

HEATHER GARTH STAR

Monthly News



Autumn/Spring 25/26

REMINDER -

PLEASE NOTE - To book for the breakfast club, which is open from 7.30 am every morning, every school day, please contact Jayne Hitch on 01709894149

We still have Nursery places available -

for further information

please contact Miss Schofield on 01709 894149





COFFEE MORNING

Don't forget to visit our coffee morning every Wednesday

**8.30am—10.00am
in the Blue Building**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Spring 1 Extra Curricular Clubs

Year Groups	Day & Time of Club	Details of Club	Teachers	Number of Sessions and Costs
Years 1, 2 & 3	Wednesday 7 January - 4 February	Multisport Club - In the club, the children will have the opportunity to play sports such as hockey, dodge ball, tag rugby, basketball, indoor athletics and gymnastics.	Grassroots	5 weeks – £10.00
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Monday 5 January - 2 February	Mixed Football - In our football sessions children will have the opportunity to learn how to pass, receive and shoot in football.	Grassroots	5 weeks - £10.00
Years 3 & 4	Thursday 8 January - 5 February	Well-being Club - Come and join us for a fun and relaxing after-school club all about feeling good, staying calm, and being kind—to ourselves and others! Each week, children will take part in activities such as mindfulness games, simple yoga, creative crafts, and teamwork challenges. The club helps children build confidence, learn how to manage big feelings, and develop positive friendships in a warm and supportive environment.	Mrs Jackson	5 weeks - £10.00
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Tuesday 6 January - 3 February	Scratch Club - In this club, children will have the opportunity to explore the software 'Scratch' to develop their knowledge of coding. They will have the opportunity to create different coded programmes on Scratch including their own soundboxes and mini-games.	Miss Walker	5 weeks - £10.00

NON-UNIFORM FUNDRAISING

16.10.25—£154.50

5.12.25—£138.00



Children in Need

non-uniform raised £150.00

Thank you for your support.



This term we say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to valued members of our school family.

We extend our warmest thanks to Mrs Castell, who has worked tirelessly as a Cleaner and Dinner Supervisor. Your hard work, reliability, and kindness have made a real difference to our children and staff, and we wish you every success in your new role.

We also offer our deepest gratitude to Mrs Clark, our Cleaner-in-Charge, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service. Your commitment, care, and pride in our school have helped make it the welcoming environment it is today. We wish you a happy, healthy, and very well-deserved retirement.

Finally, we say thank you and best wishes to Mrs Carr, our Assistant Head, as she moves on to a new position. Your leadership, support, and passion for our children and the school community will be greatly missed. We are excited for your next chapter and know you will continue to make a wonderful impact.

On behalf of everyone at Heather Garth, thank you for everything you have given to our school.



We would like to welcome Mrs Shiraz (FS1 Teacher) and Mrs Hardy (Year 4 Teacher, who will be working alongside Mrs Bower) from January 2026, to our Heather Garth school family.



In the Christmas holidays, we are hosting a challenge for all our children to 'read in an unusual place'. We would like children to get a photo of themselves reading their books in unusual and out-of-the-ordinary places. An example could be up a climbing frame or in a tent (please be mindful of being safe). The more creative - the better! School staff are also joining in with this challenge. Please send your photos into the following email address: reading@heathergarth.org

Please send these photos in by Friday 9 January 2026.

The pictures will be added to what we hope will be a fantastic display of our children reading in a whole host of weird and wonderful places.

Thank you for your support.

*Mr Fisher
English Leader*





SPRING TERM 1

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day is on 10 February 2026 and will be celebrated in the UK with the theme:

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the 10 February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**'.

Everyone's talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

This Safer Internet Day we are exploring the impact of AI on all of our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly.

Our free educational resources will help schools and youth groups talk about this issue with young people of all ages, covering a range of issues from looking at voice assistants and chatbots, to exploring some of the ethical considerations in responsible use of AI technology. We will also produce top tips and advice for parents, carers and grandparents covering how to talk about AI, helping them to use new technology in safe and responsible ways.

NON-UNIFORM DAY

13 FEBRUARY 2026

Our 3rd non-uniform day in order to raise funds to reduce the cost of school education trips for parents and carers. Please help us to raise funds to support this. £1.00 Per child.

Thank you for your continued support!

HALF TERM WEEK

HALF TERM

School breaks up for half term on **Friday 13 February 2026** and returns on **Monday 23 February 2026**





SPRING TERM 2

23 FEBRUARY —
8 MARCH 2026

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade Fortnight sets aside two weeks every year in which the principles and products of fair trade are promoted and the links between consumers and producers are highlighted.

WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2026

This year World Book Day is being celebrated on **Thursday 5 March 2026**. Reading is something we really value at Heather Garth and we understand the importance of children getting enjoyment from their reading. As a result, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school with a variety of fun and exciting activities throughout the day. As in previous years, children can come to school dressed as their favourite well known book characters. Children should **NOT** come as footballers or film characters; the aim is to get children thinking about the books they read.

Further details about the book fair will follow once we receive confirmation from the organisers.

SCIENCE WEEK


6—15 MARCH 2026

British Science Week 2026 will take place from 6-15 March 2026. The official theme is "Curiosity: what's your question?". The event is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) with events and activities across the UK.

RED NOSE DAY

20 MARCH 2026

This year we are asking children to come to school wearing something **RED**, not fancy dress and no face paints please. We are asking for a donation for the non-uniform.





SPRING TERM 2

EASTER RAFFLE AND EASTER EGG COMPETITION

We are again having an Easter raffle. The staff at Heather Garth donate all the Easter eggs for this raffle so all money raised goes towards school funds.

Raffle tickets are £1.00 per strip and will be sent home with your child
(if you require further raffle tickets, these are available from the school office).

Please put your child's name on each individual ticket on one side of the strip and return with the cash in the money bag provided. Please return the raffle tickets to school no later than **Tuesday 24 March** in order for the raffle to be drawn on **Wednesday 25 March**.

25 MARCH 2026

We want all prizes to be claimed when we draw the raffle and therefore if a ticket is drawn out with no name on it, we will just pick out another ticket for that prize. There will be LOTS AND LOTS OF EASTER EGGS TO BE WON which will have been donated by Staff/Parents.

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Once again, we are holding an Easter egg competition. Please encourage your child to enter the competition by decorating a hard boiled egg. This will take place on **Wednesday 25 March** and the winners will be announced during assembly. There will be two winners per class and the prize is an Easter egg. You will be able to check out the winners on our website.

There will be a prize for every child who enters!

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

These will run from 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm on Wednesday and 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Thursday.
Details are as follows:-

25 & 26 MARCH 2026

Parents/carers will be able to see their child's class teacher for a 10-minute appointment. Your child is welcome to attend the meeting with you. This will enable teachers to share information with parents/carers about their child's progress so far, this academic year, and to share their individual pupil targets.

TWO WEEK EASTER BREAK

W/C 30 MARCH AND
W/C 6 APRIL 2024

School breaks up for half term on **Friday 27 March 2026** and returns on
Monday 13 April 2026



EYFS - FS1 NEWS

We have had a super busy half term, with lots of important events happening really close together. We celebrated Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance Day and Children in Need 2025 all in the same month!

We loved the story of Rama and Sita and about how Diwali is the – Festival of Light. We got to try lots of delicious Indian celebration food. Our favourites were the *crunchy* poppadom's.

We talked about Bonfire Night and Diwali being similar because of them both including fireworks, we really enjoyed drawing our own firework creations and singing our Five Little Rockets song. We turn into rockets and explode like fireworks during the song!

Our understanding of the world continued with the celebration of Christmas. We explored the Nativity story and enjoyed lots of festive decorations in our classroom. We even met our new friend Eric the Cheeky Elf! He helped us to play nicely with our friends and we showed him how we spread kindness all around our classroom.

Some more of our favourite stories also include 'Owl Babies'. We talked about how the owl babies were 'Brave' when Mummy Owl was out 'hunting' - This vocabulary was also part of our *Word of the Week*.

We have learned some new skills in Mathematics also, we know now that '*Subitizing*' means seeing group of objects and knowing how much there is. We don't need to count them; we can use our brains and our eyes. Also, we are now learning different phonemes in Phonics alongside our rhyming skills. This term we have learned phonemes such as 's' 'a' 't' and many more!

We are really proud of our achievements this term and look forward to making new friends in FS1 when our January children join us!



Please take a look at our blog to see regular updates and photos of what the children have been up to and learning about.

EYFS - FS2 NEWS

This half term we have focused on different celebrations. As part of our 'Understanding of the World' focus – FS2 have been learning about 'Diwali' – the festival of light, 'Bonfire Night' and 'Christmas'.

We all watched videos of firework displays and talked about the different sounds the fireworks made. Some of us chose to write these words independently e.g. 'pop' 'fizz'. We discussed the importance of keeping safe around fire and fireworks. FS2 made some wonderful firework pictures using a range of materials.

We have all gained knowledge about how people around the world celebrate Diwali. We also created our own rangoli patterns using loose parts. Children also enjoyed drawing rangoli patterns outdoors using chalk. The children had the opportunity to try some Indian food including poppadoms, onion bhajis and samosas. A lot of the children described them as 'yummy' and 'delicious'.

The children focused on 'Remembrance Day' and the importance of wearing a poppy. The children were very creative in making different representations of poppies -including paintings, and lots of good scissors skills were displayed to assemble poppies using card.

Our core texts have included the 'Owl Babies'. We have become confident re-telling this story, talking about the characters and key events in the text. We have learned about nocturnal animals and that these are active at night time and sleep in the day. The children now know that 'Owls, foxes, bats and hedgehogs' are nocturnal animals.

We have learned a number of rhymes and songs that are helping to develop our knowledge and vocabulary. These have included songs such as 'Stop, Look, Wait' which has taught us the importance of road safety. We even had a visit from a gentleman that taught us all about road safety. The children were very interested in this and displayed good knowledge of how to keep safe when walking and crossing the road.

We are making great progress with our Phonics sessions. The children are becoming more confident with recognising a range of sounds and some of us can now confidently read a range of short words. Our pencil grips are becoming stronger and we are becoming more confident to write letters and some of us are now able to write our names and short words independently.

FS2 have enjoyed maths sessions this half term. Their counting, number recognition and knowledge of shape have continued to progress. We are very proud of our children displaying a 'can do' attitude and being motivated in their learning.

To prepare for Christmas, we have been learning songs and rehearsing 'The Christmas Story'. The children have gained an excellent understanding of the story and can recount key events. We have made baubles using pine cones and also created our Christmas cards and calendars.



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SPRING TERM 1 & 2


FS1 & FS2

FS PARENT SESSION

Our stay and play will include a 'Storytime' focus as part of our learning linked to National Storytelling Week. We will complete activities linked to our focus on traditional tales including The Three Little Pigs and Cinderella. We will complete activities including crafts, role-play and sharing traditional stories.

6 FEBRUARY 2026

The morning session will be at 9.00 am until 10.00 am and the afternoon session will be at 1.50 pm until 2.50 pm.



YEAR 1 NEWS

In Autumn 1, Year 1's learning was all about "All around me". In Geography we learnt all about where we live and how to find familiar places on a street map. We also found out what human and physical geography is and completed some field work.

In Science we learnt all about animals including humans. We learnt about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores – do you know which group humans belong to? We also learnt about parts of the body and what are our senses and what do they do.

In RE, we have been focusing on Christianity and Islam and their sacred books, the Bible and the Quran. We looked at how to treat special books with respect and listened to some stories from them including, The Lost Sheep, David and Goliath, The Wise Man and the Foolish Man and heard all about the Prophet Joseph.

In Art we explored line drawing, painting and colour mixing and learnt all about the famous artist Pablo Picasso. We found out about the style of Cubism and created some wonderful faces based on this.

In ICT we learnt how to log on to the computer and to use the mouse to click and drag shapes to create pictures.

In Music we explored the beat and pulse of music alongside dynamics and tempo. We learnt to maintain a steady pulse and how to respond to music in creative ways.

In PE we explored the fundamental skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. We explored these skills in isolation as well as in combination and we worked collaboratively with others, taking turns and sharing ideas. We also explored ball skills such as throwing and catching, rolling and dribbling with both hands and feet.

This half term, Year 1's topic has been "Toys Then and Now". In History we have been learning about Victorian toys and comparing them to our own toys. We have learnt how toys have changed over time and predicted what we think toys will look like in the future. We also took part in a workshop all about toys from the past. We had the chance to play with lots of toys from long ago. 'It was so exciting!'

In computing our focus has been coding. We have been learning about algorithms, decomposition and debugging.

In RE, we have been focusing on Christianity and Islam and why some places special. We talked about our own special place and why it was important to us. We also learnt about special places of worship for the Christian and Islam faith. We talked about why some times of the year are special to Christians and listened to the story about Jesus. We also acted out the Christmas story.

In PE we have developed basic gymnastic actions on the floor and using low apparatus. Basic skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling are used individually and in combination to create movement sequences. We learnt about different gymnastic shapes such as the pike, straddle, dish and arch.



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SPRING TERM 1 & 2

YEAR 1

YEAR 1 VISIT TO CONISBROUGH CASTLE

3 MARCH 2026

Our History learning is Towers Tunnels and Turrets. We are visiting Conisbrough Castle to learn about what it was like to live in a Castle and who lived in a castle.

YEAR 1 PARENT SESSION- TOWERS, TUNNELS AND TURRETS

19 MARCH 2026

As part of Year 1's Towers, Tunnels and Turrets learning we would like to invite you to join us for a 'Creative Castles Session'. This will give you the chance to support your child to create their own castle. More details to follow.



YEAR 2 NEWS

In Year two, we began our first geography theme, Comparing UK and Kenya by looking at our local area.

We have looked at map skills and directions as well as looking at human and physical features of Bolton-Upon -Dearne. We have recently been exploring the climate and landscape of Kenya and comparing this to our local area. Our parent session was great fun as we made African necklaces and tasted fruits from Handa's Surprise!

In science we found out about animals including humans. We discovered the basic needs of all animals and how they grow and change from young into adults.

Our Artist this term was Brian Wildsmith – a local artist who enjoyed painting wildlife using unusual techniques such as scraffito and splatter! We had a lot of fun incorporating his style into our own work!



Following an exciting visit from the Owl man, we completed our quest to learn how to write a report. We learnt new skills such as using adjectives to create noun phrases. The children then worked so hard on their own non-fiction writing about owls. We are currently creating our own story book!

In maths we started the term by working on place value. Children have been learning the value of digits and partitioning a two-digit number into tens and ones. We have also started learning how to add two-digit numbers using different strategies!



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SPRING TERM 1 & 2

YEAR 2

YEAR 2 VISIT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES MUSEUM

29 JANUARY 2026

On the 29 January, Year 2 will visit the National Emergency Services Museum in Sheffield as part of their learning based on 'The Great Fire of London'. This trip will be interactive as well as informative!

YEAR 2 PARENT SESSION, EASTER CRAFTS

17 MARCH 2026

Come and enjoy an afternoon of easter crafts! Make Easter biscuits, an Easter card or an Easter wreath! Further details to follow.



YEAR 3 NEWS

This half term the children in year 3 have been learning about The Stone Age to The Iron Age. They have been learning about when this part of prehistory occurred in our history timeline as well as thinking about the achievements made then. It was also lovely to see so many parents join our learning on our parent session.

The children have also been learning about the skeleton and muscles in science and about the functions of a skeleton. They then carried out an experiment to look at patterns between the length of our femur and the distance we can jump.

In computing, the children have been learning about coding and how we can use the 'Scratch' software to help with this. They have looked at loops and how to debug any algorithms that they create.

The children have continued to work on their times tables and have focussed on their 2, 5 and 10 times tables this half term. They have really enjoyed taking part in different times tables games and quick-fire questions to help consolidate their maths skills.



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SPRING TERM 1 & 2

YEAR 3

PARENT SESSION—MAKING SHADOW PUPPETS


3 FEBRUARY 2026

Linking with our Science work all about 'light', the children in year 3 will be making shadow puppets and would love for you to come and join us with this activity. Details to follow.

NATIONAL MINING MUSEUM VISIT

5 MARCH 2026

Our learning for the spring term is all about “Mining”. To support our learning we have arranged to take Year 3 children on a visit to the **National Coal Mining Museum on Thursday 5 March 2026**. Here the children will have the opportunity to explore different mining exhibits and learn about mining life. They will also take part in a tour of the mine where they will experience some ‘hands on’ activities and areas of science.



YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 have had such a busy and exciting term learning lots of new things. In geography, we have been learning about Europe. We started this unit with a Parent session which we all really enjoyed. We have learnt about the countries that make up Europe and the physical and human geography of the UK and other European countries. In science, we have learnt all about: the digestive system; the different types of teeth in humans and their functions and a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. We have also learned about how plants and animals are classified and deforestation and nature reserves. In Spanish, we have learned how to say and read the date. Year 4 definitely showed their artistic side during our printing unit. We made collagraph prints inspired by Medieval manuscript.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year

From the Year 4 Team



Please take a look

dates and photos of what the children have been up to and learning about.

at our blog to see regular up-



SPRING TERM 1 & 2

YEAR 4

9 JANUARY 2026

16 JANUARY 2026

23 JANUARY 2026

30 JANUARY 2026

6 FEBRUARY 2026

13 FEBRUARY 2026

SWIMMING LESSON—WATH LEISURE CENTRE

ANGLO SAXON WORKSHOP

The workshop will put your children in the midst of the action. They will take on everyday tasks that would have taken place in a 9th century village - including weaving, pottery, metal working and candle making - as rumours swirl of the coming battle between Alfred and Guthrum.

The afternoon session looks at the Dark Ages from a historical perspective, with the children using archaeology to understand how we have learned about the historical tasks they performed in the morning.

10 MARCH 2026

PARENT SESSION

Our learning during the Spring term is all about the 'Anglo Saxons & Vikings' and as part of this you will be invited to join us for a parent session, where, with your child, you will be using lolly pop sticks and dowelling to create your own 3D Viking Long Boat. More details to follow.

12 MARCH 2026

27 FEBRUARY 2026

6 MARCH 2026

13 MARCH 2026

20 MARCH 2026

27 MARCH 2026

SWIMMING LESSON—WATH LEISURE CENTRE



YEAR 5 NEWS

This term, Year 5 have been looking at The Amazon as well as trade within their Geography work. We began by looking at different features of South America and then focussed on the Amazon rainforest and river, as well as thinking about the impact of deforestation. This also linked nicely with our current book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, where we see a group of children crash land in the Amazon and have to work as a team to survive. The Year 5's have enjoyed reading about their adventures and have worked hard to answer questions about the text, whilst also considering the use of language within the story. We have focussed particularly on new vocabulary to help broaden our knowledge of words and their meanings.

Our parent session this half term included making rainforests in a shoe box, where children were asked to try and show the different layers on the rainforest. It was lovely to see so many parents attend and support us with this.

In computing, Year 5 looked at networks and considered how search engines work. They also looked at the use of images online and considered 'fair use'. They then looked at coding and have been creating their own soundscapes on scratch.



Please take a look at our blog to see regular updates and photos of what the children have been up to and learning about.



SPRING TERM 1 & 2

YEAR 5

YEAR 5 ROBINWOOD INFORMATION MEETING


10 FEBRUARY 2026

An information meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 February at 2.15 pm regarding your child's residential trip to Robinwood on Wednesday 15 April to Friday 17 April 2026. The meeting will hopefully help you to prepare your child for this exciting trip!

YEAR 5 PARENT SESSION

4 FEBRUARY 2026

You will be invited to join your child for our parent session, where, with your child, you will create Greek Mosaic Tiles as part of our learning about the 'Ancient Greeks'. More details to follow.



YEAR 6 NEWS

During Autumn 1, In history, Year 6 studied the impact of WWII on Britain. This included a fantastic educational visit to Cannon Hall Museum where we experienced a day in the life of an evacuee. During this topic, we learnt about what events led to the outbreak of World War 2, the Blitz and how this affected our locality, particularly our closest city of Sheffield. This area of work linked particularly well with our ICT lessons, where we focused on the importance of secret codes and Bletchley Park during WW2. In science we learnt about how light travels in straight lines and what happens to light when it travels through prisms and water. We looked at light sources, what happens when we see and what happens to our eye when it is too light or too dark. We then looked at reflection and how that can help us see behind us or around things. Finally, we learnt about shadows and how they have the same shape as the object that cast them. In RE, we looked at the Sikh faith. We learnt more about their sacred text, the Guru Granth Sahib, why it is so special and how it is treated. We also learnt about significant and special places to Sikhs. In DT, we designed and made a stuffed toy, where we practised previously taught sewing skills, as well as adding additional details.

During this half term, in history, Year 6 have studied crime and punishment over different periods of time. We began with learning about what crime and punishment was like in the Tudor period, through to present day and how this compared. In Science we have studied electricity. We have looked at electrical symbols and learned how to draw circuits using these. We have created our own circuits and then carried out a number of scientific investigations to see whether bulbs shone or motors moved differently when the circuit was changed. In RE we learnt how the Bible is a 'library' of books written at different times by different people and how the Bible conveys important messages about the Christian beliefs.

Finally, we also had a fantastic visit to Crucial Crew where we learnt all about how to stay safe now that we are becoming older and more independent.



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SPRING TERM 1 & 2

YEAR 6

YEAR 6 PARENT SESSION

26 MARCH 2026

Year 6's topic in the spring term will be 'Mapping the World' and you are invited to join them in exploring maps, using your mapping skills and solving clues. More details to follow.





JOIN THE PTA

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL FOR MORE

INFORMATION

WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE PARENTS/CARERS

ONBOARD

TO HELP ARRANGE AND RUN FUN EVENTS FOR OUR

CHILDREN, TO RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS,

WHICH ALLOWS US TO PURCHASE TREATS AND

RESOURCES FOR OUR CHILDREN TO ENJOY

You can find out more about the Heather Garth PTA via our facebook page. Search for us at Heather Garth PTA for all the latest updates and to find out more about what is happening.



Heather Garth
Primary Academy
Stars Aiming High