



Newsletter



October 2025



Welcome to October's edition of our school newsletter.

We are so proud of the children in how well they have settled into the new school year. Our returning pupils have quickly adapted back into the Heartwood routines with enthusiasm and confidence.

We are especially proud of our new Nursery and Reception children and how they have settled – they have shown great curiosity and resilience as they explore their new environment, make new friends, and begin their learning journey.

It's been a positive start, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Mrs Starman, Headteacher

compassion

This half term the school value that we are focusing on is 'compassion'. The children have been receiving value certificates in our celebration collective worship on a Friday for showing compassion. They have also been identifying compassion when others show it. Now that our

Nursery children have settled into their sessions, they will also bring home certificates for showing compassion this half term. One of our Year 1 children told Mrs Gagen that she shows compassion as she is kind and looks after them when they are hurt at lunchtime.

In Collective Worship, we have been discussing the Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and how compassion relates to them.

Activities will be sent home this week for children to complete towards Sustainable Development Goals 1,2 and 16. We look forward to seeing and hearing what they have achieved.





Newsletter

Class of
2026

Is your child due to start Reception in September 2026? We are holding two open events to come and see our Reception classroom and have a chat with staff. We would love to see you on Thursday 2nd October at 5pm or Thursday 9th October at 10am. Please contact the school office to let them know you're coming (01760) 721357 or office@heartwood.norfolk.sch.uk

We are delighted that Heartwood has been selected for the customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will begin in store from the first week in October 2025 until mid-January 2026. We'd really appreciate your blue tokens. Please spread the word.



We are having our Harvest Festival in St Peter and St Paul's Church on Thursday 2nd October at 2.30pm. Classes from Reception to Year 6 will be going to Church. Our Nursery children will be accessing harvest activities in their classroom. We are collecting non-perishable food items for the 'Food Bank' and would appreciate anything that you can give. By giving to the local food bank the children are working towards Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 of 'no poverty' and 'zero hunger'.



With thanks to all the money raised at the 'Colour Run' and money set aside from the school budget, we have heavily reduced the amount that school trips cost this year. We have sent letters out to show the provisional trips and the costs from last year. Payment of trips is voluntary but if the school does not receive enough money, they will not be able to go ahead. If you are struggling to pay the full amount, please speak to the class teacher, the school office or Mrs Starman and we will be happy to see how we can help you.



Newsletter



Bonfire and Books is on Thursday 6th November 5pm-6pm. We will begin our time enjoying books in some of the classrooms and then go onto the field where the bonfire will be lit. There will be hot chocolate available for a donation and you can pre-order sparklers for the event. Information will be sent out soon to pre-order sparklers. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have renamed our parents/carer evening to 'Learning Review Meetings'. In the autumn term they will be held on Monday 10th November and Wednesday 12th November in the school hall. There will be a book sale where a percentage of the money made buys books for the school. Mrs Starman (headteacher), Mrs McKenna (deputy headteacher), Miss Compton (SENCo) and Miss Fisher (school family support worker) will also be available to chat to in the school hall. Information and a link to state when you'd like your appointment will be sent home soon.



Years 1 to 6 have been busy voting for their class representatives for this year's School Council. Reception class will vote for their class representatives in the Spring term. The Head boys and girls will spend time in our Nursery class to make sure that their voice is heard too. The children discussed the British Value of 'democracy' when voting for their class representatives and how this related to the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace and Justice). The School Council will collect the views of their class and meet with Mrs Starman and other staff members to have their say on how they'd like to make Heartwood even better. We look forward to hearing their ideas.



We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of the expectations around parent conduct outside of school, particularly in interactions that relate to pupils at Heartwood. As part of joining our school community, all parents and carers agreed to our Parent Code of Conduct. This outlines the standards we expect in order to ensure a respectful, safe, and supportive environment for all children and families. Please contact the school office if you would like an additional copy.



Newsletter



There will be a taster session in the school hall on Tuesday 14th October at 3.30pm until 4.30pm for the St. Peter and St. Paul's Children's Choir. These will then be held in the Church. Please let the school office know if your children would like to attend.

If you require any pre-loved uniform for your children, please speak to the school office staff or we now have discrete slips at the office to fill in.



Hello
&
Goodbye

Thank you to Mrs Ferreira who has worked in our school office for the past year. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavours. We warmly welcome Mrs Precious who will be working in the school office on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Precious is very experienced but is new to how the school office works at Heartwood so please remember to be patient and kind.

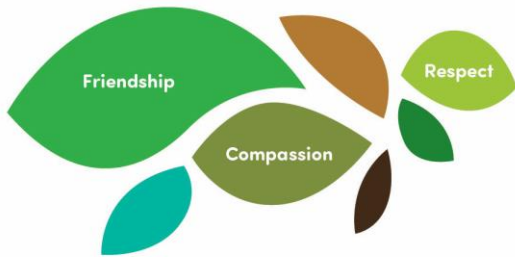
We recently took part in the 'Golden Padlock' scheme. Well done to all the children who biked or scooted to school last week. We have seen a significant increase in children wheeling to school, which is fantastic. On Friday 26th September we saw the largest number of children biking or scooting to school - 36!! Ten lucky winners were chosen at random and won bike accessories.



Let's keep encouraging our children to bike to school as it offers numerous benefits, including improved physical fitness, enhanced mental well-being and stress reduction. It also contributes to boosted academic performance due to increased focus and cognitive function. It also fosters independence and self-confidence, teaches valuable road safety skills, provides an environmentally friendly and cost-effective mode of transport and also helps ease traffic congestion around the school.



Heartwood are extremely proud of our **Heartwood Heroes'** hard work and dedication shown last school year, achieving the Eco-School Green Flag, with distinction, being awarded a massive 240 points!! Please read the wonderful feedback we received:



Newsletter

Your greatest overall success:

You should be super proud of your whole school community's achievements across the year. Not only have they improved children's safety, promoted healthier lifestyles, and created a better learning environment, but they have also improved the environment by reducing your overall environmental footprint, and encouraged a stronger community.

We also loved...

- It was fantastic that your Action Plan was guided by your Heartwood Heroes, who were passionate about connecting with nature, protecting the environment, and improving transport. Their comprehensive plans led to significant improvements in transport around your school, fundraising for charities-£614 is amazing! and you have reduced litter in your area.*
- Thanks to staff members incorporating environmental issues into the curriculum, pupils at your school are becoming more aware of sustainable living and the importance of being active in protecting our planet. We love that your students got to visit a local recycling education centre and the impact it will have for your journey going forward in becoming ambassadors is amazing!*
- Wow! Your Heartwood Heroes are master collaborators! They clearly understand that a job as big as climate change needs as many people as possible. You have involved a comprehensive list of groups, organisations, charities and individuals in your hard work to protect the planet.*

Our Heartwood Heroes truly went above and beyond and are excited to achieve more this school year - watch this space!!

Friends of Heartwood have 7 members who are all very excited to help fundraise for the school and to provide money to benefit the children.

We have lots of fundraising ideas, such as fun events for the children to attend and competitions with prizes to be won. Ideas include fayres, Christmas decoration competition, karaoke evening, talent show, grow the tallest sunflower competition and much more.

We are looking through all the necessary legal and financial bits to properly set up....watch this space!

The money raised will be spent on school trips for the children, Year 6 prom, leavers hoodies, and resources that the school needs.

If any parents, carers or members of the community have any fundraising ideas or would like to help us in any way, please let the school office know.

Lastly, please speak to your children about us, we would love to hear about what events they would like to happen and what they would like at their school.





Newsletter



Thank you to 'Friends of Heartwood' for organising and running the MacMillan coffee afternoon on Friday 26th September. An amazing £202 was raised for the MacMillan charity. Thank you to everyone who made or donated cake and of course those who bought and ate delicious cake.

We will be holding 'Spooky Discos' for the children after school on Thursday 23rd October. More details to follow.



Mental Health is a focus area that is included in the Heartwood curriculum. We have created a page on our school website with suggestions to improve mental health and to signpost both adults and children to support.

<https://www.heartwood.norfolk.sch.uk/page/?title=Mental+Health&pid=174>

Heartwood Reception Open Events



Heartwood Reception 2026 open events

Thursday 2nd October at 5pm or Thursday 9th October at 10am
 Book your place by calling the school office (01760) 721357 or emailing office@heartwood.norfolk.sch.uk

Please reach out if you are unable to make either open event

Ofsted, July 2023:

"Leaders work to prioritise phonics and early reading has borne fruit. Staff successfully promote a love of reading,"

"In the Early Years...children are curious, happy and keen to engage with adults. They respond very well to adults' consistently high expectations,"

"Heartwood is a warm and welcoming place,"

"Pupils behave well and show excellent manners as they move around the school...pupils feel safe in school,"

- *Morning club*
- *Free after school clubs*
- *Regular forest school sessions*
- *93% children passed their phonics screening check for the past 3 years (national average 80%)*
- *Making a Difference curriculum*
- Hygge inspired setting*







Live life in all its fullness, John 10:10



Newsletter

 Heartwood CE VC Primary
and Nursery School

 Children are curious,
happy and keen to
engage with adults.
Ofsted 2023

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO IS
3 OR TURNING 3 SOON? WE
HAVE PLACES FOR 15 AND 30
HOURS.**

 Staff have
pupils' well-
being
at the heart of
their work.
Ofsted 2023



Call the school office to register
your interest and to have a tour of
the nursery (01760) 721357



Diary Dates

- Thursday 2nd October – Harvest Festival Church service at 2.30pm
- Monday 6th October – Reception trip to the Corn Exchange theatre
- Tuesday 7th October – Year 4 Romans trip
- Wednesday 8th October – Workshare in classrooms at 3.30pm
- Thursday 9th October – TNHA open evening for Year 6 pupils and families
- Friday 10th October – Individual school photographs
- Tuesday 14th October – Year 6 height and weight check
- Monday 20th October – Year 6 Stone Age trip
- 27th – 31st October – Half Term break
- Monday 3rd November – Back to School
- Wednesday 5th November – Year 2 Edith Cavell day in school
- Thursday 6th November – Bonfire and Books 5-6pm
- Monday 10th November – Learning Review Meetings (parent/carer evening)
- Wednesday 12th November - Learning Review Meetings
- Friday 14th November – Odd Socks day for Anti-Bullying week
- Wednesday 19th November – Year 1 Pizza Express trip