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# Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Well we are all well and truly back into the swing of school life and I am pleased to say that the number of COVID 19 cases in the school has gradually declined over the last few weeks and it has been great to have everyone back in school. As of Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup> September we stopped working and playing in bubbles - it has been lovely to see the children together this week especially watching the children in Dragonfly nurturing the younger children in their play.

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed Miss Whiting and Mrs Harden to our Heather School family and we really hope that you enjoy working with us.

Our famous visitors last week certainly made things eventful - we were only asked initially for some children to do a radio interview about 'kit out the nation' campaign - we certainly were not expecting national media coverage! It was a great visit and both children and staff enjoyed meeting the and asking questions to Steven, Hannah and their son Alfie - something I am sure that the year 6 children involved, will remember for a very long time. The new t-shirt kit we received will have its first airing when some of our year 5/6 children compete in a rugby festival later on this week.

The children are continuing to work on their different topics - In Caterpillar and Ladybird case there has been some super oral story telling linked to the Three Little Pigs. Bumble Bee are developing their instruction writing skills by reading How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth and in Dragonfly they are completing various pieces of writing all linked to their residential at Arete.

Thank you to those of you who have bought tickets from My School Lottery, we are now up to 41 tickets with a guaranteed jackpot of £12.30. It would be great if we could get to our 50-ticket goal for Christmas.



This term is just whizzing by, it will be half term before we know it.

With love and best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

## Water bottles and Laces

Several children in Key Stage 1 are coming into school on their PE days in shoes with laces. If this is the case with your child, then they should be able to do them up themselves. As the weather turns the children will be requires to change their shoes before going out to play at playtime and lunchtimes, and then back again as we come into the classroom and if they are unable to do their own laces this not only effects their ability to be independent but also reduces the time that they have outside. Additionally, staff do not have the time to repeatedly be doing up children's laces and undone laces can be an accident waiting to happen.

Can I also remind you that your child's water bottle should ideally have a sports style lid NOT a lid that they unscrew as this is resulting in a lot of spillages around school.

## Harvest Festival

It is that time of year again. This year our Harvest festival will take place in St John's Church on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October starting at 1:30pm. Those of you who can remember the 'olden' pre Covid days will recall that it can be a bit of a squeeze in the Church. So, this year, we are going to limit the number of adults that can attend to one ticket per family (vulnerable/younger family members are also welcome). As we have done in previous years, we are asking for donations for local foodbanks who are in particular need of tinned carrots/sweetcorn/fruit/, tea, small jars of coffee, long life milk, chocolate treats, instant noodles, cuppa soups, smash/dried potatoes, tinned rice pudding, crisps, biscuits, jam and sponge puddings, as well as toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, bars of soap, shaving foam and razors - NO alcohol please. Staff and members of the PTA will also be organising fruit and veg a fruit and veg hamper raffle (again donations appreciated). Teas and coffees will be available in the school hall after the service for all to attend and the fruit and veg raffle will be drawn before the end of the school day. Raffle tickets will be for sale on the playground from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Donations need to be taken into the classroom by the children on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## Key Dates for the Diary

- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Tag Rugby tournament for selected children from Dragonfly Class  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Sports Ambassador training 2 children each from Year 5 and 6 ([more details to follow](#))  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October - SEN Surgery (book an appointment to see Mrs Thornley SENCO via Weduc)  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Festival in the Church 1:30pm start  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October Multi-sports for Year 3 and some of Year 2 ([more details to follow](#))  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October PTA Fundraiser - Break the Rules Day ([more details to follow](#))  
School closes for the half term break Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October  
**Half Term Break - Monday 18th October to Friday 22nd October 2021**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 School opens for all children  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Individual Photographs  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October Multi-sports event for Year 1 and some Year 2 ([more details to follow](#))  
Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Nov - Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Nov - Parents' Evening week ([more details to follow](#))  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November - SEN Surgery (book an appointment to see Mrs Thornley, via Weduc)  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - SEN Surgery (book an appointment to see Mrs Thornley, via Weduc)  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December - whole school trip to see Alice in Wonderland at the Old Rep Birmingham ([more details to follow](#))  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December - School Closes for Christmas Holidays for pupils  
**Christmas Break Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December - INSET Day for Staff  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - School open for all children  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January - SEN Surgery (book an appointment to see Mrs Thornley, via Weduc)  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February - School Closes for half term  
**Half Term Break - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February**  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February - School open to all pupils  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April - School breaks up for Easter  
**Easter Break Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April - School open for all pupils  
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - School Closed - May Day Bank Holiday**  
KS 1 Sats take place throughout May\*  
KS 2 Sats Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May\*  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May - School Closes for Half Term  
**Half Term Break Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - School open to all pupils  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June Year 1 Phonic Screen - take place this week\*  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - 25<sup>th</sup> June - Year 4 Multiplication Check\*  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July - School Closes for the Summer Holidays\*\*\*\* [Change of Date](#)  
**Heather Primary INSET 4 - disaggregated staff not in school Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**Heather Primary INSET 5- disaggregated staff not in school Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**\*PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THESE TIMES**

## Heather Character Traits

We talk to the children a lot about our Character Traits - referring to them during our teaching as well as in our assemblies.

As a reminder our character traits are:

**At Heather we are:**

**Hardworking  
Enthusiastic  
Aspirational  
Team-spirited  
Honest  
Empathetic  
Responsible**

**In class, we strive for the children to be:**

**Creative  
Helpful  
Independent  
Logical  
Determined  
Reflective  
Engaged  
Noticing to make connections**

We feel that these are useful skills for our children to become well-rounded adults in the future and staff are working hard to integrate these skills in to all areas of the curriculum.

This newsletters focus is Independence mainly because over the last few weeks there has been numerous messages in dairies, on WEDUC etc asking about a 'child's lost lunch box, jumper, fleece, water bottle, coat' etc which is taking up a lot of staff's time:

Independence in school, regardless of age, is a key part of development.

Independence in school comes in a variety of forms:

- children carrying their own bags to and from school
- being able to take off and put on own clothing and shoes - we understand that some of our little ones may struggle with this and will offer support when we see children struggling but we do expect children try themselves before asking for help - having jumpers etc that a slightly bigger does make it easier for them to remove their own clothes when needed
- managing their own belongings, making sure they are always in the right place and trying to find them themselves when things are lost - although some children are keen to do the 'smell' test to find their belongings, having names on items, takes very little effort and is a really big help.
- Being independent in their work - by ensuring they have listened to the instructions in the lesson, asking questions if they are unsure and taking time to think when things are tricky rather than assuming they can't do it.

Independence at home can be:

- Ensuring your child dresses and undresses themselves
- Show them where their name is on their clothing so they know how and where to check if things are theirs
- Allowing them to pack their own bags and hand letters and notes in by themselves to their class teacher
- Making their own bed
- cutting up their own food using a knife and fork
- Tidying toys etc away by themselves
- Looking for their own things when they are lost

## Term Dates 2022-23

The Local Authority have finally released the term dates right up until the end of 2027. As a school we still need to agree the INSET days which are days where staff but not children are expected to be in school. As soon as we have finalised these we will send out the confirmed term dates for Heather. Please note schools decide individually when their INSET days are and they may differ from school to school.