



Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all have had a restful half term. It was lovely to see on the Facebook page what some of you have been up to over the week – we are looking forward to receiving any post cards too. The children seemed to be pleased to be back in school today looking refreshed after their half term, I think we were all in need of a break!

Some parents have asked about our residentials to Marle Hall and Kingswood that were rebooked for the Spring Term. At the moment these are still going ahead, but, as we all know, things change on a daily basis and, as soon as we know more about these, then of course we will let you know.

It was lovely to 'see' so many parents join us on our first ever virtual Parent's Evening the week we broke up. Who would have thought a year ago that we would be having to do such a thing?! I know some families had technical issues and some families were unable to attend for other reasons. It is really important that these meetings still take place. Please write a note in your child's diary or contact the Office via WEDUC to arrange a time for your child's teacher to contact you by telephone.

As you may know, the government have set clear targets regarding schools providing online learning for those children who need to be self-isolating or if we need to 'close a bubble'. Our prime method of sharing online learning with you will be done via the Home Learning section of WEDUC. Several families before half term were 'guinea pigs' for this and fingers crossed it seemed to work! If you use the WEDUC app – please make sure your notifications are switched on especially if your family is self-isolating for one reason or another. More information regarding school's policy for home-learning will be sent out to you later on this week.

On Friday 16th October I dropped off 8 large cardboard boxes of donations to the Ashby Foodbank, all of which were gratefully received. A big thank you to all the families who were able to donate items.

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

Exciting News

Mrs and Mrs Clarkson are delighted to let us all know that there is going to be a new addition to their family. Baby Clarkson will be joining the world sometime in March. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them heartfelt congratulations – such wonderful news and an exciting time for the Clarkson family. Mrs Clarkson will be starting her maternity leave sometime around February half term and I will be in touch sometime before Christmas regarding the cover arrangements for Donaldson class for this time.

Footwear

Thank you to all the families that been able to send in spare footwear for their children to change into for break times. As from this week, if your child does not have footwear to change into for play/lunchtimes then they **will not be allowed** to play out with their friends when it is their classes time to play on the field. We have bought some small plastic greenhouses for the outdoor shoes to be stored in during the school day to try and alleviate some congestion in the cloakrooms. Please make sure all footwear is named, particularly wellies as some children do have the same types.

With regards to PE, children need trainers NOT pumps/plimsolls for PE. PE sessions, unless it is tipping it down with rain, will be outside. KS 2 (Churchill and Obamas) will be having both of their lessons outside and they will be on the field so if they have a more 'waterproof' style trainer that may help, but if not, spare socks are essential so they can put dry socks on when they change back into their indoor shoes. In fact, spare socks for all children would be beneficial.

I understand that some families due to the current economic climate may find it difficult to fund a new pair of shoes/trainers that can be left in school. If you are struggling financially then just let us know, as we do have some spare wellies in school so I am sure we can sort something out. Likewise, if you have old wellies that your children no longer are able to fit into, we may be able to pass them on to another family to use.

Outdoor shoes and PE Trainers are definitely going to get muddy particularly after periods of wet weather as is your child's PE kit.

If your child has trainers with laces, please invest the time to teach them to tie their laces - tying several pairs of laces can take up a considerable amount of lesson time!!

Constant Crew

On Friday 16th October we held our second ever Constant Crew Assembly and we were delighted that we were able to invite our award-winning children's families to our virtual whole school assembly and the technology seemed to work! Well done to Floryn, Archie, Oliver, Orla, Poppy, Freddie and Isla - wear your Constant Crew Badges with pride. Keep up the hard work - it was a real pleasure to hear why your teachers are so proud of you.

Golden Tickets

Also, on Friday we held our Golden Ticket raffle for those children who read at least three times a week at home each week. Well done to Ivana, Archie, Harry, William, Phoebe, Jasper and Amy - I hope you enjoyed your new books - it was a shame we couldn't also do the hot chocolate and marshmallows! Keep reading to make sure you get your weekly ticket into this half term's draw!

Catch up Curriculum

The children have now all taken part in assessments to help teacher identify gaps in learning as a result of the Covid-19 school closures. As a means of addressing these gaps, the following are being put in place over the next few weeks:

- Small group work on some afternoons for teachers/teaching assistants to work with small groups of children to close specific gaps
- After school or early morning intervention groups will also take place for specific groups of children. For these clubs, 'invites' will be sent out shortly and your support in ensuring your child's attendance is appreciated.

You can help by listening to you child read regularly, practise number facts on TT Rock Stars/ Numbots and support your child so that all allocated MyMaths activities are completed.

Nasal Flu Immunisations

The Immunisation team will be visiting Heather on 16th November to give the nasal flu vaccine to children. Children will be unable to have the vaccine without parental consent.

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2020

Tuesday 27th October - Individual school photos

Monday 16th November - Nasal Flu Immunisations

End of November/Beginning of December year 2 children will take the Phonic Screen that should have taken place in June.

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

KS 1 Sats take place throughout May*

KS 2 Sats Monday 10th - Thursday 14th May*

School closes for half term Friday 28th May 2021

Half term Break

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021

Monday 6th June Year 1 Phonic Screen - take place this week*

Monday 6th June - 25th June - Year 4 Multiplication Check*

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

***PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THESE TIMES**