK YOU

Huge thank you to Ellie's Dad, Tom, for suggesting Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity to his company for donations for Reindeer Dash!

Tom's workplace donated **£1,000** on behalf of Heritage House School!

### Table Cricket

We are proud that a mixed team of learners from our Young People Phase competing at the County Competition in Table Cricket in Stoke Mandeville in January!

The learners played very well, following all the game's rules, working well as a team and, most importantly - enjoying their four matches, **well done!!**



### DELIVEROO @ HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL



We are delighted to announce we have teamed up with YP3 learners and created a unique community led initiative. Yes that's right with California calling and all the tech giants interested we have our own start up.

Sumya in YP3 leads the way delivering fresh fruit, crackers, bread sticks and other items Gen Alpha crave.





**Sarah O'Donnell**  
**Family Advocate**

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter! It is hard to believe that the end of the first half term of 2025 is fast approaching!

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](mailto: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:** <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/advice.page?id=NNNtmkbEwv8>

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



**Sarah O'Donnell**  
Family Advocate

## BANDS

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/>

## 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/](http://www.did-card.co.uk/)

## MAX Card

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

## Support for Parents & Carers

Buckinghamshire Family Information service have put together a great resource detailing organisations that can provide support to parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs (including peer to peer support groups) – please click on the link below to find out more

<https://directory.familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>



Sarah O'Donnell  
Family Advocate

## Workshops and Drop-in Sessions for Parents & Carers

### February 2025: Safer internet sessions

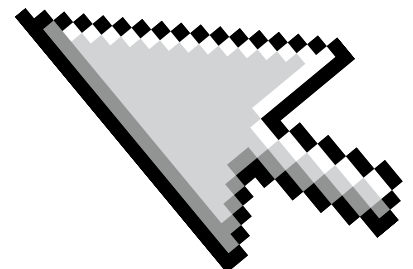
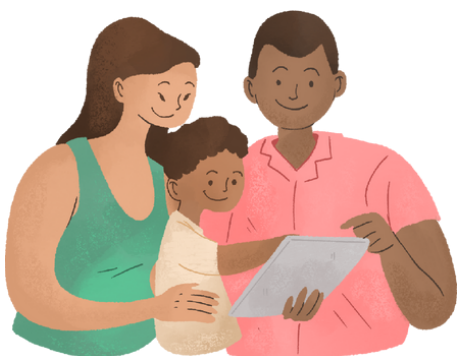
Online Safety and impact of electronic devices for learners at HHS

We are delighted to announce that our next event to welcome parents into school will take place over the week of the 25-27th of February. Invitations with class specific timings were sent home with learners on Monday 11th February 2025

The recent and ongoing reports in the news about the use and impact of digital devices for young people has inspired us to theme our next event around the joy of play, how our learners play, understanding their play and how can we enhance their play skills and create opportunities to engage with others in play.

Enabling our learners to develop the skills and independence that plays brings, as well as the opportunities it provides for communication and engagement make play such an important part of the day to day life of our learners. For our older learners that may be accessing the internet, we will also spend some time discussing how to stay safe online.

We do hope you can join us, if you haven't returned the reply slip yet, please do so as soon as possible – we look forward to seeing you on the day!





Sarah O'Donnell  
Family Advocate

## Workshops and Drop-in Sessions for Parents & Carers

### Monday March 3rd 2025 12-2.30 Everyday First Aid

For parents and carers of children at Heritage House School. We are very fortunate to be able to offer this training free of charge to families. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

How to book? Please see the flyer below for details, places are limited, so don't delay, get booking today!

*Please note that this session must be booked **directly with the provider**, please **do not** turn up on the day if you have not booked a place*

### March 2025 Buttercup Swim Sessions

Invitations will soon be sent home to invite Buttercup learner's parents in to watch their children show off their skills in the pool

### Wednesday 26th March 2025 10.30am-11.30am

*For parents & carers of learners in Adventurers only*

Come and join Rosie, Karen (OT) and I for a session on regulation with a focus on biting for sensory regulation.

### Wednesday 14th May 2025 10.30- 11.30

Restricted diets and picky eaters. We will also explore how nutrition can impact regulation for learning.

### Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 10.30 am- 11.30am

Join Alice, Lead Therapist for an information session on AAC and supporting your child's communication.



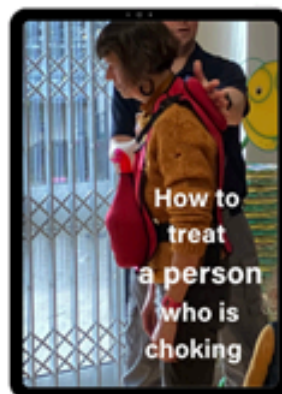
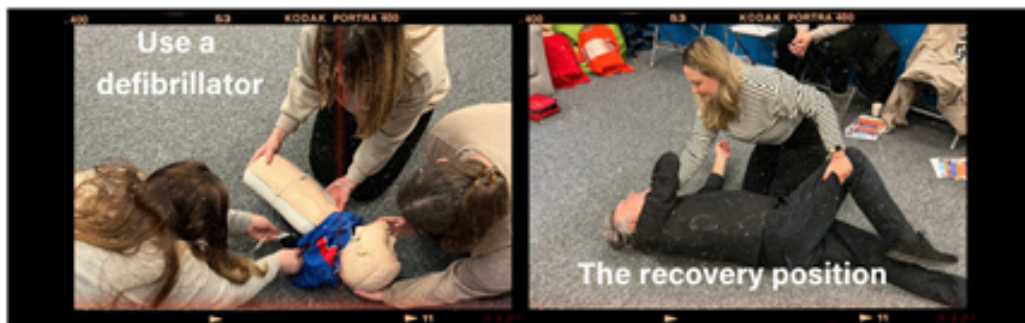
Buckinghamshire  
Family Learning



# Everyday First Aid

Led by a Qualified First Aider and Assessor.  
For parents and carers of children at  
Heritage House School

**Monday 3 March, 12- 2:30 pm**



SCAN ME



To book your FREE place, click on the date above, scan the QR code or call 01296 383582 and give the code FMFA042 20FJ



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Funded by  
UK Government

**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.

**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

**FIND OUT MORE:**  
EMAIL SARAH FOR MORE INFO:

 [familyadvocate@hhschool.org.uk](mailto:familyadvocate@hhschool.org.uk)

- 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 very small, but friendly and supportive committee team. Have a look at the information provided by Parentkind below to find out how a PTA/ Friends group can provide vital support for your child and their school.
- 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 chat!

## Why a PTA matters

A successful and supportive PTA contributes to improving the educational experience and future opportunities for all our children.

Watch our 'Why a PTA Matters' webinar to gain greater insight.



## What difference does a PTA Make?

Our PTA members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland contribute up to £121 million to the education of our children and young people. **That's right - £121million each year.**

The average PTA (our PTA Members are anything but average) can raise up to £9,006 a year to pay for things that school budgets cannot stretch to. **What could your school do with £9,006?**

## Impact

Our experience of working with over 12,500 PTAs has demonstrated that a PTAs impact shouldn't only be defined in terms of fundraising success. A PTA's value is significantly more than this!

PTAs can vastly improve the life of a school community, and positively impact the education experience by developing effective relationships between parents and the wider community.

Every school deserves a PTA, and there has never been a more urgent time for parents to come together for the benefit of their children and the school. And guess what, we can help you get started so that your school and students don't have to miss out.

Whatever your educational setting, we have the experience, insights and resources to make sure your PTA is a roaring success.

## The benefits of a PTA

From our Annual Member Survey we know the impact PTAs can have supporting their school.

In fact, in 2022 they spent their funds on:

