



## September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families,

As always in schools time is passing quickly. Children have settled well into school, and we are looking forward to the fun that autumn term brings. Thanks to everyone who was able to come along for our 'Meet the Teacher' event. We are always proud with how well we are supported by our families.

### Sponsored Event

Each year we hold a Sponsored Event to raise money for the school fund. The school fund is separate from the school budget and used to enhance curriculum experiences for pupils, such as helping with funding for trips, etc.

This year we will be holding a **Fun Run at the Oval** where pupils will complete the Junior Park Run course with a few obstacles in their path.



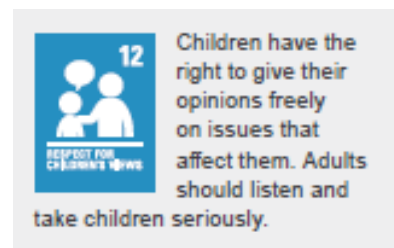
The event will be held on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**, and we are asking pupils to wear Sports Clothes on that day. We will also be looking for **parent helpers** so if you are able to help, please email the school office FAO Parent Helper - Fun Run.

### Parents' Evenings

Parents Evenings are on 2<sup>nd</sup> (after school) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (evening) October, and we will be using the Parent Night Booking system. Information will follow in due course.

## Rights Respecting Schools

Each class has created a Class Charter to support a positive learning environment. Charters make rights real and provide a framework for a positive environment where rights are respected, protected, and promoted. The Charter is created with pupils and their voice should be reflected throughout the agreement. Charters are displayed in classrooms and will be referred to throughout the school day.



### Discos - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Primary 1 and 2	1.45pm - 2.45pm
Primary 3 - 5	5.00pm - 6.15pm
Primary 6 and 7	6.30pm - 7.45pm



We encourage children to bring their own drink bottle. Primary 6 and 7 children may bring their phones and they will be stored in a box during the disco. **We cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to phones brought to school.**

Primary 1 and 2 children can come dressed in discos clothes on the day.

## Family Engagement Survey

Many thanks to everyone who completed the family engagement survey. We had 92 returns.

*How involved do you feel in your child's life and learning at Heathfield Primary and EYC? (1 = not at all, 5 = very involved)*

1	7	8%
2	14	15%
3	25	27%
4	27	29%
5	19	21%

*How do you feel about opportunities to engage with your child's learning or life at school? (E.g. attending trips with your child's class, attending breakfast club with your child, meet the teacher.)*

There are lots of opportunities.	41	45%
There are some opportunities.	42	46%
There aren't enough opportunities.	8	9%

**Comments** Included:

*“Glad to see the return of meet the teacher and love opportunities like beetle drive and Xmas movie night and the school show for parents to engage with the kids in school.”*

*“Learn together sessions in primary 1 similar to EYC stay and play sessions. Maybe focus on literacy or maths in these sessions. Maybe termly at the end of the day.”*

*“I work flexibly and can usually make events but last year there was a lot that was put it last minute. It meant I couldn't attend a few things where even with a week or two notice I could have attended.”*

## Working Parents

There were many, many comments about the challenges for working parents managing to attend events during the school day. This is something that is also a challenge for our staff as many of them are also working parents, so we do strive to find a balance.

## Communication

There were a few comments around the timeous communication of events. We do strive to provide 2 weeks' notice for any event and there are occasions when we fail to meet this in the busy school calendar. In response to comments from parents last year we created a Parent and Carers communication policy which can be found on our website.

## Digital Platforms

After we were no longer able to use Seesaw, we trialled Learning Journals as a communication aid. However, this was not easy to use with primary classrooms, so we have not continued with this, except in the Early Years Centre and Extended Learning Facility.

## You said - we did.....

We are obviously keen to develop our Family Engagement and plans are already underway to provide additional opportunities for you to become more involved and engage in your child's learning.



## Assessments

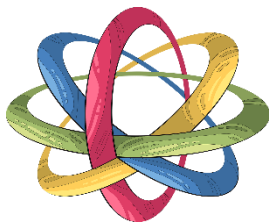
At the beginning of a new term pupils will undergo a range of assessments appropriate to their age and stage. Primary 3-7 pupils will be completing an Accelerated Reader Assessment which will provide a standardised score and reading age.

Primary 1 and 2 will complete assessments on phonemes.

All pupils will complete a first piece of writing, so we are able to measure progress as the year progresses.

Pupils in primary 1-3 will also complete a Sumdog Mathematics Assessment.

Teachers will then use this data alongside their own observations to make judgements on the Curriculum for Excellence levels of Progress. These are collated and reported in December and June each year.



## Early Years Centre

Play and learning is well and truly underway within the EYC! At Heathfield, the children particularly enjoy outdoor play. With rainy, windy, and cold days ahead, we kindly ask that parents ensure their children wear appropriate clothing including a labelled puddle suit and wellies which will stay within the setting.

It is important to us to have good relationships with families to ensure we meet children's needs. In the coming weeks, key workers will consult with children to identify areas of needs, interests, and support. This information will be reviewed and agreed upon during a Care Play Meeting with parents and carers. You will be offered information on Developmental Milestones at this time to read at your leisure. Your child's keyworker will share appointment options in the coming days.

*Thank you for your feedback and ideas regarding Care Plans during our Parent Focus Group meeting.*

*Last year, we were very proud to implement an extremely successful cycling skills programme called Play on Pedals. This year, we will begin these sessions for our pre-school aged children on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Early next year, we plan to invite ante-preschool children to join the programme. More information will be shared in due course by Hayley and Paul.*

*We love to celebrate your little one's birthdays within the EYC. When it's your child's birthday, we will mark this by singing 'Happy Birthday' and offer a choice of one special item from the prize box. Additionally, we love to see and hear about achievements at home. You can share these in photos and written form to be displayed on our 'Wider Achievements' wall.*

*"One man's trash is another man's treasure..."*

*Please keep your eyes peeled for a wish list of items which will be useful for play and learning within the centre. You can make donations if you wish.*



## Head Teacher's Message for EYC

As part of a Local Authority Early Years Initiative, we have Kirsty Gilmour in our team as Principal Teacher of Early Years. Kirsty is with us every Monday and has many years' experiences. We have adapted our process for observing and recording key steps of progress in children's learning and have developed a more efficient planning system.

The team are also getting to know Learning Journals and are excited about the increased communication and tracking progress the site will offer.

This academic year is off to a super start. We have loved welcoming our pupils from the Extended Learning Facility. The pupils make a super addition to our strong and vibrant community.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

It is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

*Gaenor Hardy*

Gaenor Hardy  
Headteacher



## Dates for your diary

### **September**

Tuesday 10th	Primary 1 Parents Information Meeting 6.00pm
Wednesday 18th	Parent Council AGM 6.30pm
Thursday 19th	Sponsored Event - non uniform day.
Friday 20th	Holiday weekend
Monday 23rd	Holiday Weekend
Tuesday 24th	Maths Week Scotland
Thursday 26th	Discos (P1 and 2 afternoon, P3 - 7 after school)
Monday 30th	Dyslexia Week Scotland

### **October**

2nd & 3rd	Parents' Evenings
3rd	National Poetry Day
7th	Food Bank Collection
10th	Harvest Assembly for P3 and 4 parents 2.15pm
11th	Schools close for October Week

### **Future Reminders**

18 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	7D Dolphin House
25 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7G Dolphin House
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P3-7 Ayr Gaiety Christmas Pantomime
20 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	7M Dolphin House