Heritage House School Newsletter

October 2026



WELCOME

Autumn 2026

Dear parents & school community,

Welcome to this, our first newsletter of the new school year. We are delighted especially, to offer a warm welcome to all new learners & families to our school community.

In September, seventeen learners joined us across our phases making for a very busy but exciting start to the term.

Grayson, **Aniyah**, **Kyrie**, **Leo** & **Max** in Grasshopper
Athithra & **Saptam** in Ladybird
Frankie in Dragonfly
Finley, **Noman** & **Rishan** in Buttercup
Christian in Foxglove
Logan in Clover
Ayaan & **Ava** in Bramble
Talulah in Oak
and **Wardah**

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There was an early opportunity to 'meet our team' on Wednesday 7 October and it was very well received with 72 parents signing up for the event. The school was looking really good with so much to see and hopefully it provided an insight to daily life at Heritage House.



We are very grateful for the feedback received during the session and it was very positive to see such wonderful engagement from everyone involved. You will read about our actions following your feedback.



In this newsletter we highlight our wonderful horticulture awards & developments; the creation of an impressive new 6th Form provision.



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 life at our school.





Remember
INSET DAY
school closed to learners

Jacqueline



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Meet the Team!

Reflections on your feedback...

Sarah, our Family Advocate and I have read all your responses. They were all so positive on how we communicate together.

We feel we can communicate well with the school

I am happy with all this year's communication so far



The team know my child well and can explain daily activities to us

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Meet the Team!

Some developments you'd like to see...

Greater provision of speech & language therapy including AAC, parent teacher meetings and class parent groups

- ***Training for parents***
- ***More 'meet the team' events***
- ***Parents' meetings***
- ***Dates for diaries***

We are looking to add these ideas into the mix of events and workshops we currently organise across the school year where parents can meet class teams and enjoy seasonal activities with learners.







Following your feedback requesting dates for diaries you will receive information of all things 'festive' mid-November. This will detail events for parents, festive crafts and our ever popular Pop Up Christmas Shop.

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Communication



Thank you for your comments about the **Communication Book**, many of the responses reflect that the book serves as a positive tool for communication and the majority response rated it between 4-5 stars with 1 response being 3.


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July

Dear parents & school community,

In this newsletter we share the opportunities and learning that our learners have had in this summer term.

It has been packed with opportunities for development from musical events to sports, retail, horticulture and culture.

The highlight in June was the Chesham Schools Carnival, which so many families attended. It is indeed a special occasion as we paraded through Chesham with all other local primary schools. Thank you to everyone who supported this venture – we are certainly on the map as a vibrant Chesham school!

We also welcomed this term Vache Baroque a classical group of musicians who serenaded the building from our main PD hall.



The response to the **Newsletter** was overwhelmingly positive.

The newsletter is perfect for me!

I love reading the newsletter and seeing the lovely photos as well



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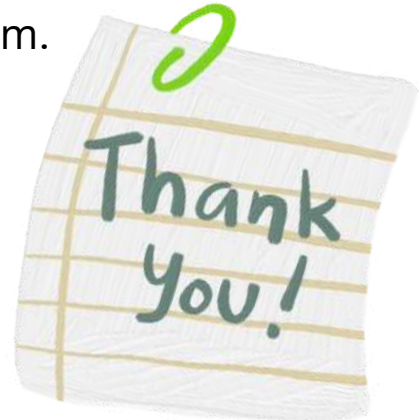


As part of the survey, we also asked the class teams to provide their feedback on the event. The enthusiasm from the teams being able to meet and engage directly with with you as families at the event was very positive and incredibly helpful in getting to know you.

Our team of therapists, coaches and physical development colleagues also fed back how much they found the event to be a very positive experience.

A good time in the school year, very well organised and most importantly great parental engagement

We are committed to continually improving how we communicate with you and with this in mind we are organising a further event to take place in the Spring term.



We will advertise events well in advance, so we can further increase the engagement taking place. The more responses we receive from you help us to continually reflect and improve in all areas.

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Annual Reviews

An important date for your diary...

You will shortly receive a date to review your child's progress over the school year. To support class staff, therapists and other professionals to contribute to the Annual Review we need to keep to the date provided. Only in circumstances unavoidable can we rearrange. We are sending out dates early to support you. Please do contact us by 25 November if your date is not suitable.



Our move to a visual presentation of the Annual Review with contributions from learners, families therapists and school has proved to be a powerful tool to share and discuss learners EHCP outcomes.

Thank you to parents & families who contributed to the presentation with fantastic video & photographs of family life. Seeing learners at home provided a truly rounded picture of learner's real life experiences If you are yet to contribute videos & photographs please consider doing so. A development we are piloting is to connecting your videos to aspects of the EHCP. Information on this will be shared with you over the course of the next half term.



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Attendance



As you are aware schools are directed to support learners' attendance. This means that we monitor daily attendance and will contact families to understand a learner's absence.

Many of you phone school (by 7.45am) to update us about a learner's absence and this is enormously supportive. Please do continue to contact school promptly in this way. It allows the senior leadership team to review learner attendance and to have organised and informed school staff before 8.30 am.



However, when registers are completed at 9:15am we often find additional learner absence, which impacts the previous organisational arrangements.



As soon as you become aware of a medical appointment, please do inform the school office.

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Punctuality



Thank you to all parents and LA transport who arrive to school at 8.50am. The morning transition is now operating efficiently, with the majority of learners are in school by 9:15am across all buildings. This allows timetables and provision to begin promptly.

Some learners are arriving after 9.20am and this increases pressure on the school, with staff needing to be away from classrooms & offices to open gates and to greet learners. For some learners this can mean missing the days full provision, for example, rebound therapy, sensory room or music.

With this in mind please do try to arrive at school as punctually as possible. I am aware traffic around the school can be a challenge and we don't record arrival after 9:20am as 'late'. However, on days where traffic is a little lighter some learners are still arriving up to 9.30am.



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Car Parking

Please do not park in the staff parking bays in the morning. On several occasions recently staff have been unable to park and this has caused them a significant challenge in supporting learners at the crucial start of their day.







As the lower ground to the LEAF building will involve a lot construction work, traffic to the school site, will increase. I am aware of parents parking from as early as 1pm to collect their children from 2.50pm. Cars are then double parked particularly leading to LEAF and can cause traffic issues.



Please do not come onto the site until at least 2.30pm, so that the area is clear for vehicles to move from the site.

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Benedict's Law

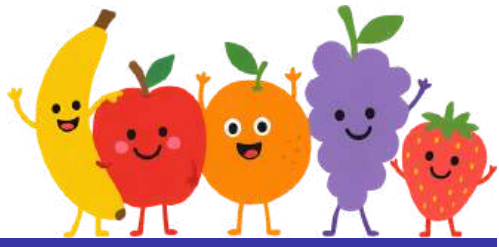




Benedict's Law is a set of mandatory national allergy safety requirements for schools. This guidance strengthens process in place at school. You will be aware learners are discouraged from carrying or eating food on entry into school. This is to limit food which may cause harm to learners who have allergies. I wish to thank all parents who have adhered to this.

To support the school further we will be introducing a limit on home daily snacks, apart from those who have medical needs and specific dietary requirements. We provide both dry and fresh snacks weekly to learners. Apart from a drive to support healthy diets, the communal snack time, provides learners with opportunities to share and practice communication routines.

We see immense progress with learner's self-help and communication skills where there is a shared communal experience. If you feel we do not meet your child's needs during snack time please do make contact so we accommodate all healthy food intake.



EVERY CHILD SAFE FROM ALLERGY AT SCHOOL

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School Lunches

Over 60% of learners currently enjoy our school lunches.



From November 2026 we will be introducing sandwiches, fruit and yoghurts to support learners who prefer an alternative to the hot meal. The sandwiches will be freshly made to learners' preferences. Learners will also be able to try the hot offer should they wish.

Please do consider a school lunch for your child. We will be contacting families individually to understand your needs.

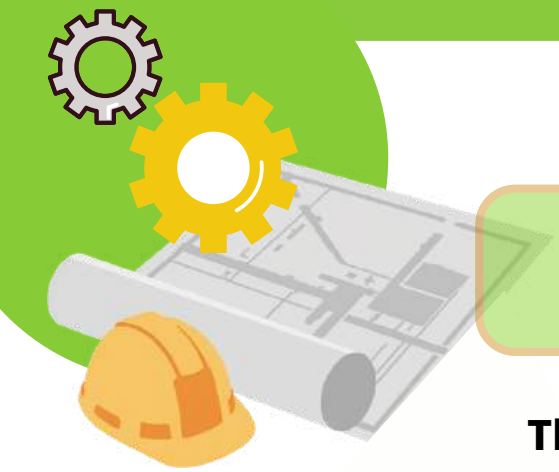
Having the majority of learners enjoying school lunch will also support with Benedict's Law as we are aware of learners allergies and food provided in school.





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WORK BEGINS!

The Potting Shed Cafe & 6th Form

We are delighted to announce that work has begun on creating a dedicated provision for 6th Formers in our LEAF building. This development is in collaboration with Bucks LA, who will fund the majority of the refurbishment.

Our beloved café will remain - and a new Potting Shed Cookery School will be established to offer learners an opportunity to develop their employability skills. We will also launch a range of goods for sale created in our cookery school - and cookery classes will be offered to the school community

Further opportunities in office skills and horticulture will also be available onsite. Learners will also have animal care, hospitality and retail opportunities on offer to provide them with aspirations for future employability skills.



The work to convert the area into a 6th form is scheduled for 12 weeks and I will update you on developments as this exciting project progresses.

Unfortunately, The Potting Shed café will now close until January 2027. Do look out for information about the reopening and future events.

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Horticulture

Our Award-winning Provision!

Memories of a long hot summer...

In June we had a deluge of judges arrive on site for the Chesham in Bloom Schools Competition. Congratulations to everyone - we received a ***Bronze Award***.



Next to visit were the Chiltern & Thames RHS team, who were in the area judging Chesham in Bloom. They were recommended to visit our Potting Shed Horticulture provision and were so impressed they promptly awarded us a ***Gardening for Health & Wellbeing Award***. An amazing achievement as these awards are the horticulture equivalent of an Oscar - Monty Don watch out!



Horticulture Coach, Clare and Deputy Head, Kathryn - very proud to receive our special RHS Award!

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Horticulture

And we're not stopping there...!

As if winning armfuls of awards didn't keep us busy enough, we also welcomed Chesham Environmental Group, who volunteered their time to help YP2 learners complete our wildlife pond project.







This lovely initiative will support the local environment and biodiversity and attract amphibious wildlife and pollinators.

Pssst!

Remember those sunflowers...? Well the tallest one measured a whopping 16ft!! We've harvested all the lovely seeds - how big will they grow next year??

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Hydrotherapy









A refreshing new look!

During the summer an extensive renovation was completed in the pool area. We now have beautiful changing rooms with new showers, hoists and toilets in these areas. Learners & staff have been using the facilities daily since September and the changes have hugely enhanced their experience.

A hair drying facility has been added to mirror experiences in community swimming pools, so that learners become competent in using similar spaces.

Thank you to families who came to the open morning to see the pool



We will be offering hydrotherapy/swimming for learners on Sunday afternoons, so look out for the information. The plan is for a parent to swim with their child offering a warm, familiar experience. The session will be led by staff at school who learners will know well.

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Hydrotherapy

Health & Safety around illness



Learners who are not fully toilet trained must wear incontinence swimwear when using the Hydrotherapy Pool. Please do inform your child's class/swim teacher if they have a stomach bug or have been given medication for constipation.

If 'accidents' occur in the pool the consequence for the school is immense. The pool could be closed to other learners and external hirers - whom we rely on for funding to maintain our pool





Incontinence Swimwear

Here are some links to companies with products we recommend:

- Fledgelings
- Splash About*
- Swimmm*

**also available from Amazon*



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Family Advocate

Toilet Training at Heritage House School

At Heritage House School, we are committed to supporting your child's independence, confidence, and personal growth. Learning to use the toilet is a major milestone, and we know it can sometimes be a complex journey for many children with additional needs.

We understand that every child has unique sensory, physical, and communication needs. Because of this, our focus is on a personalised, low-stress approach. To achieve this, we are guided by how you are supporting your child with toilet training at home - ***we follow your lead***. Whilst we aim to make the school environment as predictable and comfortable as possible, we recognise that toilets at school may be different from those at home.



If you are thinking about beginning to toilet train your child, let your class team know and complete the ***Toilet Readiness Assessment Chart*** for a two week period before we work together on an approach for school.

click here

I can do this

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FACT BUCKS Parent Carer Forum

FACT BUCKS Annual General Meeting - 7 Nov 2026



This year's Annual General Meeting of Families and Carers Together (FACT) in Buckinghamshire will be held on Saturday 7th November from 10.00am - 2:00pm in Neuro Resilience, 100a Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP21 7QP.



Take part in 2026 for the Annual General Meeting and SEND Community Event— it is an annual highlight of great talks, fun vibes, and real connections!

<u>All parents and carers are welcome, not just members.</u> This is an exciting in-person gathering offering the perfect chance to meet fellow Parent carers, SEND families and community members. The event is packed with information and engaging speakers tailored just for you! There will also be Information stalls from Buckinghamshire Council, SENDIAS, Neuro Resilience CIC, Family Hubs, SEND support groups, Therapies and community organisations.



Parking is available on site - please remember to register your number

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School Clubs

Wraparound opportunities @HHS



Hello! To introduce myself to those who don't already know me, I am Claire Boundy and I'm the lead for wraparound care here at school. I also lead the popular HAF Summer Fun provision.

We continue to offer opportunities for learners to explore hobbies in a familiar setting.

Creative Minds Club - Mondays. A popular after school club with learners who have enjoyed being creative through sensory play.

Swimming Club - Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays. This continues to be an enjoyable experience for learners, giving an opportunity to practise and develop personal skills in a fun, relaxed environment. Opportunities to enjoy socialising with learners from different classes, developing friendships while having fun in the water.

Games Club - Tuesdays & Thursdays. A fun and active club, offering the chance to enjoy exploring outdoor sports including climbing, trampolining and table cricket.

Our school clubs are hugely popular and book up fast! Information for Spring term clubs will be sent out in December...

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Short Breaks

An update from Bucks LA

In July we were invited by the Children's Commission team to discuss the provision of short breaks/respite and ideas of what future opportunities for learners across bucks could look like. It was an engaging session with parents of learners from HHS contributing ideas as well as reflecting on their child's short breaks/respite needs.



Rowena Shepherd, Strategic Commissioning Manager writes.

Thank you to all parents and carers who joined our recent Teams engagement session on the future of Children's Short Breaks services from April 2028. We are grateful for your valuable feedback and the experiences you shared. This phase of engagement has now been completed, and we look forward to hearing from more families during the formal consultation in the New Year. The Heritage House team will be able to provide details on how you can take part and have your voice heard. We continue to develop proposals for the future Children's Short Breaks offer and are keen to gather feedback from key stakeholders before launching the formal consultation. To support this, we are planning an external stakeholder workshop shortly after the half-term break, likely in early November, to share our emerging thinking, test ideas and gather views on the proposals we are considering taking forward to consultation.

Rowena is seeking 2 parents to join the workshops to contribute ideas towards setting out a clear plan for this invaluable offer. If you feel able to join a workshop please email the school office - office@heritagehouse.bucks.sch.uk

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Post HHS...

Moving on from Heritage House School...

We touched base with 3 learners who moved on from us in July. One learner, Sonny, is now enjoying Oaklands college in Hertfordshire. His Mum, Lou writes:



Sonny has settled in brilliantly & is enjoying himself. Lots of positive comments coming back each day from staff & from his physio 😊.
He's getting to use his standing frame several times a week, the physio has managed to get him sitting with support leaning against a bench, he loves the sensory room & music and enjoys going out for a walk to the shops to get cooking ingredients and then using them....
Happy Days.

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DON'T FORGET

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.

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.

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.



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DON'T FORGET

Diarrhoea & Vomitting



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.

REMEMBER:

Learners will not be able to swim for two weeks following a bout of sickness or diarrhoea.



See some useful links below on staying healthy this spring...

- **Education Hub Blog:** Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance – a helpful blog for parents and staff.
- ·**HS Guidance for Parents:** Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.
- **Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance:** Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.
- **A–Z of managing Infectious Diseases**: Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.