

HEATHSIDE NEWS

JANUARY 2009



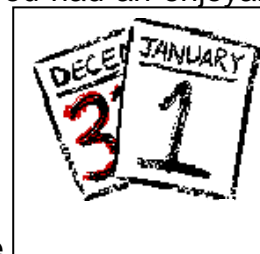
UNICEF DAY

Once again this year we are aiming to help less fortunate children around the world by having a collection on **Friday 6th February**. If you have would like to make a donation please send it in on that day. We will be having a special assembly focusing on the importance of clean water.



Happy New Year - 2009

I'm sure it seems like a long time ago but I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year, and now that the tinsel and Christmas Tree are packed away for another year you are ready to achieve all those resolutions you have made for 2009.

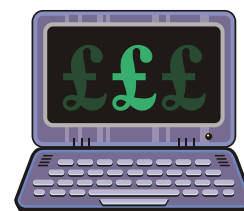


Just a reminder that if the weather turns nasty you can get up to date information about school closures on SGR, Radio Suffolk and also on our website.

www.heathside.school.com Also, can you make sure we have up to date contact details for you, especially if you got a new mobile phone for Christmas!

The Giving Machine

The school is registered with The Giving Machine which is a website that generates donations to schools. It is a very simple process and it doesn't involve any additional cost to make a donation to the school. The attached leaflet explains what to do but essentially you register at www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk and then everytime you shop on-line it automatically generates a donation to the school. So, if you do a lot of on-line shopping you might like to consider registering and encourage relatives and friends to do the same.



Books for School Tokens

The Times and The Sunday Times are currently running a scheme to help schools to improve their stock of children's books. Tokens are being printed in the paper each day until the end of March, so if you buy The Times and are happy to cut out the tokens please send them into school and we will convert them into some new books for our library.



Help with Claiming Allowances

A new book has just been published which can help to explain about entitlement to allowances and how to successfully claim them. *The Parents Guidebook for Claiming Allowances for their Children* can be ordered from Amazon at an introductory price of £14.99.

Parents Survey

Thank you to everyone who has returned the Parents Survey that was sent out recently. The response has been very good so far but I would like to get a completed survey from every parent or carer. Your thoughts and opinions about the school are very important and that is why I send out a survey every two years. So, if it is still pinned on your notice board fill it in and send it back to school.

Topic for the Term

The topic the children will be following this term is "Food"

The children will be having a wonderful time experiencing different types of food. They will take part in cooking lessons and will learn about healthy and not so healthy foods. Hopefully those who are reluctant to try different foods will be willing to experiment a little bit with some different tastes and textures.



School Uniform

Teresa will be putting in an order for school uniform in the near future. So, if you need to replace any items of school uniform please call the office or send a note in to Teresa and we will get the items ordered.

If you would like to know what items are available Teresa will happily send you a brochure.



Social Skills Money

Social skills activities in class, and outside of school, are a vital part of the education we offer our pupils. Unfortunately these activities need to be paid for and place an extra strain on our budget. **If you can make a voluntary contribution of £1 each week (or 20p per day) this would be a great help.** If you can, please send this in an envelope marked with your child's name, stating how much is enclosed. If you wish you can send in an amount to cover a number of weeks or even a term. We now have "Healthy School" status and so we always offer the children a "healthy" alternative such as fruit and salad as well as the more traditional options.

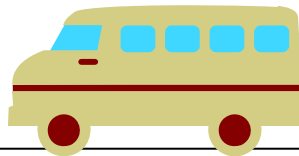


School Minibus

We are making steady progress towards the £40,000 we need to replace one of our minibuses. At the moment we have raised about £14,500 and we will continue with our fundraising efforts throughout the rest of the year.

We are fortunate that the Rotary Clubs in Ipswich have agreed to support us and they are embarking on a variety of fundraising efforts including a golf day in the summer.

If you know of any creative fundraising ideas, or businesses looking to sponsor a good cause please let me know.



Carpet Cleaning

One of our parents runs a cleaning company and has kindly offered to help with our minibus appeal by donating 10% of the charge for cleaning carpets or upholstery.

If you would like to have nice clean carpets or upholstery, and help the minibus appeal at the same time, please contact Kesgrave Cleaning Services on 01473 621299 or visit www.kc-services.com. Just quote Ref. KC. Heathside



PECS Cards

We have a supply of PECS cards for "Wait" and "Help" in school at the moment.

If you would like to purchase one or both of the cards please contact Sara Pells and she will be happy to sort it out for you. The "Wait" cards cost £3 and the "help" cards cost £1.50.



We also have a stock of the specialist toothbrushes that were recommended by the dental hygienist at the Parents Group last term. They are specially made with three brushing sides to maximise the surface area that is cleaned with each stroke. If you would like to purchase one please send £2 in to Teresa in the office.



Parent's Evening

There will be the usual opportunity to meet with class staff to discuss the progress that your child is making during this term. Our Parent's Evening will take place on Wednesday 4th March from 6-8 p.m. Further details will come home after half-term.



Dates for Your Diary

These are some of the important dates you need to be aware of:

6th February—UNICEF assembly

13th February - break up for half-term

23rd February – Staff training day

24th February—school re-opens

4th March - Open Evening

3rd April – Easter Assembly

3rd April - Break up for Easter

20th April - school re-opens