



Jacqueline Clearkin
Headteacher



Autumn Term 2025

Welcome to this our first newsletter of the new school year.

In September we welcomed 10 new families to our school community.

Our new learners have settled quickly across the school, making & and developing strong relationships with their peers in either 'Adventurers- Investigators - Discoverers or Young People classes. They have been supported in this by our team of teachers, therapists, learning support assistants, coaches, mid-day supervisors and the admin team

It had been a joy to see all our learners return to school and engage in their learning with such curiosity & enthusiasm.

The number of learners at school is now 141. To support the school community during the summer recess we created many new learning areas, including a horticulture area, additional trampoline, a new sensory integration room in LEAF, & classrooms upgraded and freshly painted.

One very important upgrade has been the enhanced driveway to the main building. This development had enabled us to transition learners from vehicles into school with enhanced safety. You will be aware the traffic to the site has increased. In this newsletter I will detail how we are managing the traffic to the three sites; the Leys care home , Aspire and ourselves who have all experienced increased enrolment.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I thank all the staff for contributing the wonderful updates. It really gives a great snapshot of the life of the school.

Jacqueline



Welcome

Family Open Day

**WELCOME
TO ALL**

What an enjoyable day!

On Saturday October 4th 2025 we welcomed 35 families to see the whole school from Early years to 6th Form, including horticulture, café, construction and our three trampolines!

Staff were available to show families our provision and share information about the school.

It was a successful morning with one sibling of a learner declaring, 'I wish I came here' and 'please open up every October!' (we think it was the fun in the sensory integration room...)

Thank you to all the families who attended our Open Day & were able to see the whole school – we hope you enjoyed your day.





Ambitious
Futures



New Technologies

EVIDENCE FOR LEARNING

Placing the learner at the centre and connecting the entire team around them

As with other special schools we have been introducing a new package to capture each learner's progress and achievements across all areas of our provision. This package is **Evidence for Learning** which enables all learning support assistants, teachers, therapists, vocational coaches and swim coaches to input observations and photographs that demonstrate progress. iPads have been purchased for staff to input data 'in the moment'

This information is then shared by everyone so that learning is captured not only in the class environment but in settings such as the pool, horticulture, therapeutic interventions and out in the community.

Annual reviews

We are very excited that Evidence for Learning is giving us the opportunity to develop how we record learning and also how we format and deliver our EHCP annual review process. From January 26 we will be rolling out the new annual review format.



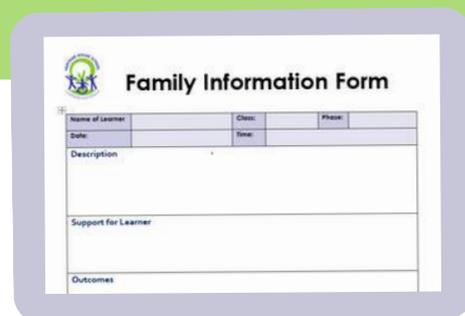
We trialled this new initiative in September meeting with Sonny, his mum Lou, the class teacher, Katherine, representatives from Bucks SEND Team and senior leaders from school. Sonny activated a switch to show us in photographs and film, his EHCP outcomes and achievements to date.

Thanks Sonny and Lou - it was an amazing experience!



Communication

Communication



Name of Learner	Class	Phase
Date	Time	
Description		
Support for Learner		
Outcomes		

How we communicate

It's always lovely to hear family updates. In communication books the class teacher will focus on engagement in learning for three of the five school days, sharing learners progress, engagement and achievements.

The two remaining days will provide the opportunity for the teacher to respond to any questions raised by families during the week. The teacher will place a sticker in the book to signify they have read any communication between home & school.

Additional information such as personal care, dietary or therapeutic support is also included where relevant. For those learners who access short breaks (respite) there is a section to share information with our social care providers. Families can also email or call the school office to share information.

If the class teacher needs to share other information with families, then a **Family Information Form** is completed.



School Traffic

Over the past few years there has been an increase in the amount of traffic to the three sites, The Leys, Aspire and ourselves. With this in mind we met with the Head Teacher from Aspire and 2 members of the management team from The Leys care home to discuss the issue.

Under discussion was how to manage the flow of traffic on Cameron Road both in the mornings and afternoons. Joining us was Councillor Mo Fayyaz who will support with initiatives regarding this matter. The group will meet again in November. Parking has become a problem for staff & we therefore politely request that parents avoid parking in the Heritage House school car park in the mornings.



MDT

Multidisciplinary Therapy Team (MDT)

An exciting start to the new school year!

The MDT Team are so excited to have started the new school year, supporting our learners, collaborating with the teaching teams and learning coaches, and meeting all the new learners.

This term, we have started using the Evidence for Learning assessment and progress recording package to enhance the integrated therapeutic offer. Assessment data supports teachers and therapists to co-create the learners' termly personalised plans.

The progress recorded on the platform by therapists and therapy assistants includes photographs and videos, and is shared with teaching teams and learning coaches, meaning that therapeutic strategies and practices can be implemented in all learning environments.





Well-being

Well-being

Hello Yellow!

On Friday 10th October 2025, we celebrated Hello Yellow for World Mental Health day.

Learners and staff dressed in yellow and participated in many different yellow activities throughout the day to raise awareness of Mental Health. Activities included; yellow scavenger hunts, yellow themed arts and crafts, taking photos with the photo booth, and yellow themed sensory exploration. Also, learners explored mental health topics such as exploring emotions and feelings, creating gratitude paper chains, and exploring mindfulness, positivity and healthy living.



Pets as Therapy

Clover, Bramble and Dragonfly Classes have been lucky enough to have weekly visits from Sparkle. Engagement within these sessions has improved greatly over the last few months. Many learners are delighted when Sparkle comes to visit. For many learners, their confidence around dogs has grown. Sparkle is very gentle and enjoys the learners reaching to touch her and interact with her.





Physical
Development

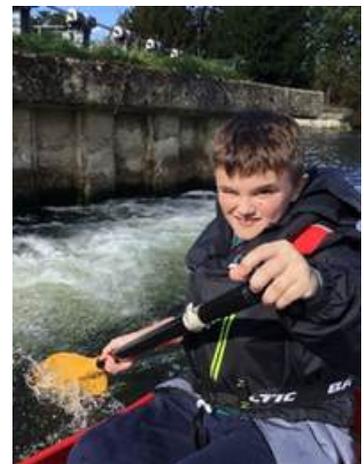
PD Highlights



WATER ACTIVITIES

Some of our learners have been out and about on rivers and lakes this term.

Our younger group took an opportunity to have a day out on the River Thames in September and had a glorious day boating on a katanoe and a wheely boat. We observed yachts and birds floating by, said hello to walkers on river banks and then had a picnic in a tent shelter. Thank you to the volunteers from Accessible Boating Thames for providing this opportunity for us.





Physical
Development

PD Highlights



WATER ACTIVITIES

We also ran weekly explorations of Bury Lake in Aquadrome, Rickmansworth. A group of older learners from LEAF worked hard on their katanoe and sailing skills, which later displayed in everyone receiving a certificate with their achieved level.





Physical
Development

PD Highlights

TENNIS



Tennis sessions in Halton Tennis Club are in the full swing again with our learners working hard on improving their hand eye coordination, listening and cooperation skills.





Physical
Development

PD Highlights



HERITAGE STARS

To celebrate National Fitness Day our school community joined together on 2nd October to join in HERITAGE STARS challenge. Movement, star jumping, communication and dancing made us feel happy, strong and content. Well done everyone, it was great fun to keep fit with you all!!





Horticulture

Horticulture



Harvesting and planting...

In September, Heritage House proudly received a Silver Award from Chesham in Bloom, recognising the hard work and dedication of our staff and learners.

Continuing into autumn, our horticulture programme has been in full swing. Learners in Leaf have been busy harvesting our very own vegetables for the café and tidying up fallen leaves - helping to keep our grounds beautiful and well-maintained.

Meanwhile, learners in Investigators and Adventurers have been exploring a new area – our *Natural Thinkers Discovery Garden*. This hands-on space has quickly become a favourite, with learners engaging in sensory exploration of different soils, leaves, and branches collected from a variety of trees around our wonderful site. As winter approaches, the focus will shift to collecting seeds for next year and preparing the garden beds for their winter rest.

Looking ahead to November, we're excited to be receiving hedgelings from the Woodland Trust, which will be used to create a new hedge near the Leaf car park. This new habitat will encourage more birds and wildlife to visit our school. Every learner will take part by planting one hedgeling each – a lovely opportunity to contribute to our growing environment.





Food Technology

Food Technology



Love to cook...

Food technology is a firm favourite amongst our YP3 learners!

Jennie has created a calm and respectful food technology space, and adapts all her lessons to meet the needs of the learners across LEAF. YP3 enjoy using the switch adapted kitchen appliances to independently activate mixers and blenders.

It's a hands-on subject where we can use our senses – smelling fresh ingredients, feeling different textures, hearing food cook, and tasting what we've made, as well as learn important life skills.





Food Technology

Food Technology



Each session gives us a chance to experience food in different ways, and to make choices about what we like and don't like. Our learners have made lots of yummy treats already this term, and I know the Halloween biscuits were a big hit!

Food technology is not just about cooking – it's about independence, wellbeing, and enjoying the process.

enjoy!





Careers

Pre-Internship

Developing new skills and confidence

At Heritage House, our Pre-internships offer learners in our Young People phase opportunities to acquire new skills and develop their confidence, empowering them for ambitious futures. Which is what we are all about in LEAF (Learning Empowers Ambitious Futures).

Our employability coaches across our school provision including food technology/ catering, travel training, horticulture, construction and café, aims to instil a love for these areas and support learners to consider future opportunities.



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DO
THIS

goals



Careers

Pre-Internship



The Potting Shed Cafe

We all have ambitions for our future and learners here are certainly exploring their options. In careers sessions learners increase their understanding of their role in planning for their future and what skills they may need.

A group of learners attended the Buckinghamshire Skills show and made connections with employers with planned visits to school from a catering company, a horticulture business and to engage with the community our local police force will visit in November. On site we have developed provision so learners can explore horticulture, hospitality, charity work and construction

These photographs show learners in the café having experience of food preparation, customer service and the all important 'bottle washing'!

If you are yet to visit the café please remember its open from Wednesday-Friday, 9.30am – 2.30pm during term time.



Follow us on Instagram **@pottingshedcafe** to see details of menus and future events - we look forward to seeing you there.



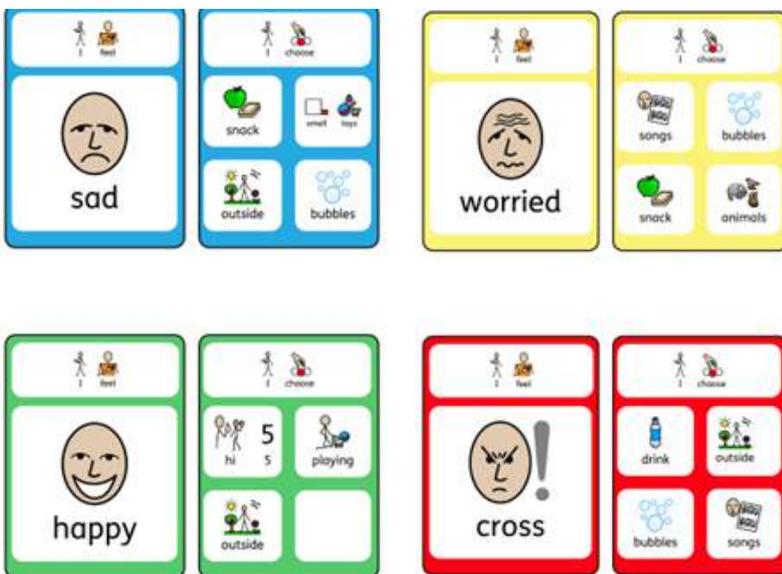
MDT

Heritage House Outreach

In the summer term Heritage House launched a new Outreach Service.

We are supporting mainstream settings to help support those learners who maybe finding school a little challenging.

We have now supported four schools, sharing our resources and knowledge such as our SRS plans, strategies to support communication and our curriculum.



It is an honour to be invited into the schools and work with them to support their learners
- Ella - Outreach



Events

Schools of Chesham Carnival

**The first meeting for Chesham Schools Carnival 2026
has taken place, the date is set
and plans are under way!**

Hold the date: Saturday 13th June 2026

Thank you to everyone who supported Heritage House either by attending on the day or assisting with preparations for carnival 2025. It is so wonderful to see our learners, family and staff take part in this wonderful community event.

Here's to even more of us joining the parade in 2026!

We are delighted to say that we have been given £1000 from the proceeds of our raffle sales and from the profits made on the day. We will be using this money to give every learner in school the opportunity to attend a Christmas pantomime performance (whether in school or at the Elgiva theatre).

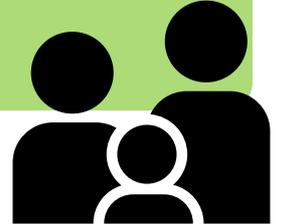
We are looking for volunteers to assist us with preparations for carnival 2026 – please do get in contact with the office if you might be able to help in any way.





Amy Critoph
Family Therapist

Family Advocate News



A warm welcome to Amy Critoph

We recognise that parenting a child or young person with additional needs can bring its own unique rewards and challenges, and that family well-being is crucial to ensure positive outcomes for our learners. So, to further develop the support available to our families, I am very pleased to share that Amy Critoph has joined the Heritage House School team, and will be available to meet with families in school on one day every month.

Amy's first session will be on **Wednesday 19th November 2025**. Sessions can be in person or via Teams. If you would like to meet with Amy to find out more about the support that she can offer, please do get in touch with me, and Amy will contact you directly to arrange a mutually convenient time slot.

MORE ABOUT AMY IN HER OWN WORDS!

Dr Amy Critoph is a Clinical Psychologist who has over fifteen years' experience of working with adults and children who have a learning disability in the NHS and private practice. She is registered with the Health and Care Professionals Council and the British Psychological Society.

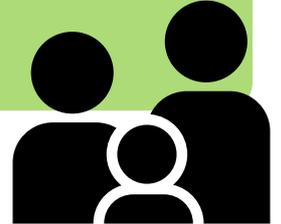
Amy has always had an enthusiasm for working with people who have a learning disability having been introduced to it through volunteering at a local summer holiday camp. She has joined Heritage House School on a part time basis to support the well-being of families within the school community. She brings with her a particular interest in working with the systems or networks of people supporting our learners, having completed her intermediate level family therapy training in addition to her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

Outside of work she enjoys walking her dog, small scale gardening and tries to avoid cooking as much as possible!



Sarah O'Donnell
Family Advocate

Family Advocate News



It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of the first half term! 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) or by sending me a message in your child's communication book.

FRIENDS OF HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL (FOHHS)

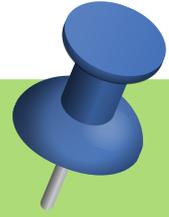
The Friends of Heritage House School was established towards the end of 2019, with our second event being held just as the first lockdown was announced. We are very keen to attract new committee members and enthusiastic volunteers to help us raise lots of money for our school! Getting involved not only benefits our learners, but is a great opportunity to meet other families, whilst raising money and having fun!

Please do consider getting involved in whatever way you can, big or small, your support is absolutely key to our success.



Information

Reminders



Heating Food

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

Learner Absences

Please inform the school office on the first day of any learner 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.



NPHT

NATIONAL PARALYMPIC
HERITAGE TRUST

YOUR say in shaping our Creative Learning Group!



On the **28th October from 2pm - 4pm**, we're inviting students to our Heritage Centre (Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Harvey Rd, Aylesbury HP21 9PP) to share what they want this group to involve!

Refreshments and donuts will be provided!

Please RSVP by emailing: admin@paralympicheritage.org.uk and let us know if you'd like to attend in person or virtually! Please also let us know of any access needs so that we can best support you!

with thanks to our funders

GEM
We connect &
learn together



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

NetPositive Core Inclusive Netball Club.

Want to try a new sport? *Want to learn some new skills? *Want to make new friends? *Want to have fun?

Become a part of NetPositive Netball Club!!

Netpositive was set up in South Bucks 2021 to offer young people with SEN, Autism, or Mental health challenges a chance to play netball. We aim to develop netball skills and understanding of the game and rules, whilst being flexible and inclusive to personal circumstances, whilst having fun. All our coaches are experienced and are passionate about offering Netball to young people, we also have a good understanding of any extra needs anyone might have and will adapt our training to fit the individual. There is absolutely no pressure on anyone, it is all about having a fun time in a safe environment Session.

Training dates- Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 24th October- 5.30pm to 6.30pm at Kingsmead Netball Centre, Fennels Road, High Wycombe HP11 1SL

Cost £10 for 4-week block

Young people Aged – 14 years to 18 years

All sessions are led by a qualified Level 2 coach and an assistant. All coaches are England Netball affiliated, qualified in safeguarding and first aid, and hold current DBS certification.

All members are expected to arrive 'netball ready' this means comfortable sports clothing and good supportive trainers (fashion trainers do not give the best support) All jewellery must be removed (unless for medical or religious reason but must be taped), nails cut so they are not showing over finger tips and long hair tied up.

All our members need to be current England netball members (details below).

<https://engage.Englandnetball.co.uk/Dashboard/Organisation?OrganisationId=66712>

Annual EN Membership 1st September 2025 – 31st August 2026

*Under 14 years £12.31

* Under 18 years £21.29

* Over 18 Years £45.05

* Supporter £15.89 (parents/careers if they wish to stay court side).

We have tried to keep fees to a minimum and have also received moneys from grants but to totally cover sessions we need to cover all costs; all coaches are volunteers. If you should need financial support, please contact us directly. We want as many young people as possible to access netball, so please do not be put off if cost is an issue, we can help.

If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, please email us.

netpositivenetball@hotmail.com



MARLOW HOCKEY CLUB

Flyerz Hockey

Hockey for all

Sessions restart on Sunday 21st September 4.15-5.15pm at Marlow Hockey Club, Pound Lane, Marlow.

If your child has physical additional needs or is neurodivergent this session is for them!

Sessions are **free, safe**, played with bigger balls, and 1 to 1 support for players. We can provide hockey sticks, but players will need shin pads.

Please sign up via the website or by contacting kateporter1@gmail.com

