

A Message from the Headmaster



One of the many bright spots of this half-term included our annual World Book Day celebration, which each year gives us an opportunity to pause and pay special attention to the books and literature that play such a significant part in our curriculum.

You'll notice our distinctive focus on books particularly in our Infant and Junior Schools, where the use of books, stories and narratives are not confined only to English lessons, but are also present in the study of Science, History, Composer Study and RS. Why? Beyond the obvious enjoyment that good books can bring, they also play a critical role in helping us acquire knowledge. In order for true learning to take place, the mind must be set to work on some content; interest

and imagination must be stirred; there must be authentic and sustained engagement. The seemingly quiet and ordinary work of books – what Charlotte Mason would call 'knowledge presented in literary form' – has a unique capacity to captivate us and so to penetrate beneath the surface.

Charlotte Mason describes this idea eloquently: 'I think we owe it to children to let them dig their knowledge of whatever subject for themselves out of the fit book; and this for two reasons: What a child *digs for* is his own possession; what is poured into his ear, like the idle song of a pleasant singer, floats out as lightly as it came in, and is rarely assimilated. I do not mean to say that the lecture and the oral lesson are without their uses; but

the uses are to give impulse and to *order* knowledge; and not to convey knowledge, or to afford us that part of our education which comes of fit knowledge, fitly given... ideas must reach us directly from the mind of the thinker, and it is chiefly by the means of the books they have written that we get into touch with the best minds.'

Outside of school, recent research suggests that young people today are reading less than ever, which means that much of this deeper assimilation is sadly not taking place. My main message to our Seniors on World Book Day was simple, and I urge all of our pupils to do the same: make time to find books you enjoy, and read.

Mr Jason Fletcher, Headmaster

Special Visitors for World Book Day

On 3rd March, our Infants and Juniors celebrated World Book Day. As part of our celebrations, two special guests visited the children to help give them a new perspective on how books are created.

Illustrator Adam Larkum

During a special morning assembly, the children had a marvellous opportunity to learn from Adam Larkum, illustrator of many books including *One Hundred Steps: The Story of Captain Sir Tom*, *One Hundred Reasons*, *The Plesiosaur's Neck*, *A Short History of the World*, and *The Story of Chocolate*. Mr Larkum shared lots of engaging stories about the joys and challenges of illustrating books—including the lengthy process of creating a prehistoric creature with anatomical accuracy, and the perils of drinking too much hot chocolate while illustrating a book about chocolate! He

described his process of beginning a drawing very loosely, using rough scribbles to get the angle of things just right, and then rubbing the scribbles out when he is putting in the final details. He then demonstrated the stages of this process with one of his recent illustrations, a tricky scene of a man cutting grass on a wall using a lawnmower. Mr Larkum described to the children how he loves to draw all the time; and provided encouragement to aspiring illustrators by affirming that the more you draw, the more natural it becomes. A big thanks to Mr Larkum for an inspiring peek into the world of illustrating.



Author Alison Miles

Alison Miles is the author and illustrator of the *Snippy the Crab* books, the tales of an adventurous little crab whose escapades are detailed in a series of longer-length, rhyming picture stories. On World Book Day, Ms Miles visited the Year 3 and 4 classrooms to read from some of her books and answer many questions from the curious pupils, who wanted to know all about her books and illustrations, and the sea creatures she writes about. Ms Miles, who began writing her books years ago but only began to pursue her new career in earnest during lockdown, explained to the children that she has always loved poetry and was determined to write her books in rhyme.

However, she discovered how challenging it is to get rhyming books like hers published in today's global market, because of the difficulty in making them accessible in other languages. Undeterred, she decided to publish the books herself, and created her own illustrations—for which she was selected as a Bologna Children's Book Fair artist 2021—using an iPad! Today, she is working on her seventh book and the series is being listed by Manchester Poetry Library. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about her adventures as well as Snippy's. To find out more about Ms Miles and Snippy, go to alisonjmiles.co.uk.



More World Book Day Fun



In addition to these special visitors, Infants and Juniors celebrated the day by dressing up as their favourite book characters and taking part in bookish activities throughout the day.

Treasure Hunt: During the morning assembly, Mrs Watkins announced that the recent high winds had caused lots of disruption for the giant from Julia Donaldson's book *The Smartest Giant in Town*, scattering his clothing all around the school. It was up to the children to search for the giant's clothing in a treasure hunt throughout the day.

Lower Prep were excited to show their costumes to their classmates and share with them the books on which their characters were based. They also read *Walking Through the Jungle* by Julie Lancome, joining in with the repeated refrains of the story and trying to guess the animal on each page. Then, they practised their subtraction using the story *The Shopping Basket* by John Birmingham to prompt them. They also had fun making their own animal bookmarks to take home.

Upper Prep had a visit from our very own author and illustrator, Ms Emma Robertson, who read her book *The Boobybirds in Lockdown*

to the class and told them about how she had taken inspiration from her family's personal experiences during lockdown. The children then worked collaboratively on a sequel called *The Boobybirds After Lockdown*, which shows Boobybirds enjoying the lovely things that we can participate in once more, including clubs, school, water slides, trips out, going on holiday, and lots more. The finished book now takes pride of place on the UP bookshelf.

Year 2 all received invitations to join Mrs Grove on an adventure into Narnia. As they arrived, the children stepped through the wardrobe and found themselves in Mr Tumnus' house. The class did some wonderful descriptive writing as they retold Lucy's entrance into Narnia in their own words. They all enjoyed eating Turkish Delight with the White Witch, and then wrote a letter to persuade her to allow the Narnians to celebrate Christmas. Finally, the children made shields to take into battle against the White Witch and celebrated their win triumphantly!

Year 3 tackled some Roald Dahl-themed questions in Maths, which included calculating the length of Fantastic Mr Fox's tail

and thinking about the fraction of Matilda's books that have already been read. They created some colourful bookmarks, played World Book Day Bingo, and wrote persuasive book reviews. They also enjoyed an engaging visit from author Alison Miles and Snippy the Crab.

Year 4 tested their book knowledge by dividing into teams and taking a book quiz. They also enjoyed designing their own bookmarks and shared some of the stories they had recently written, on the theme of Robin Hood. Alison Miles also paid the class a visit in the afternoon, telling the children all about how she illustrated her books and used rhyme to tell her stories.

In **Year 5**, the pupils took a World Book Day focus on their Maths lesson, completing a code breaker to find out who won the dress competition. They also made some lovely bookmarks to help them keep their place in all of the fantastic books they will be reading.

Year 6 delayed their World Book Day celebration because of an Enrichment trip, but they had lots of fun during their visit to Burghley House!

Seniors' Literary Celebration for World Book Day



In the Senior School, World Book Day started with a presentation by the Literary Society, a group of Seniors who meet weekly with Mrs Fletcher to talk about authors, books and different genres of writing. During the assembly, each of the society members gave a short presentation about what they had been discussing this term. Toni (Y9) began by summarising a presentation she had prepared about Ray Bradbury, author of *Fahrenheit 451*—one of the Essential Read books for Seniors and so a relevant discussion for all. Betsy (Y9) gave an overview of her talk on Myths and Legends and the role they play in society and culture. Isabella (Y9) then outlined her talk on the science fiction writer Isaac Asimov.

The presentations finished with a look at a recent discussion where Betsy (Y9) posed the idea that Austen, was never married but whose books are mostly about love and marriage, is often used as a counter example to the advice 'write what you know'. Instead of writing what she knew from her own experiences (which were limited in general), she wrote about her observations of others. The conclusion of the discussion was that, rather than writing what you know, you should 'write what you are interested in' because you are more likely to do research in that field even if you have never experienced it. Each presenter left the listeners with suggested books to read around each genre or author.

Following the Literary Society presentations was a book quiz led by school Librarian Mrs Pilkington. There were 10 questions in each of the six rounds, which included Children's Books (Which South American country is Paddington Bear from?), Classics (What was Phileas Fogg challenged to do?), Fantasy and Sci-Fi (Tom Marvolo Riddle is the alter-ego of which evil wizard?), and Film adaptations (John Malkovich and Gary Sinise played which famous duo in the 1992 adaptation of *Of Mice and Men*?). Additional tests of knowledge included a picture round and lucky dip, so there was plenty of variety to appeal to book lovers of all types, and lots of fun was had by all.

Books We Are Reading This Term

Take a look at all of the great books our Infants and Juniors have been reading this term!

Lower Prep

- **English Literature:** *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams; *Little Pete Stories* by Leila Berg
- **Read Aloud:** *The Teddy Robinson Storybook*; a range of picture books such as the *Hairy Maclary* series by Lynley Dodd, and books by Judith Kerr, John Burningham, Julia Donaldson and a number of other authors
- **Bible:** Stories from *My First Bible*

Upper Prep

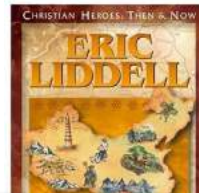
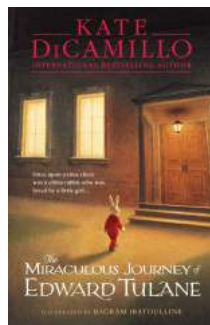
- **Literature:** *Milly, Molly, Mandy* by Joyce Lankester; James Herriot's *Treasury for Children*
- **Read Aloud:** *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett; *Mrs Pepperpot* by Alf Proysen; a wide range of picture and poetry books:
- **Bible:** Stories from *The Lion Children's Bible*
- **Religious Studies:** *The Path That Runs by the Church* by Lois Rock

Year 2

- **English Literature:** *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate diCamillo; *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by CS Lewis
- **Read Aloud:** *Danny the Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl
- **Science:** *Adventures into Nature Book IIB* by W.M. Daunt; *On A Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* by Jennifer Berne; *Six Dots - A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant and Boris Kulikov
- **History:** Stories from *People in History* by R.J Unstead
- **Bible:** Stories about Joshua, Moses, Samson and Samuel; Jesus' life and events of the Easter story
- **Composer Study:** *Boyhoods of Great Composers* by Catherine Gough

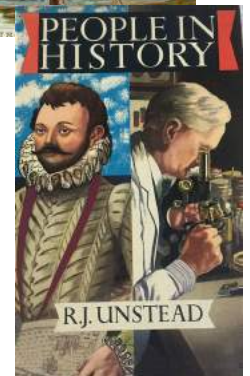
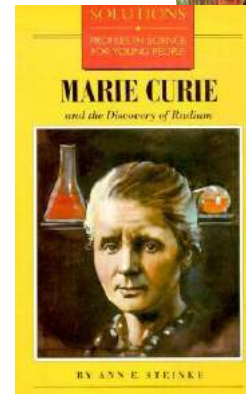
Year 3

- **English Literature:** *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
- **Read Aloud:** *The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli
- **Science:** *Adventures Into Nature 3a*; biography of Florence Nightingale
- **History:** *The Story of the World Volume 1: The Ancients*
- **Bible:** Stories from Egermeier's *Bible Story Book*
- **Religious Studies:** *George Muller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans* by Janet and Geoff Benge
- **Composer Study:** *Beethoven - The Chiming Tower Bells* by Opal Wheeler



Year 4

- **English Literature:** *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- **Read Aloud:** *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
- **Science:** *Adventures Into Nature 4b*; *Along Came Galileo* by Jeanne Bendick
- **History:** *The Story of the World, Volume 2: The Middle Ages*
- **Bible:** Readings from Exodus and Numbers (Moses in the wilderness years), and Jesus' ministry from Luke Chapters 9-18
- **Religious Studies:** *Amy Carmichael: Rescuer of Precious Gems* by Janet and Geoff Benge
- **Composer Study:** *Franz Schubert and his Merry Friends* by Sybil Deucher



Year 5

- **English Literature:** *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri
- **Read Aloud:** *I am David* by Anne Holm
- **Science:** *Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Revealed* by Mary Losure; *Dwellers* by the Rev. Theodore Wood
- **History:** *The Story of the World Volume 3: The Early Modern World*
- **Bible:** Readings from the books of Judges and Mark
- **Religious Studies:** *Eric Liddell: Something Greater Than Gold* by Janet and Geoff Benge
- **Composer Study:** *Sebastian Bach: The boy from Thuringia* by Opal Wheeler and Sybil Deucher

Year 6

- **English Literature:** *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan.
- **Read Aloud:** *Mrs Frisby and the rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien.
- **Science:** *The Story of Thomas Alva Edison* by Margaret Cousins; *Marie Curie and the Discovery of Radium* by Ann E. Steinke; *Dwellers* by the Rev. Theodore Wood.
- **History:** *The Story of the World Vol 4: The Modern World*
- **Bible:** *Samuel 2 chapters 1-19 and Psalm 122*
- **Composer Study:** *Schumann and Mascot Ziff* by Opal Wheeler

Year 2 Class Assembly: The Battle of Hastings



This half-term, Year 2 put on a Class Assembly demonstrating what they have been learning about in their history lessons. It was a dramatic presentation about the competition for the throne of England in 1066, following the death of the childless Edward the Confessor. The class re-enacted the events following the King's death; first the crowning of Harold Godwinson, followed by the battle at Stamford Bridge in which Harold Hardrada, King of Norway, unsuccessfully attempted to take

the throne from King Harold. After this came the Battle of Hastings, where William Duke of Normandy (also known as William the Conqueror) defeated King Harold, ending 600 years of Anglo Saxon rule. The class ended with a lively musical number about the Bayeux tapestry, a 70 meter long embroidery that details the story of William's victory in 1066. Well done to Year 2 for such an entertaining and educational assembly.

Year 7 Drama: Never Was a Story of More Woe

Year 7 pupils took to the stage for a splendid performance of *Romeo and Juliet* before a group of family members in Panton Hall. The class, who have been studying the famous Shakespeare play in their English and Drama lessons, ably demonstrated their impressive understanding of its themes. They performed an adaptation of the full play that used narration to summarise certain scenes, but which successfully conveyed the full story and captured its essence.

In his introduction to the performance, Mr Burden highlighted the ongoing relevance of *Romeo and Juliet*, with its themes of conflict, young love, and a frustration with the older generations. ('But old folks, many feign as they were dead, Unwieldy, slow, heavy, and pale as lead.')

Charlotte and Izzy did a tremendous job playing the characters of Romeo and Juliet, respectively, and were wonderfully supported by each of their classmates including Caitlin as Mercutio, Sophie as Tybalt, Julia as the Nurse, and Luke as Friar Lawrence.

Special mention also goes to Emily N., who stepped into the role of Lord Montague at very short notice, and who also designed the programmes. Each of the cast designed and created their own costumes.

Mrs Dingley and Miss Rogers's thorough preparations of the pupils in lessons and rehearsals were apparent in the impeccable performances, and Mr Campbell's lighting added an extra degree of drama to the production. Bravo to one and all for putting on such a terrific show!



A Passion for Running

On Saturday 19th March, Year 9 pupil Silas Wright competed in the English Schools Athletic Association (ESAA) Cross Country Championships 2022. He ran the 4.1km course in 14:30, placing a very impressive 2nd in the Cambridgeshire team and 69th nationally. He writes about his experience here:

A year ago, I would never have imagined that I would be running in the English Schools Cross Country Championships 2022!

I started running when I joined the Cambridge Triathlon Club in 2018. As well as enjoying swimming and cycling, I find it really satisfying to progress through their running training programme. There are time trials in March and September, so you can see the difference a season of training and racing makes. It's a very friendly club and it's fun training with other people of a similar age and standard. Triathlon training also has a positive impact on my other school sports e.g. hockey, tennis and touch rugby, as it helps to develop my general fitness and physical stamina.

My passion for running really took off in the first lockdown. Triathlon training was suspended due to the pandemic, so I followed my own training programme, running along the network of farm tracks and lanes around Madingley, where I live. I loved the sense of freedom and being outside, as well as getting a change of scene. Then, when we were back at school, I joined the Heritage Seniors Running Club— it was great to be able to train with friends after school on Coe Fen.

Now, I train two evenings a week at the Wilberforce Road athletics track with the Cambridge & Coleridge Athletics Club, and on Saturday mornings, either at The Gogs or by doing a 5km Park Run. A typical training session at the athletics



track is: 1km warm up, 8x400m laps (with 90 seconds rest between each lap) and a 1km cool down. Using a combination of track and hill training helps to improve my average running speed over middle to long distances and varied terrain, which is especially important in cross country races.

Before a cross country race, I usually feel a mixture of nerves and excitement. To prepare, I do light stretches and a short warm up run. When the race starts, my main focus is to get ahead of the crowd of runners around me as fast as I can, so that I don't get stuck at the back—it can be hard to overtake where the course is narrow. After that, I settle into my race pace, which I sustain for 4-5km (a typical course distance). Around the final 400m, I start to feel really tired, so I have to work hard to stay focussed and if I can I try to speed up for a sprint finish.

Representing Cambridgeshire and the Heritage School in the English Schools Cross Country Championships was an honour and an adventure. It all started with winning a cross country race at Netherhall School in Cambridge. Then, after qualifying in the district, county and regional heats, I came 69th out of a field of 330 runners from 46 counties across England, at a national standard course in Kent. I enjoyed competing as part of a team too—Cambridgeshire Junior Boys came 14th. I was also particularly pleased to see that Mo Farah won the Junior Boys cross country event in 1997!

If anyone is interested in getting into cross country running, I would suggest making the most of the running we do in PE on Coe Fen and trying some 2km or 5km Park Runs - Wimpole has a great course. You never know where it might lead!

-Silas Wright, Year 9 Pupil

Six Pupils Compete in ISA Cross Country Nationals

In other Cross Country news, six Heritage pupils ran in the Independent Schools Association (ISA) National Cross Country Championships after qualifying during the regional competition in February. The races, divided by age groups, were held on Saturday 19th March at Worksop College in Nottinghamshire. Year 4 pupils Hannah and Anna, running in the Year 3/4 Girls Race, finished at a very respectable 8th and 10th

place, respectively, out of 66 runners. Year 6 pupil Kitty came in 39th among the Year 5/ 6 Girls, and Year 7 pupils Megan and Izzy placed 45th and 46th in the Year 7 Girls race. Finally, Year 8 pupil Sandy finished 22nd in the Year 8/9 boys race. Congratulations to each of the pupils who took part in this event; it is an accomplishment to even qualify for this national-level cross country competition and each pupil gave it their very best!



On His Way to the European Championships

Year 10 pupil Jon was recently selected for the U18 England Mixed Touch Rugby team, which will be taking part in the European Championships in France during the summer. This accomplishment comes after being selected for the England Youth Touch Rugby Squad, with whom he has been training over the past four months. Prior to that, Jon captained the Midlands Tigers—the U15 Boys' Midlands Touch Rugby Team—at the Regionals in Oxford, finishing with a silver medal. We look forward to hearing more about Jon's rugby achievements and the championships this summer.



Community Sport and Outside Interests

Community sport is a great option for pupils who are looking for additional ways to participate in team competitions. As you can see, high level competitive opportunities are available in the Cambridge area and beyond, and many of our pupils have excelled in their preferred sport.

We would love to hear more about what our pupils are doing outside of school. If you would like to share your child's accomplishments in sport, music, art, or any other area, please contact Mrs Kang at communications@heritageschool.org.uk.

Seniors Career Assembly

Each term we invite speakers to a Senior School assembly to talk about their chosen profession, to help make pupils aware of a wide range of career possibilities as they consider what they might like to do in the future. In our Careers assembly this term, we looked at Law and the construction industry.

First, Mrs Tolu Anifalaje talked to us about her career in Law. She explained the difference between a barrister and a solicitor, how to get into Law and what skills are needed. She spoke about her current role as a solicitor for Camden city council, dealing with antisocial behaviour, social housing fraud and disrepair. It was so interesting to hear about recent cases that she has dealt with and their outcomes.

We also enjoyed a lively presentation from Shelley Lawrence and Tilly Kingsley from Women into Construction, a not-for-profit organisation that promotes gender equality in the construction industry. They made us aware of the wide variety of jobs available for men and women, the different pathways into careers in this sector and what a typical day might look like for them. They also identified the skills needed and what they enjoyed about their jobs as Project Manager and Trainee Technical Coordinator. They both believe that there are plenty of opportunities for career progression, and their enthusiasm for their jobs was infectious. You can learn more about their organisation at women-into-construction.org, or



find them on Facebook and LinkedIn. You can also search for the Hill Management Trainee Programme, a blended programme of university degree and on-the-job training.

-Mrs Jenny Fleck, Senior School Head of Academics

Helping International Students

During last half-term's non-uniform day, the Senior Council raised just shy of £200 for Link House, a Christian organisation helping international students with accommodation, support and friendship as they settle into life in Cambridge. Link House was delighted and surprised to receive the generous donation from our pupils. Well done to all who contributed and to the Senior Council for their leadership.



Spotlight on Cookery Club

A year ago, Mrs Wren started up a Cookery Club for Seniors. The club, which started during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, started as a way for the pupils to connect on Zoom, and now meets in person to cook together at Panton Hall with Mrs Wren and Dr Taylor. This term, they have learned to make a number of different dishes and delicacies, including chili, macaroni cheese, cheesecake, chicken curry and marmalade.

Mrs Wren writes, 'I have always enjoyed cooking. I have taught the subject previously as part of a preparation for university course, an after school club and then Year 7 course. I loved doing the pastoral lunches at Heritage, and enjoyed the camp cooking—so starting up a Cookery Club seemed a next logical step. I am very grateful to the HCA for helping us build up our equipment and, to the pioneer students who encouraged me.'

Year 9 pupil Toni, a member of the club, writes, 'I found that I had my cooking repertoire expanded, which



has made it a lot more fun and interesting as I can experiment with how I cook or bake things. Thanks to Mrs Wren and Dr Taylor, I learned to make a variety of different recipes, which has made cooking my hobby. We make a diversity of different things, from scones to cheesecakes, which helps us to try different things and decide

what we like to make. For example, I loved making mince pies and crepes because I found a better way of making them and also I didn't know how to make curry or chilli, but I learned that it is quite simple. I hope that everyone can experience this and understand why I love Cookery Club.'

In Case You Missed It...

Pupil Art Galleries

Have you seen our new pupil art galleries? Just go to heritageschool.org.uk > Media > Art Galleries to see photos of art projects from each of our Infant and Junior classes, as well as our IGCSE art pupils from the prior year.

Alumni Reunion

We will be holding our first in-person alumni reunion on Saturday, 23rd April from 2-4pm. Heritage alumni, don't forget to RSVP! You can find the link in Mr Fletcher's prior email or go to the Alumni page of our website.

Welcome to New Staff

Compliance Officer Claire Corfield

With both of my children now settled in school (in Year 2 and Reception class) I am thrilled to be back at work following a career break, and to be part of such a dedicated, talented and enthusiastic work force. Prior to this, I was a Prosecuting Solicitor for eight and a half years, specializing in the area of environmental crime. In many respects, being at Heritage School is like a homecoming for me, as I also attended a lovely small

preparatory school in Cambridge (now closed). The values that it instilled in me continue to serve me well into my adulthood; particularly, treating everyone you meet with compassion and kindness. I also credit my ability to memorize facts to the school's no-nonsense stalwart drama teacher, who had both a strong faith in and high expectations of her students. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming months.



Senior School English Teacher Alison Christie

It is a truth universally acknowledged that an English teacher joining Heritage School is in possession of good fortune. I have always taught my students the importance of an engaging opening line in their work, so I have pinched mine from Miss Austen! I am very happy to be joining the school this

year, and hope that I can bring my love of this subject to the classroom. I am also hopeful that my continued experience of teaching English will inspire the pupils to enjoy reading and writing about the wonderful poets, novelists, and playwrights they will have an opportunity to study at Heritage School.



Heritage Community Association News

The HCA is super excited to be organising the Heritage Summer Fete on Saturday 18th June from 1- 4pm in Comberton. Think fun traditional stalls like Splat the Rat, a tombola, raffle, guess the number of sweets in the jar, craft, cakes, sponge throwing, wellie wanging and so on. We hope we can include a dog show, ice cream van and pony rides as well.

Each year group is being invited to host a stall, and there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer. A list will be circulated early next term to the whole school for sign up in various areas, including:

- Security on the front gates (to prevent children from leaving without their parents)
- Set up
- Clear up
- Water station supervision

It will be a joyful opportunity to get together again after such a long time, to laugh, fling wet sponges and eat cake in beautiful surroundings.

Any questions do get in touch with Rachel or Ellie (HCA Co-chairs) on HCA@heritageschool.org.uk.

-Ellie Stoneley Gradwell and Rachel Bruins, HCA Co-Chairs