



# Heather Herald

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Issue 13 - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Doesn't time fly - I swear each year goes quicker than the last. Another great year for all at Heather. As always, the progress the children make over the year just blows me away - a big thank you to all the staff who go above and beyond their role to ensure that our children flourish over the school year.

Since the last newsletter we, have had numerous sporting events, including Saffron Lane athletics (congratulations to Tala for her silver medal in her race) and two Quad Kid events in which we came 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in as well as the County Cricket finals. With us being such a small school, the children get the opportunity to compete in a wealth of sporting fixtures and it is great to see us hold our own against much bigger schools 😊. We have also attended the Unity Presentation evening where George, Edith, Leo, Brooke, Martha and Franky all won individual cross country medals, our swimming team nailed the swimming gala and medalled in all races but one, Bella came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Art competition and our boys' football team were runners up in the football competition. Miss Barton's dance group performed a fabulous dance routine. This was followed closely by the Collab360 choir performance - again, another amazing event.

Last week, Dragonfly treated us to an stunning end of year production called School-O-Vision Song Contest. It was fantastic - the acting, singing and dancing were absolutely brilliant. It is great to see our older children perform with such confidence - the singing was awesome. Big thanks to Miss Bryant and Mrs Tatham for directing the children to perform so well. The whole performance made me glow with pride - what our children achieve in our small school!

At the end of this term we say our goodbye to 'Red Devils' - a final goodbye to the families of Olivia, Bethany, Preston, Oliver, Charlotte, Vinny, Vejune, Myah, George, Georgia and Harry we hope you have enjoyed your time at Heather. One of our families leaving this time have been part of the Heather School family since 2011 - thank you for your support over the last 14 years! We also say goodbye to Archie, Bella, Henry, Euan and Israel. We look forward to hearing how you get on at your new schools through your younger siblings and meetings with your families. This year group will always hold a special place in my heart - you were my first Reception class, as Headteacher at Heather and I have some fabulous memories of you all. You are all well and truly ready for your high school journey and should all be incredibly proud of all you have achieved in your time at Heather - you have all been amazing. 😊

We also are saying farewell to Miss March. Miss March has been with us since just before Easter, supporting children in Caterpillar class. Miss March, we would like to thank you for all your hard work and wish you all the very best for the future.

As always, none of the above would be possible without all of your support. It has personally, been a very tricky six, plus, months and your kind words and support have been very much appreciated.

A massive thank you to our wonderful PTA for all the events that they have organised and to those of you who have supported them – without the monies they have raised there would not be a new stage, an array of new outdoor equipment (watch out for the train next term), reduced prices for both the trip to Birmingham Old Rep and the theatre visit earlier this term – we are really looking forward to The Jungle Book next year! It would be great to see some new members on the PTA committee to help build upon their fantastic work.

Please can you ensure by the end of term that all dinner money debt (over £250 owing) and payments on Arbor are paid. 92 children's families have paid their child's contribution to The Secret Garden performance – hopefully those who have not paid, will pay by the end of the week. We also have outstanding payments for the Year 6 pool party and coach contributions for swimming – again hopefully these will be paid by the end of the term. Reminders have been sent but if you are not sure, please check your child's Arbor, they will either be in school trips or school shop.

Please take note of school uniform reminders, this was with the end of year reports information and **please, please, please, please, please** spend some time in the summer labelling your child/ren's new uniform – our lost property pile is massive this year – this will all be going to Ibstock Co-op for the uniform swap shop. This is a fab idea – saving you money and preventing clothes with lots more wear in, going to landfill.

Term time dates for 2025-26 are at the end of this newsletter and 26-27 will be found on the website when they have been ratified by governors – PLEASE NOTE THE DATES ON THE LEICESTERSHIRE WEBSITE DO NOT INCLUDE TEACHER TRAINING (INSET DAYS)

Yet again, a big thank you to all staff. Challenges in schools are ever growing, especially in small ones; however, we are a fantastic team all working together to provide the best education we can. #teamheather #aiminghigh

Have a great summer break. As always, please encourage your children to send us a postcard. We read them out in assemblies and add them to our display – the children get house points too.

Much love, with the occasional grumpiness,

Mrs Michalowski

### **Charges for MASH (Before and After School Club)**

Unfortunately, the Governing Body have made the difficult decision to increase MASH prices again this academic year. The price of each session will increase by 6.275%. This will be reviewed in the Autumn term as we do not yet know the % increase for support staff salaries which will then need to be backed dated to April 2025. Our increase last year only just covered the back dated pay rise. Morning MASH is often well attended with at least 15 children attending on three days of the week; however, the afternoon sessions are not as well attended which will need to be taken into account for any future charging increases.

<u><b>Before School Club</b></u>			
	7:30am – 8:45am	8:00am – 8:45am	8:30am – 8:45am
Bookings made by 2pm on the previous day	£7.45	£5.30	£2.50 (no breakfast included)
Bookings Made after 2pm the previous day	£8.45 flat charge		
Child attended but no booking/contact made	£10.55 Flat Charge		
<u><b>After School Club</b></u>			
	3:15pm – 4:15pm - (includes a drink and a biscuit)	4:15pm- 5:00pm – (includes a light tea)	5:00pm-6:00pm - (Monday to Thursday only)
Bookings made by 2pm on the previous day	£5.30	£5.30	£5.30
Bookings Made after 2pm the previous day	£17 flat charge/£12 on a Friday		
Child attended but no booking/contact made	£20 Flat Charge/£15 on a Friday		

### **Attendance and Term Time Unagreed Holidays**

We always aspire for high attendance at Heather. Whole school attendance at Heather is currently 96.9% which I am glad to say is above the national data for school attendance. In Friday assemblies, we always talk about the magic 97%, which before Covid, our whole school annual attendance was often above this amount. Prior to COVID we would frequently have classes with 100% attendance – this year it has only happened 4 times and we have only had 10 days across the whole school year with all children in school. Unagreed holidays are definitely on the increase. As a school, we are required to monitor all children's attendance and school attendance is very big on the current government's agenda. Headteachers have termly Local Authority attendance meetings to go to. In these meetings, the expectations regarding managing attendance are made clear as well as the protocol we are expected to follow. The criteria for which I am expected to refer a family for a fixed penalty notice is clear – 5 or more unauthorised absences in a 6-month period. These absences do not need to be on consecutive dates which is why we monitor absence monthly. Some families try to conceal the fact they are taking a term time holiday by leaving messages to say their child/ren is/are ill. Quite often in these circumstances, we know the child is not ill as they tell us they are going on holiday or their friends tell us that they are not ill, but are away – honesty is always the best policy – encouraging your child to not tell the truth is not really setting a great example. Referring a family for a fixed penalty notice is nothing personal. I have guidelines to follow and am held to account by the Governing Body, the Local Authority and OSFTED on lots of things, attendance being one of them. All in all, I am just doing my job and your understanding in this matter is much appreciated.

### Key Dates for the Diary

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 and families Pool Party @ Ashby Lido – 6pm start

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Final Assembly of the year 9am on the playground. All welcome.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - School closes for pupils for the summer break

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - Heather Primary INSET Day 5 – disaggregated

### Term Dates for 2025 – 26

These can also be found on the school website. Please note, these dates broadly follow those set out on the Leicestershire website; however, the Local Authority dates do not include INSET (teacher training days). These are set by individual schools which is why our dates different to the LA and other local schools.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025 School open for staff Heather INSET Day 1

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025 School open for staff Heather INSET Day 2

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025 August Bank Holiday

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025 School open for pupils

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Arete Residential Year 5-6 Children

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Water Safety Talk with EYF, Year 1 and Year 2

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October - Individual Photographs

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - School closes for half term for children

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - School open for staff Heather INSET Day 3

HALF TERM Break - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 School opens to pupils

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – KS 1 Victorian Day @ Beaumanor Hall – details to follow

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - School closes for pupils for Christmas

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - School open for staff Heather INSET 4

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 School opens for pupils

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 School closes for half term

Half Term Break Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – School opens for pupils

School Closes for Easter - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Easter Break - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - School opens for pupils

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - May Day Bank Holiday

KS 1 Assessments take place throughout May\*

KS 2 Sats - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May\*

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Class Photos

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 - School closes for half term for all

Half term Break - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 School opens to pupils

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – 12<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 Multiplication Check\*

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June - Year 1 Phonic Screen – take place this week\*

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June M&M Productions – The Jungle Book

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026 -School closes for pupils for the summer break

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026 - Heather Primary INSET Day 5

\*PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THESE TIMES