

24 OCTOBER 2025

As we come to the end of my first half term at The Heights, I wanted to take a moment to share how pleased I am with the progress we're making as a school.

It's been a busy and rewarding few weeks, and I've really enjoyed getting to know more of our wonderful children. I'm particularly encouraged by the improvements in engagement with learning across many classes.

Our new pupils have settled in well, and the introduction of new curriculum pathways is proving successful. I'm also pleased to report that our new staff members are making a positive impact and are already contributing effectively to school life.

While we've experienced some key staff absences this half term, the support from Forward Education Trust has been invaluable in helping us maintain momentum on our improvement journey. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to what we can achieve together in the coming months.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS HALF TERM

- A successful open evening
- A positive parents evening
- Launch of the Explorer, Navigator and Adventurer pathways
- Implementation of a mobile phone protocol
- Increase in pupil numbers
- Improvement in pupil attendance

AREAS WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP

- Develop a school-parent communication framework
- Build on our work with SPCV (Solihull Parent Carer Voice)
- Continue to develop our curriculum pathways
- Continue our work with Autism professionals

PLANNED ENHANCEMENTS

Many pupils have asked whether we could have a dog in school — it was easily the most popular question during my first week!

We're delighted to share that several staff members have kindly offered to bring their dogs into school after half term. Each dog visit has been carefully planned and meets the requirements of a comprehensive risk assessment. If you have any concerns about your child interacting with the dogs, please contact the school office.

These special visits will be marked on pupils' weekly calendars so everyone knows when to expect a "Pawsitive Presence" in school.



We're pleased to share that an additional swing will be installed in the Key Stage 3 play area after half term. This will give older pupils more opportunities to enjoy their own dedicated space and means they will no longer need to access the Key Stage 2 area during playtimes.

PHOTOS



BEHAVIOUR

We have introduced a more structured approach to behaviour that is both relational and fair, helping to create consistency across the school. We are working with behaviour expert Hannah Hall to establish the approach in a supportive way.

We believe that this will strengthen our school culture and help pupils feel safe, understood, and ready to learn.



MOBILE PHONES

Thank you for your continued support with our mobile phone protocol. This has had a positive impact on learning and focus across the school. If you have any questions about the policy, please contact your child's class teacher.



CHANGES

You will be aware already that from half term we are making some changes to the organisation of the school day to support all pupils.

These are:

- Changing the timings of lunchtime to create a shorter afternoon session to support regulation
- We have made adjustments to the afternoon timetable to help reduce cognitive load and better support pupils' focus and wellbeing throughout the day.
- To support consistency and reduce transitions throughout the day, Key Stage 3 classes will receive more of their teaching within their form rooms.

These changes have been carefully thought through, and we believe strongly they are in the best interests of individual pupils and the whole school community. We will review the impact of these changes, to confirm that the new plans are working effectively.

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