Heathland Whitefriars Federation

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Headteacher: Mr P K Vekaria

Thursday 26th February

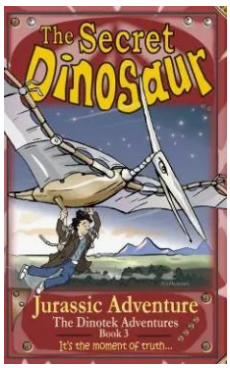
Dear Parents and Carers,

WORLD BOOK DAY

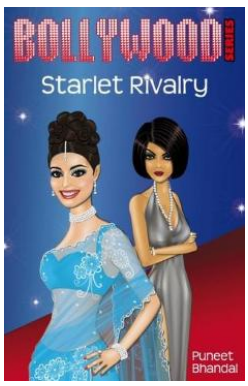
We are excited to celebrate World Book Day 2026 next week. As in previous years, we will be celebrating on **Friday 6th March** rather than the official Thursday.

It is going to be a wonderful day of reading and book related activities. The children will take part in planned lessons, enjoy reading outdoors, and have the chance to explore and share their favourite books.

Author Visits



Reception, Year 1 and 2 Author Visit - Nigel Blackman
We are delighted to welcome children's author and illustrator Nigel Blackman to Heathland for a special assembly. Nigel is the creator of *The Secret Dinosaur* series - thrilling, illustrated adventure stories about a boy called Marlin who discovers a room full of incredible dinosaur machines that come to life! His books are loved by children across the country, and his sessions are full of storytelling, drawing, and getting children excited about writing and creating their own characters.
Pre-Order Nigel's Books - £1 each
Nigel has kindly arranged for his books to be available at the special price of £1 per book. If you would like to order a copy for your child, please send £1 in a named envelope to your child's class teacher by Tuesday 3rd March. Please write your child's name and class on the envelope.



Year 3 – 6 Author Visit - Puneet Bhandal
We are thrilled to welcome author Puneet Bhandal to Heathland for a special assembly. Puneet is the creator of *The Bollywood Academy* series - exciting stories set in the glamorous world of Bollywood, following characters who chase their dreams while staying true to who they are and where they come from. Puneet is a former Bollywood journalist and brings her stories to life with fascinating tales about Indian culture, film, music, and dance. Her sessions are engaging, inspiring, and a wonderful celebration of seeing yourself and your culture represented in books.
Pre-Order Puneet's Books - Signed Copies for £5
Puneet has kindly offered signed copies of her books at the special price of £5 per book. If you would like to order a signed copy for your child, please send £5 in an envelope labelled with **your child's name and class**, to your child's class teacher by Tuesday 3rd March.

To help support the day's activities, we kindly ask for a **£1 donation**, which will go towards funding events and resources to enhance our pupils' reading experiences. **This can be paid in cash on the day.**

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Registered office address: Heathland School, Eastcote Lane, Harrow HA2 9AG

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World Book Day Book Tokens

Your child will also be bringing home a World Book Day book token. These tokens can be used to get a free World Book Day book or £1 off any book. They are accepted by all major booksellers, including Waterstones, WHSmith, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and Asda.

Dressing Up

All children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character. They are also welcome to bring the book to school with them.

Here are some costume ideas to get you started:

- Where's Wally - a red and white stripy top and glasses
- Matilda - a blue dress and a ribbon in the hair, carrying a book
- Harry Potter - school uniform, a tie, round glasses, and a stick for a wand
- A pirate - a stripy top, an eye patch made from card, and a bandana
- Paddington Bear - a red hat, a blue coat, and a marmalade sandwich (or a label that says "Please look after this bear")
- The Cat in the Hat - a red and white stripy top and a tall hat made from paper
- A superhero from a book - a cape made from an old pillowcase or towel
- Harry Potter - school uniform, a tie, round glasses, and a stick for a wand
- Gangsta Granny - a dressing gown, grey hair (use talcum powder or a grey scarf), and a bag of "jewels"
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Greg Heffley) - a plain white top with a simple drawing on the front, carrying a notebook
- A detective - a coat, a magnifying glass made from card, and a notebook (for any mystery book character)

After-School Book Swap and Sale

At the end of the day, we will be holding a second-hand book swap and sale in the lower school hall. Children and families are welcome to:

- Bring a book from home to swap for a different one, or
- Buy a second-hand book for £1

This is a lovely way to find a new book to enjoy. All books have been carefully chosen and are in good condition.

We cannot wait to celebrate World Book Day with your children. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Miss F R Hopkins
Headteacher