



**Jacqueline Clearkin**  
**Headteacher**

## Summer Term 2025

Welcome to this, our final newsletter of the school year. It has been a tremendous year in so many ways and in creating this newsletter we have looked back over the academic year to celebrate our learners' achievements

Many of you will have visited our lovely 'Potting Shed Cafe' at some point during the year. You will read how learners are being supported to realise their aspirations through dealing with all aspects of this successful and popular cafe. This year the cafe has been supplied with an abundance of fresh produce from our very own 'potting shed' garden led by Clare. Seasonal horticultural delights have included spinach, cucumbers, tomatoes, raddish and potatoes. Our chef Dani aided by learners have been able to provide delicious & nutritious meals and I would highly recommend tasting the home made soups, lasagna and frittata when they are next on the menu. Please do visit if you are yet to do so, our cafe team will give you a great welcome.

Very briefly I would like to highlight the following ;

- Alice our therapy lead updates on all aspects of supporting our learners therapeutic needs.
- The Buckinghamshire link project has been so valuable for Buttercup Class.
- The National Paralympic Heritage Trust has enabled our budding creative writers to access many opportunities.
- You will also read about our developing creative arts program in music and drama.
- Our VE Day celebration was so special. We partnered with Chesham Leys to provide a most memorable day.
- Our participation in Chesham Carnival was amazing. A massive thank you to everyone who came together to take part in the schools parade through Chesham town on a sunny Saturday last month.
- Physical development continues to support our learners physical needs. You will read about cross country, bowling, wheelpower events, special Olympics and much more. All led and planned by the wonderful, Sarka

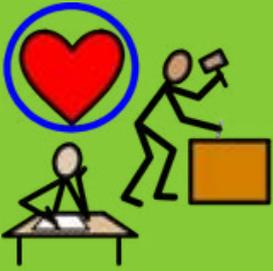
We are excited to announce an Open Day event in October when the school will be open for you and your family to see what our school has to offer - do save the date.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the amazing staff at school. We have a team dedicated to enabling learners to be the best version of themselves and to achieve their potential.

Thank you also to all parents and families for supporting the school community.

Finally, I wish you all a good summer break and look forward to welcoming the school community back on Friday 5th September.

*Jacqueline*



## Careers and Aspirations

## Preparation for Adulthood & Employability

### Travel Training

Each week learners from YP2&4 head off to Chesham town centre using public transport and the school mini bus.

The aim of this initiative is to increase learners skills when accessing public transport. Many of the learners have their own bus pass which allows them to travel. Learners, using the bus with staff support, are becoming proficient in managing the skills required to access this provision. Once in the town centre learners will purchase a drink in a café and then purchase items for their lunch in a supermarket. The learners really enjoy this opportunity to access the local community & gain pleasure & confidence in their independence.



### Chesham in Bloom

Chesham in Bloom contacted us to seek assistance to plant flowers along Chesham High Street.

Learners have been supporting the upkeep of the planters outside of Poppins Cafe. Learners had a fantastic time gaining experience of how to plant and care for the flowers and were very proud of how their hard work has benefitted the local environment.





Clare Bunce  
Horticulture

## Horticulture

In Horticulture this year, the learners have been busy tidying and prepping the vegetable beds. Watering the garden has always been tricky without a hose but our local Rotary club have helped fund some waterbutts and Eames Horticulture helped set these up so we now have a great way of storing rainwater for the plants!

Some learners took a trip to a nearby garden centre to help with purchasing plants and then planting in the garden. Harvesting has started and the vegetables we have grown are being used in our onsite cafe, The Potting Shed Cafe.

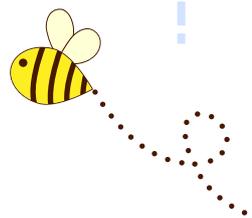
From September, learners will be looking at the importance of composting and we will be looking to create a new outside area for learners in Adventurers and Investigators to access during their horticulture sessions.

I'm also thrilled to announce that Chesham in Bloom awarded our garden with Silver in their Blooming School's competition!



*Dear Heritage House School, Thank you so much for taking the time to enter our Blooming Schools competition. Our panel of six judges was very impressed by the enthusiasm for gardening and looking after the environment shown by the staff and pupils at all the participating schools. In order to spare you a long wait over the summer holidays, I can reveal now that you have been awarded Silver in this year's competition. Congratulations!*

I hope you have a great summer and don't forget to look after our bees!



Clare Bunce



Careers and Aspirations

## Preparation for Adulthood & Employability

### The Potting Shed Café

The café is a busy venue for the people of Chesham and the staff at school at lunch time (Wednesday – Friday)

Each week learners support the café operationally by preparing food, welcoming & serving customers.

The aim of the school café is to offer experience of working in a café and finding out if individuals would like to pursue this as an employed role in the future.

Learners work alongside Dani and Amy in front of house, catering, customer service and creating an enjoyable experience for everyone who visits the café





Sarka Viehoff  
PE Coach

## PE HIGHLIGHTS 2024-2025



Started the school year with a whole school yoga themed celebration of National Fitness Day



We carried on with the fit and healthy theme at Cross Country Festival in November!



Learners explored a variety of ball games at Wheelpower Festival in December



We had fun with new sports at the Primary Panathlon in January



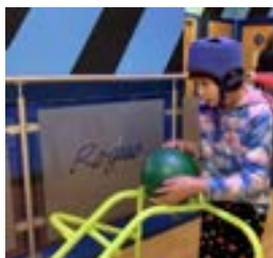
Team work in action at the Country Competition in January



Learners enjoyed outdoor leisure sessions at Sailing, Aquadrome From May until July



Learners worked hard to problem solve during weekly PD sessions



We learned all about bowling at Panathlon Bowling in January too!



Learners followed games rules and took turns during the Kurling PD session in February

# Heritage House School Newsletter

July 2025



**Sarka Viehoff**  
PE Coach



Our multi-sensory athletes celebrated their hard work at our Special Olympics in March



Learners had fun cycling on all sorts of wheels at Accessible Cycling with Active in the Community in June



Learners responded to instructions and worked on their fine motor skills at Happy Rebound Therapy in July



We sailed down the river Thames at the Accessible Boating Day in June - thank you to the parents that helped transport!



Learners practised ball game skills, hand-eye coordination and team play at Soft Ball Cricket Festival in June

We got together to celebrate sports, companionship and to have fun at our Superhero Sports Day in July



We are very proud of Jay from YP2 class who is the first learner from Heritage House to complete an entry level of Sailability scheme with Colne Valley Special Sailors at Aquadrome this summer term. Jay is learning all there to know about controlling a small sailing boat. WELL DONE!!

Ilyas at AITC Inclusive Cycling Session- Thank you very much to Ilyas's family for sharing this, it literally made our day when we saw the photos. We love to hear what our learners are up to outside school. Do let us know!



In other news...

## Brushwood Linking Project

As well as offering the opportunity to make new friends, the focus of this project is to assist in the development of our communication & language, personal, social and emotional skills, which link directly into our curriculum.

Buttercup Class have developed friendships with pupils from class 5G at Brushwood school this year, we have visited Brushwood school 3 times and we have also hosted Brushwood pupils at our school. Our learners made excellent hosts, taking on the role of team leader and guide very seriously as they showed them around our horticulture area and assisted with the round robin games we organised for everyone in the playground.

We even made it into the Brushwood school newsletter! We look forward to the ongoing development of this project.





In other news...

## Miltons Cottage Creative Writing Day

Heritage House School have been working with the National Paralympic Heritage Trust for the last couple of years and as part of that continuing partnership we were invited to attend a creative writing day at Milton's Cottage in Chalfont St Giles.

We were welcomed by the Milton's museum team, Fiona from NPHT and an author called Steve who taught us how to add creative writing to our developing writing skills. Our phonics skills assisted us in the writing of our stories.

The learners had a great day and came back with a zest for writing!





## NPHT

NATIONAL PARALYMPIC  
HERITAGE TRUST

### **Sensory Explorations**

#### **A Collaborative Project between the National Paralympic Heritage Trust, Heritage House School and Chesham Museum and Milton's Cottage.**

We were delighted to welcome back Heritage House on year 2 of the exciting Sensory Explorations project, working with us, the National Paralympic Heritage Trust (NPHT), based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Buckinghamshire and Chesham Museum based in Chesham Town Hall and Milton's Cottage in Chalfont St Giles.

This year students participated in workshops designed to develop an interest in 2D and 3D photography, whilst supporting documenting and creative writing experience. Revisiting the skills first introduced in year one of the project, the purpose of these interactions was to facilitate meaningful opportunities to further the employability skills of young people.

The fruit of these workshops can be seen in the image sheets below.

Collaboration continues with the partner museums and future visits, supporting the exciting opportunity to learn outside of the classroom, are planned for the new term.

Heritage House contributed to the development of a virtual Buckinghamshire Gallery, which displays objects from across local museum collections and SEND schools.

If you would like to see the contribution made by Heritage House School to the Global Virtual Museum please visit:

<https://www.paralympicheritage.org.uk/global-virtual-museum>



In other news...

## Drama Collaboration with a music drama and opera group

We have been delighted to work with a fantastically talented group of musicians from a charity called Vache Baroque, working together to develop a show to meet the needs of a SEN audience. Our learners had fun experimenting with their voices and even took turns to conduct the artists as they played their instruments.

Our learners have loved experiencing live music and opera singing. Indeed, the learners were so engaged by the group we have used funds from the proceeds of the Chesham Schools Carnival to secure a weekly visits to school by a member of the group to deliver 1:1 and small group music and drama sessions.



Congratulations on achieving the Gold School Games Mark for 2024/2025 - another wonderful year, and as always I love working with you and the school. Please share and celebrate your award.

Look forward to catching up next year,  
Rachel Hutchinson  
South Bucks School Sports Partnership Manager | SGO | Inclusion Lead for Bucks



## Multidisciplinary Therapy Team (MDT)

## Multidisciplinary Therapy Team

Over this school year teachers & therapists have integrated therapeutic learning foci to co-produce learners personalised plans.

This was highlighted in the school OFSTED Inspection report – ‘The support for pupils with sensory needs is exceptionally strong. The school effectively integrates physio, health and sensory needs into pupils’ learning. The therapy team supports class teams to develop their specialist expertise and seamlessly weaves this into classroom activities... Staff are adept at promoting pupils’ communication. ... Adults model how to use communication aids and support children to recognise key objects, words and symbols’

This year, the therapists have also collaborated with the teachers, subject co-ordinators, and curriculum leaders, to contribute to the development of the Communication & Language and Physical Development strands of the Curriculum.

The schools continuous professional development ( CPD) programme for staff has included Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC), Oral Motor Development, Sensory Integration, and Sensory Play and Tactile Processing – and this year, we extended this to include upskilling our midday supervisors in these topics.

The therapy team have facilitated workshops, covering topics such as Regulation for Learning and AAC at Home.

Our specialist speech and language therapist trained in paediatric dysphagia has provided our learners with eating, drinking and swallowing needs with oral motor development programmes, implemented by trained staff.

Our learners are enjoying new sensory integration resources, such as vibration plates, massage mats, spinning disc seats and new swings. The occupational therapy team have implemented new therapeutic initiatives, such weekly food-based learning sessions to support tactile and oral development, help to break down barriers around foods and picky eating, and support skill development and independence in our older learners. Learners can progress from Fun with Food in Adventurers Phase, Food Exploration in Investigators and Discoverers, and Meal Preparation sessions in the Young People phase.





Celebrations

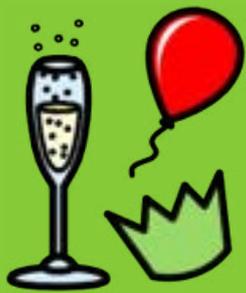
## 80th Anniversary of VE Day Celebrations

We held several events to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day including a parade in our street. Chesham Leys residents watched from their windows and waved flags as staff and learners dressed in red, white and blue waved back as they lined the street awaiting the parade. Our terrific team of Scout and Cub Leaders and school representatives magnificently marched with their flags to rapturous applause accompanied by a bugle call by our in house Chesham Girls Band member.

As this was such a special day for the residents of Chesham Leys, we made shortbread and delivered it to every resident, they also invited some learners to join in with games and war time songs hosted at the care home.

A wonderful community event and great memories made for all!





## Celebrations

## Schools of Chesham Carnival

What a fantastic event to be part of, we were immensely proud to have such great support from our families, learners and staff at this growing annual event. Our learners were amazing as they took to the streets of Chesham to show off their super powers! We were delighted to receive the Mayor's Award for our procession entry.

Our stall in the park was a huge success raising over £000 from the sale of the high quality items our learners have made during construction lessons over the year. It was brilliant to see our YP learners assisting with the selling of the items.

Talks are already underway with plans for the event next year, we are very excited to have some parent volunteers to assist with preparations, if you would like to join the merry crew please do get in touch!

We hope to see even more learners from Heritage House join this brilliant community event next year.



# Heritage House School Newsletter

January 2025



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

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the academic year!

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 are as follows:

**Monday** – 10am - 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.

I hope you have a lovely summer break, and I look forward to seeing you in September

*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

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/>

## 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**

## Spotlight on Toilet Training

During the Autumn term, we will be having a focus on supporting our learners and their families to promote independence around toileting. We recognise that for various reasons, not all of our learners will be able to use the toilet independently, but we feel that it is extremely important to support all of our learners to be as independent as they can be in this regard.



If you feel that you need or would like professional support around toilet training your child or young person, please do let me know. I am able to make referrals to the following specialist teams:

### **Community nurses for children and young people with a learning disability (CNCLD Team)**

They work with families and agencies in various settings to improve health outcomes for children and young people.

The CNCLD team will formulate a plan to support with strategies to help you address your child/ young person's needs.

The team can also:

- work with other professionals to support your child
- give your family information and advice, or signpost you to other resources and services
- support your child/young people and your family through transition into adult services
- work with groups of children /young people in schools around growing up and health promotion



Sarah O'Donnell  
Family Advocate

## Spotlight on Toilet Training

### Referral to the CNCLD Team

Any professional who knows your family, for example a teacher, healthcare professional or social worker can make a referral

Your child must be:

- aged 0 to 19 years and formally diagnosed as having a learning disability
- be registered with a GP in Buckinghamshire.

School Nursing Team

The School Nursing Team support children and young people in Buckinghamshire schools and the local community with medical, social, emotional or physical needs.

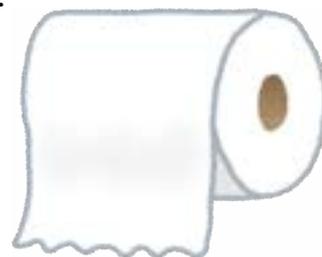
The School Nurses work in 3 teams across Buckinghamshire:

- North Bucks (including Aylesbury and Buckingham)
- South Bucks (includes Chiltern and South Bucks)
- Wycombe

Who can make the referral?

A parent, carer or healthcare professional.

Please note that you can't refer a child or young person to another specialist service for an assessment at the same time.



### USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR TOILET TRAINING

Please see the links below for sources of further information and support:

<https://eric.org.uk/children-with-additional-needs/>

<https://eric.org.uk/support-for-families/>

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/behaviour/toileting/parents>

<https://cerebra.org.uk/download/toilet-training-a-guide-for-parents/>

[https://contact.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/potty\\_toilet\\_training.pdf](https://contact.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/potty_toilet_training.pdf)

<https://www.bbuk.org.uk/>



Information

## Family Open Day at Heritage House School

You are invited to join us at school on:

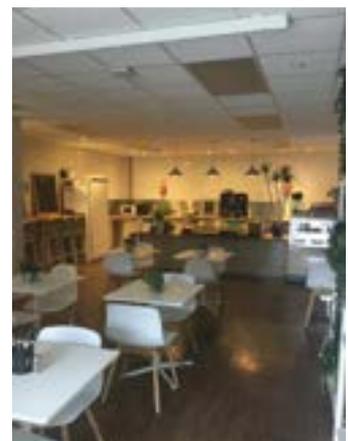
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2025**  
Between **10am** and **12 noon**



We are delighted to be opening our doors to allow our learners to show their families around our school setting and for families to see and enjoy the facilities we share with our learners. This is your opportunity to see every area of school from classrooms, sensory rooms, cafe, construction and much much more!

*Children must be supervised by their parents at all times.*

**Please advise the office if you are able to attend!**





## Information

## Reminders

### Heating Food

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

### Learner 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. They will not be able to swim for two weeks following sickness.

### School Uniform

Please could you ensure all of your child's uniform, swimming clothes and personal items are 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.

### Punctuality

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.

### Parking

Reminder of arrangements for the mornings and at the end of the day, to continue to encourage a low arousal start to the day, to keep everybody safe and the traffic flowing, we would ask that parents/carers arrive on site for 8.50am and 2.40pm. We are mindful that traffic builds up from 2pm at each site and request you *do not* arrive at this early time.