

SPRING TERM 2 2024

Welcome to our second edition of The Heights Academy Newsletter!
We look forward to sharing with you some of the many incredible things that have been happening this half term in our wonderful school. Enjoy!

IN THE NEWS THIS HALF TERM ...

- World Book Day
- Assembly Themes
- British Science Week
- Year 4 Curriculum - Great Fire of London
- Music
- Catering
- Charlie Fogarty visit
- Year 6 Space topic
- Year 7's second football match
- Red Nose Day
- Neurodiversity Week
- Year 7 English - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

WORLD BOOK DAY

-For World Book day 2024 we dressed up as our favourite characters.

As well as sharing our favourite books, pupils took part in science experiments based around stories. These included Harry Potter's potions and Alice in Wonderlands reflections.

We had a marvelous time!



ASSEMBLY THEMES

- 19 TH FEB – CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
- 26 TH FEB – RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY
- 4 TH MARCH – WORLD BOOK DAY
- 11 TH MARCH – RED NOSE DAY
- 18 TH MARCH – NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION WEEK

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

This year, the topic for British Science week is Time. Pupils have been discussing how the universe was formed and how it’s changed over time.

Throughout the week, the pupils have created their own Planets using Paper Mache. They then painted them to look like the planets from the Solar System. Some very cool planets!



Design a Planet

You have discovered a brand new planet! Complete an astronaut report to send to Mission Control about what you have found.

Name of Planet: <u>Taylorion</u>	Surface Materials: <u>Tar, sand, water</u>
Number of moons: <u>12</u>	Signs of life (water, oxygen): <u>Lots</u>
Other information: <u>It is a planet of water and has a ring of sand and water.</u>	



SUMMER SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Green Gingham Summer Dress/Grey or Black Skirt
- Grey or Black School Shorts (must be school trouser material)
- Bottle Green Sweatshirt, Hoodie or Cardigan (school logo)
- White Polo Shirt (School Logo or Plain)

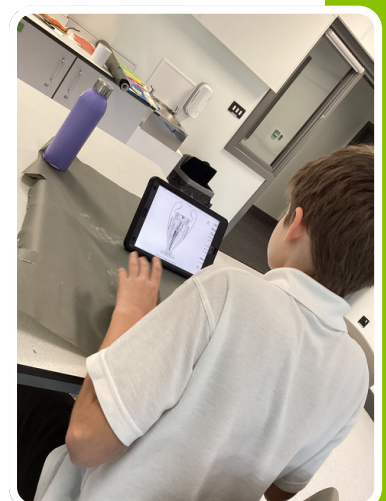
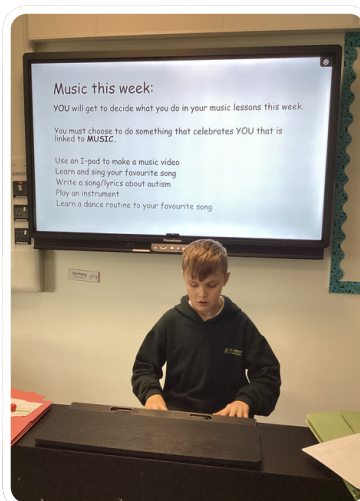
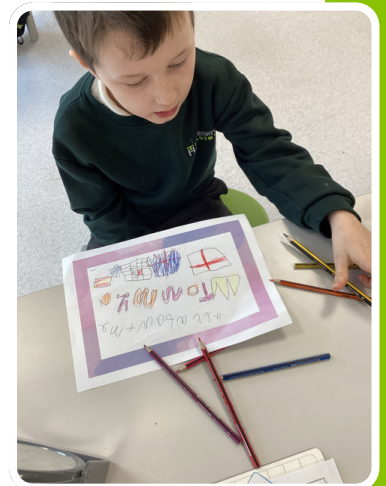
This may be worn after the Easter break, however children can still wear their winter uniform if they wish to do so.

NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION WEEK

To celebrate Neurodiversity Week, we had a non-uniform day this Friday, where children could wear their favourite clothes to celebrate their individuality.

In Art, the children used clay to create something that means something to them and in music they have created their own music that is unique to them.

They have also all made posters about what makes them unique and we will be making a special display.



THE HEIGHTS ACADEMY

CELEBRATE MINDS

of all kinds

On Friday 22nd March,
Wear your favourite clothes to school to
celebrate Neurodiversity week

Music this week:
 YOU will get to decide what you do in your music lessons this week.
 You must choose to do something that celebrates YOU that is linked to MUSIC.
 Use an iPad to make a music video
 Learn and sing your favourite song
 Write a song/lyrics about autism
 Play an instrument
 Learn to dance routine to your favourite song

NEURODIVERSITY WEEK POEM

One of our pupils created a poem about Autism and ADHD
for Neurodiversity Week:

Autism and ADHD to me

Autism is special, autism is unique
Sometimes it's tricky and not always great
We are kind the way we are
Clever in different ways
Emotions can be uncontrollable
Friendships hard to make.



ADHD gives me energy, doesn't let me sleep
Struggling to sit still and can't always focus
Fidgets and music help me concentrate
But drawing and reading help me to regulate

They are both pretty cool, no need to be fooled
They make me, ME!



L - 11 years old

YEAR 4 - GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

Year 4 have been enjoying all things 'The Great Fire of London'. We have built London homes and lined them up to set them on fire (with the help of Mr Thomas).

We have written onomatopoeic poems, newspaper reports and diary entries from Samuel Pepys! Our writing is always improving.



MUSIC

Pupils have been working really hard in their music lessons this half term. They have been using the keyboards, percussion and garageband to compose and perform different types of music. Year 7 pupils have been practising the 12 bar blues with a walking bassline whilst KS2 have been practising Twinkle Twinkle little star, Happy Birthday and the Harry Potter theme tune.

The Heights are also excited to announce that we are working towards Artsmark Award – The only creative standards for schools in the UK.



CATERING

Year 4 have been busy this half term learning about safety and hygiene in the kitchen as well as lots of new skills. They have been chopping, cutting, measuring and kneading. They've learnt about the reaction made when using yeast and waiting for the dough to rise. They also used their Maths skills for doubling and halving their ingredients. They have made country bakes, pizza, brownies, and bread - that links to their English topic, The Great Fire of London.

Year 7 have also been busy during their catering sessions. They have made Sausage Rolls, Croissants and Pizzas.



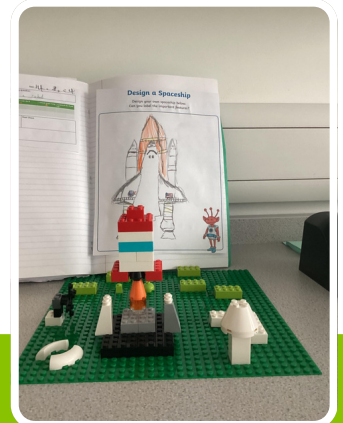
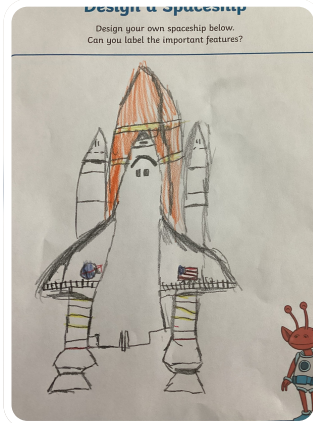
CHARLIE FOGARTY - INSPIRATIONAL VISITOR

On Friday 22nd March, Charlie Fogarty came into school to meet our pupils and tell them all about his story. In March 2012, Charlie Fogarty suffered a severe brain injury after being hit by a car. During his rehabilitation he started playing football for the West Midlands Centre of Excellence Cerebral Palsy team in July 2013. Since then he was selected for the Northern Ireland CP team and he plays regularly for Solihull Moors FC Community team.

It was really lovely to have Charlie in to chat with our pupils and to share his inspirational story! You can find out more here: <https://www.charlifogarty.co.uk>

YEAR 6 - SPACE TOPIC

In Topic, Year 6 have been learning about the Earth, Sun and Moon and how their movement affects our days, nights and seasons. We also researched the planets in our solar system, looked at space exploration and famous astronauts too. They have created a Space Rover which could travel across Mars, a rocket and launch pad ready for take-off and a prototype rocket design.



YEAR 7 - FOOTBALL MATCH

On Friday, 15th March, our football team played their second game against Forest Oak School in a tournament format. They won their first game 4-1, second game 3-1, drew their third 1-1 and were unlucky with a 3-0 loss in their final game.



Our pupils displayed all of our school values and were very respectful to our visitors. We look forward to the return fixture!



SAFEGUARDING

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help informed conversations about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide has been created using platform advice and is intended as a general overview of Disney+ content settings for further guidance, both on the platform.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+, combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in the library which are aimed at an older audience; these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings' below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.



BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge-watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.



PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.



ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 8+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give Consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't use a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof D+!' which requires the user to need four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, the PIN is secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 8 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: G+, 2+, 12+ or 14+.



ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows or the platform's Star content hub are for more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years; your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



Meet Our Expert

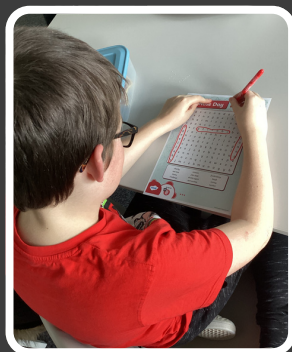
Our online safety and e-learning experts, carers, educators and researchers who have worked and inspired national and global digital safety policies and standards. For the full list, visit our website: www.nos.org.uk



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COMIC RELIEF

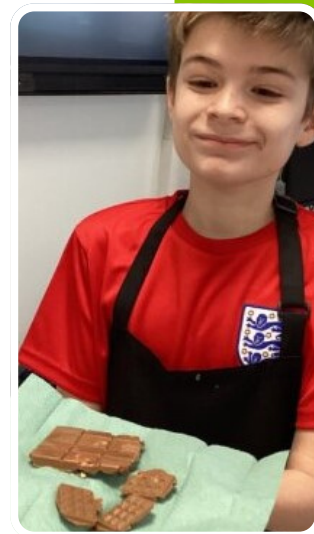
It was Red Nose Day last Friday. We had a fabulous time dressed up in clothes that made us smile. We raised a total of £38 - Thank you to our parents and carers for your generosity and support for this amazing charity.



YEAR 7 - CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Year 7 pupils have been reading Charlie and the chocolate factory this half term. They have discussed Augustus Gloop, Mike Teavee, Violet Beauregarde, Veruca Salt and Charlie Bucket and how Roald Dahl describes them and how he wants the reader to feel about them.

They have also designed their own chocolate wrappers for their own chocolate bars and then used lots of different ingredients to create their very own chocolate bars!



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