



Heriot News 7

3 February 2026

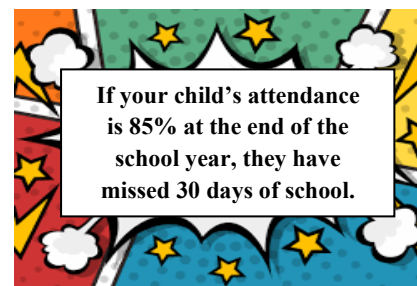


Scottish Performance afternoons to celebrate Robert Burns Day

What an amazing turn out we had on both afternoons. The children looked and sounded fantastic. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along. My thanks also to all the staff for all their efforts in putting together two great performances. Special thanks to our House Captains and Vice House Captains for being such great hosts and to Mr Taylor for organising this event. Finally, thank you for your generous donations.

Attendance

A good education gives our children the best possible start in life. It is essential that all our pupils have an equal chance to make good use of the education that the school offers by providing a positive and encouraging atmosphere. To achieve this it is important that each child attends school regularly and punctually. When a child does not attend school regularly and on time they will have difficulty keeping up with their work and may therefore underachieve.



We understand that children get unwell and may need to miss the occasional day off school however, where children are consistently absent from school for a day or even a morning every week there is a proven negative effect on their achievement, their friendships and their overall well-being.

A large number of our pupils do have a high attendance rate however when this is not the case we will seek to understand any ways in which the school is able to support families to ensure that children are in school every day and on time. As parents/carers you have a vital role in supporting and encouraging good attendance and punctuality. It is very important for all of our children that they attend Heriot every day and arrive on time.



Car Park

Please can we ask that you **do not use** the staff car park at any time. We are aware that only a small number of parents/carers continue to use the car park for pick up and drop off despite previous requests not to. Our car park is fairly small for the number of staff that we have and children should not be in this area at any time.

IDL (Literacy)

We have some new children starting IDL this term. If your child talks about 'going to IDL' it is helpful to know what this is. IDL Literacy intervention software is a speaking-computer based multi-sensory system which supports learners with dyslexia, other literacy learning difficulties and/or to support children to increase their reading and spelling ages. The programme was specifically designed for those with dyslexia and is used as an intervention however it is also used effectively as a school wide literacy aid. Mrs Gordon, one of our Classroom Assistants, is responsible for the delivery of this programme. Children using IDL access this four times per week in our ICT suite. Class teachers use IDL to create baseline scores for all children and to measure progress with spelling and reading ages.

Congratulations

Well done to Zofia, in P.7, who was the second place prize winner in Renfrewshire Councils Road Safety Classroom Calendar Competition 2026. There were many entries this year, and only three prize winners across the authority, so this was a fantastic achievement. We're very proud of you Zofia.

Staffing

A warm welcome back to Mrs Scott and Mrs Harvey who will return to Heriot Primary this month following maternity leave. Both staff members will provide class cover and targeted literacy and numeracy support.

Heriot Parent Staff Group

Thanks to everyone who came along to our meeting last night. We have agreed that, due to the success of this event last year, our main fundraiser this year will be another sponsored walk. This event will take place on Friday 1 May. (We're hoping the weather might be a bit better by then!) Details of this event will be sent out nearer the time however we hope that some of you may be able to join us for this event.

Our next meeting is on Monday 2 March from 6 - 7pm. As usual, the meeting will take place in the Snug. We look forward to seeing you there.

Panto - Beauty and the Beast

Last week we all thoroughly enjoyed our theatre visit. The children were a great audience and we had fabulous feedback about them from the performers. Oh yes we did! We have already booked for January next year for their production of Cinderella.

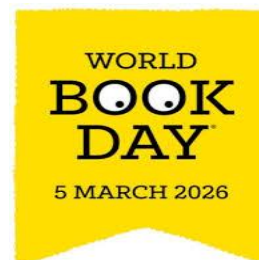


Wellbeing Survey Results

Every pupil completes a wellbeing survey in September and February each year. The results from the surveys are analysed and interventions put in place to support individuals, groups of pupils and at times the whole school. If children should give any aspect a low score, or lower than they have scored it previously, the class teacher will take time to discuss this with them.

World Book Day

This year we will once again be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Children can dress up on this day however this is optional. Children will shortly receive a book token to get one of the twelve books available this year. Further details about the day will follow shortly.



Lost Property

Please can we ask that all items of clothing have your child's name on it. Some recent items to the lost property box have had names put on but due to several visits through the washing machine the names often now can't be read. If possible, names into lunch bags would also be helpful. It's such a shame that so many items go unclaimed.

February Holidays

The school will close at 3pm on Friday 13 February. Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 February are holidays. Wednesday 18 February is an in-service day for staff therefore children won't return to school until 9am on Thursday 19.

Range of supports at Heriot Primary and ELC

At Heriot we provide a wide range of supports to our children. These supports can be short or longer term and are used responsively to best meet the needs of your child and to prevent/reduce any potential barriers to their learning. If your child requires additional support in school this is mainly provided by their class teacher/key worker. Our Classroom Assistants (CAs) provide additional classroom based support along with targeted supports. Our Additional Support Needs Assistants provide support to identified pupils. In addition to this we offer a wide range of universal and targeted supports to help our children to attain and achieve. Please see below a list of supports currently offered.

- **Targeted support** - This is provided to children who are not on track to achieve the level expected at their stage. This is provided by a member of teaching staff or CAs.
- **IDL** - Literacy intervention software is a speaking-computer based multi-sensory system which supports learners with dyslexia, other literacy learning difficulties and/or to support children to increase their reading and spelling ages.
- **Attention Bucket** - Children engage in fun activities to improve their attention, develop turn taking, develop shared enjoyment in adult led activities, to encourage spontaneous interaction in a natural group setting, to increase non-verbal and verbal communication through commentating and to build a wealth and depth of vocabulary.
- **Lego® Therapy/Lego 6 Bricks** - These are collaborative, play based social skills interventions. They are designed to improve children's communication, language, social skills and shapes emotional and behavioural responses.
- **Reading buddy** - Reading buddies is a concept that pairs different year groups for community reading time. This 1-on-1 pairing helps to build confidence and develop reading fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary.
- **Seasons for Growth** - This programme builds knowledge and skills to strengthen the emotional wellbeing and resilience of our children following experiences of significant change and loss. This is delivered by our DHT and/or Senior Family Wellbeing Worker.
- **Educational Psychologist** - Our link Educational Psychologist provides advice and guidance on supporting identified children's learning and development. They assist us to support those having difficulties in learning, behaviour or social adjustment.
- **The Exchange** - This service supports children's psychological wellbeing and emotional resilience. Following referral, sessions take place within the school.
- **CHANGE** - Our DHT delivers direct mental health interventions, within the comfort of our own setting, to children in need of support with their mental health.
- **Senior Family Wellbeing Worker** - Our Senior Family Wellbeing Worker (formerly Home Link) offers support to our children and families when required. A variety of supports for families are also available through the Family Wellbeing Service.

- **School Nurse** - Following referral, our school nurse will work one to one with individuals and their family.
- **Specialist staff and services** - We work with a number of partners who provide specialist support. These include sensory support teachers, speech and language therapists, advice and guidance from Flexible Learning Resource staff, Occupational Therapists, specialist health staff (including CAMHS), Klas Care, CEDAR and Woman and Children First.
- **Transition support** - This includes transition to a new stage, to a new school and daily transitions. Enhanced transitions and bespoke plans are arranged as required.
- **Specialist equipment** - This includes use of ear defenders, Hokki stools, fidget toys, sloping desks, ICT equipment/software, sensory equipment and coloured overlays.
- **De-escalation techniques** - A range of techniques are used to manage challenging behaviour. At Heriot we consistently use our Super 6.



1. Be empathetic & non-judgemental
2. Calm verbal & body language
3. Active listening
4. Allow personal space
5. Use distraction techniques
6. Setting boundaries & offering choices