



Heather Herald

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This is our last
paper newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all families for their support, regarding the one-way system, the altering of the school day and the recent request, directly from the Local Authority, for all those collecting and dropping off children to wear mask. Also, a big thank you to all of you who are only picking up Key Stage 1/EYFS children for waiting on the front play ground until after 3:10am. When doing so, please can you not block the gate for the parents of the Key stage 2 children as it this can make social distancing very difficult. Hopefully by the end of this week, Key Stage 1/EYFS parents will be in this routine and the daily reminders will not be required.

The children are generally setting well into their learning and are now working on the different topics in each of their classes after the whole school learning project on *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Over next week, children in Years 1-5 will be completing some more formal assessments - Year six, you started yours last week! The teachers will be using these assessments to further identify any gaps in your child's learning and will be using this information to inform their future planning. Any information gleaned from these assessments will be shared with you later on in the term.

Inevitably, last week, the Birmingham Rep contacted us to say that our trip to see *Nativity The Musical* is now to be postponed until December 2021. We are looking at the possibility of arrange a theatre company to visit school, as long as it is safe and the price is right!

If you have any concerns or queries then please jot a note in the diary or contact the school office, your child's teacher will get back to you either by replying in the diary or phoning you at the end of the school day.

Best wishes,
Maxine Michalowski

Welcome to the World

On Saturday 12th September, Mrs Smith and her husband, welcomed the safe delivery of Imogen Anthea Hortensia Smith - weighing 9lb 4oz. Mummy and Imogen are both doing well and we are all looking forward to meeting the new arrival to our Heather Family. Congratulations to you both - she looks gorgeous.



Tired Children

A few members of staff, myself included, have noticed that we have a lot of tired children across the school – and half term is still a long way off. It is really important that after a busy day in school, that children have a chance to wind down away from electronic devices to ensure that they get a good night sleep. Tired and grumpy children are not in the frame of mind to learn to the best of their ability, nor do they play well together and can often fall out with their friends. Your support in this matter is really appreciated – for schools in Leicestershire this is a long term – early nights are essential. If you would support from the school nurse, then let us know.

Independence

Children are far more resilient and capable much more at times than we give them credit for. In order to settle in well at school, independence is key. One of the areas in which some children lack independence, and yes this applies to our new starters in Donaldson class, is to manage their own belongings. Teachers can get rather frustrated, although they do try to not show it, when they have parents complaining because their child has lost an item of clothing. Children, who have the tendency to take off clothing and drop it on the floor as some one else will pick it up for them, are often the ones who cannot find their belongings. If things are 'dropped', then if the clothing has a name on, it will eventually find its way back to your child. If a parent tells us it is 'from Asda' or 'has a hole under the left arm pit, it is not really helpful in the slightest – believe my I have heard them all. To help, encourage your children to pick up their own belongings, make sure they pack their own bag – then at least they will know what is in it. If they come out with out something, ask them to go back and find it, after all they are probably going to be the last one who had it, before asking a member of staff!

Also, to encourage independence it is expected that all children at least carry their own school bags when they enter the school gate. If the bag is too heavy, then it probably has too much in it.

Lunchtimes

At school, if children eat a hot school dinner, they are expected to use a knife and fork to eat their main meal. Spoons are for pudding or soup and we don't have soup! We certainly do not use our fingers. Please practise using a knife and fork at home if this is something that your child is not used too as we seem to have rather a lot of younger children who find this a challenge. Mid-Day Supervisors are more than willing to support children in the cutting of more tricky items on their plate but some children seem to just sit there as if waiting for the Mid-Day Supervisor to feed them, which quite frankly is not going to happen. Children are expected to eat a wide selection of the food that they have chosen and this includes the vegetables they have been given and will always be encouraged to eat more before they are allowed to start their pudding. If they sit their waiting to be fed, they are going to be very hungry at the end of the school day. They also need to like and remember what they have chosen and be encouraged to make these decisions about their choices themselves. We are not able to facilitate children changing their mind, when they see what is on offer as their meal is being served to them. Children require a separate water bottle for their lunch from the ones they use in the classroom. If they have a school dinner, then they are provided with a beaker of water to drink. If your child has sandwiches, please ensure that it includes a range of foods including some fruit or vegetables. Some children's lunch boxes are filled with sugary treats which can affect their concentration and learning ability in the afternoon. The school nurse can provide guidance for families who find it difficult to ensure that their child has a varied diet.

Harvest Festival

Usually at this time of year we let you know our plans for our harvest festival and when you will be able to come into school to see our assembly. This year, due to the pandemic, we are unfortunately not going to be able to. However, we would still like to support the local foodbank as we normally do and therefor will be asking for donations which we will take to the foodbank after it has been quarantined for 72 hours in school. There will be a box placed outside the classroom door for you to put donations in – we will let you know, via Weduc when this is. The foodbank is particularly in need of: sponge puddings, instant mash, tinned rice pudding, tinned hot meat, toiletries including sanitary wear, washing up liquid and toilet rolls. Any donations will be gladly received.

THE COLGATE® ORAL CARE RECYCLING PROGRAMME

ACCEPTED WASTE



Please remove as much toothpaste from the tube as possible.

Waste that is NOT accepted:

- Any toothbrushes not made from plastic
- Interdental brushes
- Battery operated toothbrushes
- Dental floss (string)
- Mouthwash plastic bottles
- Breath sprays
- Denture adhesives packaging
- Denture tablets packaging
- Denture cream tubes
- Outer packaging that did not contain toothbrushes or dental floss
- Cartons that did not contain toothpaste
- Tubes that did not contain toothpaste
- Toothpaste pumps
- Toothache kits



Recycling

Heather Primary school is a drop of point for toothpaste and other dental waste recycling in order to help with recycling. See the photo regarding the things that can be recycled. A collection bin will be placed near the office. Monies raised by this go to the Leicestershire branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

School Lottery

Our school lottery is a really easy way to help raise much needed funds for our PTA without having to do much yourself. Tickets are just £1 each and can be paid for via direct debit and each week somebody within our school family wins a cash prize, with a chance of up to £25,000. To join the lottery please visit yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Heather. Last year this raised £874 from only 25 school adults joining so if a few more of you can join we could raise lots more money for school.

Weduc

All parents, yes that includes mums AND dads, should have access to Weduc. We use Weduc as our main communication tool with parents. On Weduc, there is a newsfeed (a bit like Facebook but you will only see posts from school), a calendar with all the dates on, notices, the payments section where you are able to pay for trips, dinner money and MASH club amongst other things. There is also the message section, where we are able to send you messages but you are also able to reply or send us a message – which will be replied to during the school day. We are trying to become as paper free as possible but this will only happen with your help. PS – we can see who is registered and we can also see when and if you have read the messages! 😊 If you need a reminder of your log on details sending please contact the office.

Covid 19

As I write this, and I am touching wood as I type, we have had no positive cases of Covid 19 in our Heather School family. For those families who have had to action tests, thank you for keeping us informed each step of the way. At a Local Authority meeting the other evening, it was announced that there are over 40 Leicestershire schools that are either closed for a 'bubble' or closed totally due to requiring to self-isolate. The Government's aim is that if children have to self-isolate, whether individually or as a bubble, they should be completing the same level of curriculum that they would be if they were in school, which probably doesn't take into account that many parents may still be working plus numerous other things!!! Staff are busy putting plans in place for home learning and a questionnaire will be coming out shortly regarding the home learning we put in place during the lockdown and build on this.

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2020

Monday 28th September – PTA AGM via TEAMS. Please get in touch if you require an invite. It would be great to have lots of parents dial in.

Half Term Break

Monday 19th October to Friday 23rd October 2020

School opens to pupils Monday 26th October 2020

School closes to pupils Friday 18th December 2020

Spring Term 2021

School Opens for staff - Heather INSET Day 3 Monday 4th January 2021

School Open for pupils Tuesday 5th January 2021

School closes for half term Friday 12th February 2021

Half term Break

Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021

School opens to pupils Monday 22nd February 2021

School closes Friday 26th March 2021

Easter Break

Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April 2021

Summer Term 2021

School opens Monday 12th April 2021

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021

School closes for half term Friday 28th May 2021

Half term Break

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021

School Open for Pupils Monday 6th June 2021

School closes for Pupil for the summer break Friday 9th July

Heather Primary INSET 4 – disaggregated staff not in school Monday 12th July 2021

Heather Primary INSET 5- disaggregated staff not in school Tuesday 13th July 2021