



Heath Lane Nursery School & Children's Club  
Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TT  
Telephone (01442) 255418  
Fax (01442) 255939  
Email [admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs P Kirtley Cert.Ed, BA(OPEN), PGC.EEL, NPQH

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## INSPIRING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO LEARN, GROW AND HAVE FUN

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13th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your children have had a lovely summer together. May I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you and your children to Heath Lane Nursery School. We are looking forward to working with you and your children over this next academic year.

During the next few weeks, we will be helping the children to settle in and make new friends. To further develop their independence, we will be supporting the children to be familiar with all the indoor and outdoor learning areas. As the term progresses, we will be learning about our families, different cultures and celebrations. We always welcome parent support with our topics so please contact Mrs Robinson if you would like to let us know how you celebrate any special events at home.

### Early Reading and Writing Skills

This term, we will be starting Phase 1 phonics from the Letters and Sounds, a national framework. We will be playing lots of listening games with instruments and learning to tap the beats in words (syllables). We will also learn about rhyme, alliteration and oral blending and segmenting. Phase 1 is essential in laying the foundations for reading and understanding our phonetic system.

### Home School books

Your children will be bringing home a Nursery book in the next couple of weeks. This might be a story book or an information book. Please share it with your child to help develop their love of books, and to help them understand the importance of caring for books. You might like to encourage your child to tell the story themselves by looking at the pictures and describing what they see. At the end of the book you could ask your child which part of the book they liked 😊.

Please return the book each week. Your child's key worker will change the book on their allocated day.

### Helping at Forest School

We really do value parents helping during our Forest School activities. Please do help if you can - you would find the sessions so enjoyable to share with your children. Please speak to your child's keyworker if you are able to help and collect a volunteer pack from the Nursery Office.



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### **Clothing and Personal Items**

Please could I ask you to ensure that every item of clothing your child wears to the Nursery is named. We are always very sorry when clothing is left behind and we do not know who it belongs to. Please also label all bags and lunchboxes with your child's name.

### **Attendance**

If your child is unable to attend Nursery, please can we ask you to telephone the office or send an email to: [admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk). It is important that we are always aware of why children are not in the Nursery School and we thank you for your co-operation with this.

### **Birthdays**

We greatly enjoy the opportunity to celebrate children's birthdays. Please feel able to provide a cake or cakes that can be shared with the children at home time or sweets.

### **Governor Vacancy**

I would like to draw your attention to the vacancy for a Parent Governor on the Governing Body of Heath Lane Nursery School. On a school governing body, the parent is a representative of the parent perspective in general. In their role, they are able to support me in helping to decide what the priorities are for improving the school. Attached to this letter is information relating to how you can become a Governor and join my senior leadership team and me in continuing the exciting and vital journey to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children.

### **Events this term**

#### **Coffee mornings and Afternoon Teas**

We would like to invite parents to a coffee morning or afternoon tea on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. As soon as your child is settled in their session, please come to the staffroom. All parents are welcome and we particularly welcome those families whose children have English as an Additional Language skills.

#### **Jeans for Genes**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018, we would like to support the charity 'Jeans for Genes'. This charity specifically supports children who are born with genetic disorders. Children and families greatly benefit from the support that this charity gives. At times, the condition can be very rare and medics may not know how the condition will present itself as the child grows older. To support this charity, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September your child can come to school wearing denim or blue clothing and pay 50p or £1.00 donation.



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### **PTA AGM with Cheese and Wine**

I would like to invite you to the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) AGM which we will be holding this term. The PTA have a valuable role in organising fund raising and social events for the Nursery. I have been extremely grateful to all the PTA committees that have supported the Nursery during the years that I have been Headteacher here. Money raised in the past has significantly supported the Nursery for example in the Forest School provision, the outdoor climbing equipment, Christmas events, and enrichment activities. Please come along to this social event where there will be the opportunity for me to thank the outgoing PTA committee and welcome new parents to the PTA for this academic year.

### **Harvest Festival**

The children will be celebrating the Harvest Festival during this term. We always support a local charity and this year, we would like to support The Refuge in Hemel Hempstead. The Refuge ([refuge.org.uk](http://refuge.org.uk)), supports mothers and children who have had to leave the family home, often at short notice, having no personal belongings with them. Often there is a shortage of basic provisions for the children so if you could consider donating various sizes of disposable nappies and wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, children's shampoo, baby bubble bath, baby creams, soaps. These would be so gratefully received. These could be brought into school during the week of 1st October and we will pass your kind gifts to the South Hill Centre who will distribute them on our behalf.

### **Come and Play! week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

During the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> November, there will be opportunities for you to come to the Nursery earlier than the end of the session to enable you to spend time with your children and speak with their keyworker. These will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>. Please let your child's keyworker know which session would be convenient for you to come into the Nursery and share in your child's learning.

### **Parents' Evenings**

We will be holding Parents evenings on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November, 4.00-6.00 pm. Parents of children who attend the morning sessions, Hedgehogs and Badgers, will be able to meet their child's keyworker on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. For parents of children who attend the afternoon session, Fox group, you will meet with your child's keyworker on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. For children who attend all day, those in the Butterfly and Owl groups, both evenings will be available for you to meet with your child's keyworkers. Appointments will be made nearer the time.

### **Christmas Story Telling**

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, we would like to invite you to a Christmas drama and musical event. These will be held on the morning and afternoon that day. Children in the Owl group will take part in the morning storytelling, along with children in the Hedgehog and Badger groups. In the afternoon, Foxes and Butterflies will participate in the Christmas Story Telling.



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### **Christmas Party Day**

The children's Christmas Party day will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Children in the Badger, Hedgehog and Owl group will have their party in the morning. Children in the Fox and Butterfly groups will have their party in the afternoon. Owl and Butterfly children will attend as usual. If your child does not normally attend on a Wednesday, please speak with your child's Keyworker to arrange which party they will be able to join in with.

### **Carol Service**

The children will be able to participate in a Carol Service at St John's Church on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. There will be no Nursery session on this day. Instead, we would like you to bring your children to the Church at 9.00 in the morning so that we can all join together in this Carol Service.

### **Children's Club- October Half Term**

The Children's Club offers a highly regarded holiday club for the October Half Term. All children aged 3 to 8 are welcome; this club is not restricted to just Heath Lane Nursery Children. The sessions available are 8.30am to 12.30pm for the morning session and 12.30pm to 4.30pm for the afternoon session. Each session is £20 per child per session. For a booking form or further details please see the Children's Club section on our website or speak to a member of Club staff.

### **After School Club**

We also run an After School Club, please find attached leaflet for further details. Should you be interested in a place either regularly or ad-hoc, please contact Mrs Haynes at N1 or the Nursery Office.

### **30-Hour Funding**

For those families currently accessing a 30-hour funded place at Heath Lane Nursery, it is essential that you monitor your account regularly to ensure that you continue to be eligible for the additional 15 hours of funding. You will need to log on to your account on the HMRC website where you originally applied for your code and this should confirm when you need to reapply. It is worth noting that the code itself will not change, this remains with you for the duration of your funding.

**Please note:** This is government funding and the responsibility for ensuring eligibility lies with the parent. Your 30-hour place will have to be withdrawn if you do not renew your code in time.



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**Primary School Application**

Even though your child/ren have only just started with us, you are able to apply for their Primary School place from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The application deadline for applying for your child's Primary (Reception Class) School place is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

If you require any assistance in applying for your child's school place, please speak to a member of the Children's Centre. Their office is based in our main reception.

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's key worker, a member of the office staff or myself if you have any queries or wish to discuss any matter. We all continue to look forward to working with you and your children.

With kind regards

Pauline M Kirtley  
Headteacher

**AUTUMN TERM 2018**

Monday 3 September -Friday 21 December 2018

**HALF TERM**

Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November 2018

**Occasional Day - (NURSERY BUILDINGS 1 & 2 CLOSED)**

Friday 30 November 2018

Nursery Closed on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
to enable children to attend the morning Carol Service at St John's Church.