



Newsletter



November 2025



Welcome to November's edition of our school newsletter.

We've had a wonderfully positive start to the term. Our School Governors have visited and carried out monitoring across Forest School, Collective Worship, Safeguarding, and Health and Safety — all of which received encouraging feedback and outcomes. We have loved seeing all the activities that the children have been completing at home towards the Sustainable Development Goals and have been celebrating their success in school. We look forward to Autumn Term 2 and seeing all that the children achieve.

Mrs Starman, Headteacher

Respect



This half term the school value that we are focusing on is 'respect'. The children will be receiving value certificates in our celebration collective worship on a Friday for showing respect. They will also identify respect when others show it. Our Nursery children will also bring home certificates for showing respect this half term.

In Collective Worship, we will be discussing the Sustainable Development Goals 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) and how respect relates to them.

Home Learning booklets with suggested activities for each Sustainable Development Goal have been sent home for all children. Let a staff member know once your child has completed an action towards an SDG so that we can celebrate them and give them a certificate.



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Is your child due to start Reception in September 2026? If you missed the open events and Stay and Play and would like to come and see our school and the Reception classroom, please contact the school office to arrange a visit (01760) 721357 or office@heartwood.norfolk.sch.uk



Voting with the **blue tokens** is now live! We'd really appreciate your blue tokens. Please spread the word.



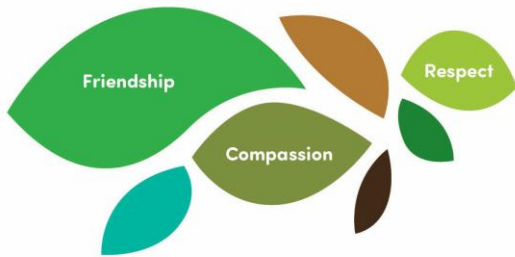
Thank you to everyone who gave to the local food bank for Harvest Festival. We always have collection point at the main entrance if you would like to donate any non-perishable food items throughout the year. Thank you.



Lots of wonderful trips so far this academic year, to enhance the children's learning and give them firsthand experiences. Years 4 and 6 have recently visited Necton Primary School as part of an RE Roadshow. Reception went to the theatre to see 'The Gruffalo's Child'. Year 4 visited Norwich Castle as part of their learning about the Romans. Year 6 went to Gressenhall as part of their learning about the Stone Age. Year 4 also had a Shakespeare workshop for the day in school.



Bonfire and Books is on Thursday 6th November 5-6pm. 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 has been sent out and you can pre-order sparklers on Parent Pay.



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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. Please be aware that Mr Powley's appointments may have to be rescheduled at the last minute if Mrs Powley is delivering their new addition to their family. A booking form has been emailed to all parents/carers. Please note that Year 3 parents/carers are invited to attend on Monday 3rd November between 12.50 and 7pm. Please call the school office to book your time slot.



The School Council have met with Mrs Starman twice and have had some great suggestions for how to improve the school. One suggestion was to have pizza instead of toast in the mornings, so we have compromised and said that we will organise a pizza and film night for the children!



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.



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. We are also in touch with Father Nigel so that bags of school clothing will be available to collect from the Church when it is open.



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We welcome back Mrs Jex (Miss Collins) from maternity leave. Mrs Jex and Mrs Jones will be job sharing in Year 4. We have said 'goodbye for now' to Mrs L Powley who has started her maternity leave.



Swaffham Christmas Tree Festival: Heartwood has a tree in the Swaffham Christmas Tree Festival held in St. Peter and St. Paul's Church at the end of November. If you have any spare change, we would appreciate anything you can give.

Swaffham Light Switch On: Heartwood children are invited to sing to everyone from 3 until 3.30pm. It will be a mix of Christmas Carols learnt at school and potentially some songs from Nativities this year. More information to follow. We would love for you to join us there on Sunday 30th November.

Lantern Parade: Our children in Nursery and Reception are invited to the lantern parade on Sunday 30th November at 4pm.

Heartwood Hygge Market: If you would like a stall at Heartwood's Hygge Christmas Market on Wednesday 17th December, please contact the school office.

Samaritan's Shoe Box Appeal (Operation Christmas Child) Information has been sent home for items that we are collecting to create shoe boxes for the Samaritan's this year. We will be collecting gifts for the shoe boxes from 3rd November - 17th November. The school council will be packing the boxes ready to send.

Street Child Christmas Card Competition: All children will receive a paper template if they would like to design a Christmas card. The top 3 designs will be made into cards and will be available to buy from December. These will also be available at the Hygge Christmas Market.

Christmas Card for Swaffham: Another winner will be selected from the Christmas card competition, and this design will be sent on Christmas cards to businesses and care homes in the local area.



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SWAFFHAM'S
Christmas Festival

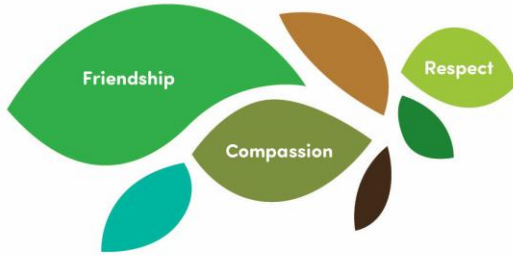
SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025
10 AM - 5 PM

All Day Entertainment including - Live Music and Christmas Tree Festival
The Craft Den - Assembly Rooms
Lantern Parade followed by Carols at Parish Church - 4pm
Christmas Alive - Plowright Place
Food & Craft Stalls
Artisan Fayre - Oasis Centre
Meet & Greet Santa 12-5pm
Light Switch On - 5pm
Raffle

For further information email reception@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01760 722922



Friends of Heartwood will be selling cakes at Bonfire and Books. If you would like to donate any cakes please bring them into school on Thursday 6th November, thank you.



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For 'World Mental Health Day' each class spent time looking at how they can protect their own mental health and strategies they can use to promote good mental health. In Collective Worship, children and adults shared their strategies and ideas with everyone.

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



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.



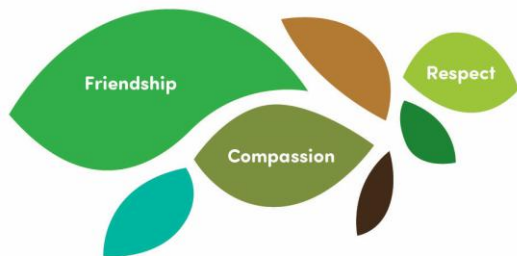
Staff have pupils' well-being at the heart of their work, Ofsted 2023



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



All children are expected to complete the home learning set. For children in Upper Key Stage 2, they are given additional time to complete their home learning with a supervised lunchtime, and an after-school club. If their home learning is not completed, they will need to stay in at breaktime to complete it.



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Diary Dates

Monday 3rd November – Back to School

Monday 3rd November – Year 3 Learning Review Meetings 12.50 - 7pm

Wednesday 5th November – Year 2 Edith Cavell day in school

Thursday 6th November – Reception parents/carers Maths session in school at 2.15

Thursday 6th November – Bonfire and Books 5-6pm

Monday 10th November – Learning Review Meetings (parent/carer evening)

Tuesday 11th November – Year 6 Duxford trip

Tuesday 11th November – Year 5 Cambridge trip

Wednesday 12th November - Learning Review Meetings

Friday 14th November – Odd Socks day for Anti-Bullying week

Wednesday 19th November – Year 1 Pizza Express trip

Thursday 4th December – Year 2 Norwich Cathedral trip

Tuesday 9th December – Years 3 and 4 Carol Singing at the Buttercross, 2.30pm

Wednesday 10th December – Workshare at 3.30pm in classrooms

Wednesday 10th December – School Christmas Dinner

Friday 12th December – Reception Nativity at 2.30pm

Friday 12th December – Heartwood Express (please book on Parent Pay)

Monday 15th December – Years 1 and 2 Nativity at 2.30pm

Tuesday 16th December – Year 6 singing Carols in local care homes

Tuesday 16th December – Year 5 singing Carols around the Bonfire

Wednesday 17th December – Nursery Nativity at 2.30

Wednesday 17th December – Heartwood Hygge Market 3.30 - 5

Thursday 18th December – Christmas service in Church at 2.15pm

Friday 19th December – Christmas jumper day

Friday 19th December – Family Christmas craft at 2.30pm