

HEATHSIDE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2008

Christmas Cards

If you haven't bought your Christmas cards yet we still have a few available in school at a cost of 50p each. They are beautiful cards, based on designs by pupils, and would be ideal for that special relative or friend.



SNOW!!

Fortunately we have not had any severe weather as yet this year, but if it does snow the school may have to close. In this eventuality an announcement will be made in the morning on [Radio Suffolk](#) or [SGR](#) and on [our website](#). If the school needs to close early during the day we will contact parents and carers individually to organise for children to be received at home. *Please make sure we have up to date contact details.*

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

The children and staff are busy rehearsing for the Christmas productions that are due to take place before the end of term



The Lower Team production of "*Heathside Alive!*" (Nursery, Pink, White & Red) will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 10.00 a.m. and the Upper Team production of "*Heathside Has Talent!*" (Orange, Green, Yellow & Purple) will take place on

Wednesday 17th December at 10.00 a.m. You are

Invited to attend the production that your child will be in and if you are coming please *use the backdoor* and be in your seat by 9.45 a.m.

Once again we are using the services of a professional video company to film both productions. Moving Memories will film on both days and will produce a professionally edited film of the productions that you can purchase if you wish. Both productions will be included on the DVD. You will soon receive an order form and if you would like to order a DVD please fill it in and send it back to school with a cheque for £15. The quality of the video produced last year was, once again, excellent and many parents and carers commented on how pleased they were with it. We are hopeful that the DVD will be available before we break up for Christmas. This will only be possible if all orders could be made in advance of the performances and if they are accompanied by the appropriate payment.

In case I don't see you before the end of term can I be perhaps the first to wish you a very Merry Christmas on behalf of all the staff at Heathside. *Odrau*

Christmas Activities

The children will be involved in a variety of different activities during the coming weeks. Most groups will visit Fr. Christmas in his grotto at the Co-op and some classes other trips out in the run-up to the end of term.

Our Christmas lunch is on 18th December and if your child would like a school dinner on that day, but does not normally have one, just send in £1.90 on 15th December in an envelope marked "Christmas Lunch".

Classes will be having individual parties during the final week and we will finish the term with a Carol Service on 19th December in the hall for pupils and staff.



Dates for your Diary

16th December – Heathside Alive! Lower Team

17th December - Heathside Has Talent! Upper Team

18th December – Christmas lunch

19th December – End of term

5th January – Children return to school

SPECIAL TOOTHBRUSHES

Our dental hygienist recently attended the Parents Group to talk about teeth cleaning and oral hygiene. She showed the parents present a special 3-sided toothbrush which maximises the cleaning of teeth where children are reluctant to have this done. We now have a supply of these brushes and if you wish to purchase one please send in £2 in an envelope marked "toothbrush".

SEN Review

Don't forget that there will be an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Local Authority to discuss future plans for Heathside School on 4th December at 10.00 am. Please return the slip on the recent letter to let Odran know if you can make it or put a note in your child's diary.

Special Toys Educational Postal Service

STEPS is an organisation that provides adapted battery operated toys and switches for children with disabilities free of charge and on long term loans.

Switches vary in size and complexity, from a voice box that operates the toy by sound, to a tiny switch about the size of a box of matches. Toys and switches are sent to children under 16 years of age anywhere in the UK.

For information contact: STEPS, St Francis, 7 Chatto Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 4HT Telephone: 01803 311322.

Email: stepsorg@fsmail.net

Web: www.stepcharity.org



Fund Raising

Thank you to everyone who has helped us in our recent fundraising efforts. Our Children in Need activities raised £189.21 and it was wonderful to see Pudsey Bear visit the children during our assembly. The Led Zep concert raised £3,760 for our new minibus so thank you to everyone who attended. The Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support at our sports day raised £61.74 so thank you for helping us to support this very deserving charity.

After-School Club

The After-School Club continues to offer a great service to many children each evening after school. There are some places available on a Thursday evening. If anyone is interested please contact Rachel Cooper on 07956 648536. The Holiday Club will open for business during the Christmas holidays. All of the places have been allocated to children who expressed an interest earlier in the year. Information about places for February half-term will be coming out after Christmas so look out for the letter.

Challenging Behaviour Foundation

This is a charitable organisation that has been set up to provide support to parents and carers of children with challenging behaviours and severe learning difficulties.

They provide free resources to families including:

- DVDs
- Information sheets
- Newsletter
- Website
- Telephone/email support

More information about what is on offer can be found at:

www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk

The Foundation also looks to link families for mutual support and has email networks for parents and professionals to exchange information, share good practice and offer support.

School Uniform

Teresa will be putting an order in for items of school uniform before the end of term. If you need any replacement items please give Teresa a call and let her know what you want or ask for an order form.

Christmas Ideas

If you are stuck for ideas for Christmas then you might find some inspiration at the following websites:

www.amusica.co.uk/acatalog/special-needs-toys.html

www.tfhuk.com

www.smartstart-toys.co.uk/sitemap/Special_Needs_Toys.html

STOP PRESS

Don't forget our Christmas Shopping Evening on Thursday 20th November. Entrance is £2.50 and includes a glass of wine and some nibbles. There will be over 20 stalls to tempt you and lots of ideas for presents!