

THE OLD WOLVERNIAN

ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2025

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding term at Heathfield Knoll, the quote to the right feels especially fitting. I see the generosity and kindness shown by our pupils every day - asking for help when they are worried about their friends, reading to younger pupils or accepting differences seen in others.

It has been a term filled with learning, laughter, and a lovely sense of community, qualities that make Heathfield Knoll such a remarkable place. This was captured, quite wonderfully, in our two external reports in November (coincidentally, both occurring within a week)! Our ISI report should be with the school soon; a copy will be shared with you as soon as we are permitted. Our second external assessment from the Good Schools Guide is, however, live, and we will share this separately. Both make for an excellent read.

The festive season has, as always, brought its share of highlights. Our carol concert at St. John's Church is always a special celebration - wonderful music and words, all shared with families as the final school event of 2025. The Christmas Fayre was another joyful occasion, and I must admit to sharing the children's excitement when meeting Santa albeit, there was some hesitancy when I asked if I was on the naughty list! The Junior School's Winter Wonderland and party were lots of fun, and all our Christmas performances once again showcased the confidence, creativity and hard work of our pupils. Families also came to school to visit Connect's Christmas Café, and all enjoyed the review of the term (and the mince pies)!

These events only happen through the work of our staff and the support of parents and families. For those who contributed to the surveys for ISI and/or the interviews for the Good Schools Guide, we are also deeply grateful. Thank you.

As we head into the Christmas break, I hope you find time to rest, reconnect, and enjoy the company of loved ones. Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a peaceful, fulfilling New Year.

Welcome

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone."
- Charles M. Schulz



Mr Lawrence Collins
Headteacher



Little Cedars Nursery



A Wonderful Start to Our New Adventure!

We are delighted to share how pleased we are with the opening of Little Cedars Nursery. Following a very successful Open Day in August, continued interest resulted in us opening our doors for a second time during the Whole School Open Day, where staff were proud to welcome so many families and showcase our beautiful new nursery. We are thrilled that many families have now signed up to Little Cedars, with several recommending us to friends and relatives. Spaces remain limited, with only full-time places available from September 2026, and we are already receiving applications for January 2027.

Heathfield Knoll recognises the importance of children's early educational experiences and the crucial role they play in building firm foundations for lifelong learning. We understand that investing in our nursery environment is vital for children's social, emotional, and cognitive development, leading to increased confidence, stronger physical skills, and greater school readiness. Our dedicated staff work extremely hard to ensure every child feels safe, nurtured, and inspired to explore and learn in their new environment, and it is wonderful to see children arriving each day with happy faces, laughter, and a natural desire to explore, be curious, and learn through our bespoke curriculum.

Our carefully sequenced Early Years curriculum supports children as they build on their knowledge and skills step by step. Each activity and experience is thoughtfully planned to develop confidence, curiosity, and creativity, while still giving children the freedom to explore and follow their own interests. Learning is fun, engaging, and meaningful, providing every child with a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Owl Room

Owls are our littlest learners, building strong foundations for the future. Key workers ensure little ones feel safe by forming trusting relationships. Babies are supported to explore the world through songs, stories, and exciting sensory play experiences.

Bluebird Room

Children in the Bluebird Room are full of energy, curiosity, and imagination. They develop confidence and independence in daily routines as they explore language through songs, stories, and conversations. Their physical skills grow through climbing, running, and balancing in our specially designed outdoor environment. As their learning progresses, they begin to understand numbers, shapes, and patterns in hands-on, practical ways. They also continue to develop important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and forming friendships, which help to build emotional growth and cooperation.

Robin and Preschool Room

Children in the Robin Room and Preschool are preparing for school while enjoying creative and engaging learning experiences. They develop independence and self-confidence, building communication and literacy skills through storytelling, writing, and phonics. They explore maths, science, and problem-solving through engaging, hands-on activities, and express ideas and emotions through imaginative play and creative arts. Social skills, teamwork, and emotional awareness continue to grow as part of their daily routines.

I would like to thank all our families for their support and for the positive feedback shared since our opening.

Some parents have kindly offered their thoughts about Little Cedars, which we are delighted to share with you:

Owl Room Parent Comment:

"Entrusting your child into someone else's care isn't an easy thing to do as a parent, and I was nervous at the thought. However, from the moment my daughter had her first settling-in day, even as an under-12-month-old, I felt instantly at ease that she would be happy, safe, and well cared for; this has definitely been the case.

She loves attending Little Cedars and is excited when we arrive at the doors in the morning. It's the range of stimulating activities, the support towards her personal development, and the genuine care and attention she receives from the staff - all part of ensuring she continues to thrive.

I also, as a parent, feel involved in the personalised care given to my child through clear communication and updates.

My personal highlight has been receiving pictures of her engaging in new and interesting activities; seeing the joy and excitement on her face gives me comfort and reassurance that she is truly happy and in the right place."



Bluebird Room Parent Comment:

"Little Cedars Nursery has been a truly magical place for our daughter. From the moment she joined, she settled in beautifully and now looks forward to each day with excitement and joy. The staff are incredibly nurturing and attentive, creating a safe and stimulating environment where children can thrive.

What stands out most is how the nursery experience aligns so naturally with our daughter's development at home. It's clear that the activities and interactions at Little Cedars are thoughtfully designed to build confidence, skills, and a love of learning through interactive fun. As a parent, it's heartwarming to see our daughter proudly share what she's learned each day - and equally touching to witness the same pride and enthusiasm among the other children.

There's a genuine sense of community spirit among the children, a shared joy in learning and growing together. Little Cedars has created more than just a nursery - it's a place where children feel supported, celebrated, and inspired."



Robin Room Parent Comment:

"We are delighted that Tilly has settled really well into Little Cedars and is very happy. She is thriving in her development, benefiting from the personable and highly experienced staff, fantastic facilities, and beautiful setting at Little Cedars. We receive regular updates about the varied weekly programme of activities.

It has been a wonderful start to our journey, and we can't wait to share more smiles, discoveries, and special moments with you all as Little Cedars continues to grow."





PRIDE Values

This term has marked the successful launch of our PRIDE behaviour values: **P**oliteness, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **S**elf-**D**iscipline, and **E**ffort, and they are already becoming a natural part of daily life in school. Since September, pupils have engaged with the values through assemblies, class discussions and the visual prompts displayed around the site. Staff have helped pupils understand not only what each value means, but also how to demonstrate them in everyday situations.

Across the school, pupils are increasingly confident in using the language of PRIDE to describe their choices and behaviour. Politeness and respect are frequently evident in the way pupils speak to one another and to adults. Integrity has been a particularly strong focus and supports our wider work on morals and character. Pupils are beginning to show a clear understanding of doing the right thing even when no one is watching, as reflected in many of their interactions and decision-making.

Many pupils have also shown strong Self-Discipline, especially by embracing the HK Award and the DofE for our older pupils. The focus on Effort has reinforced the importance of trying their best in all areas of school life.

Several visitors have commented positively on pupils' manners and their understanding of the PRIDE values. Overall, the first term has established a strong foundation that we look forward to developing further.

HK

**COMING
SOON**

TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

Heathfield Knoll School
presents

Annie Jr.

**TUESDAY 17TH AND WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH
2026**