



Heather Herald

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Issue 2 11th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Gosh hasn't the first half term of this academic year gone quickly. I can tell it is getting towards half term as we have had a few poorly children and some poorly staff this week. Hopefully with a good rest over half term we will all be ready for the 9 week term up until Christmas!

A big thank you to Miss Barton, Mrs Winterton and Miss Ikin for taking some of Bumble Bee class on their 2-night residential to Beaumanor Hall - where the children have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of outdoor education activities such as orienteering, climbing, canoeing, bridge building and survival skills. As I have said previously, residential take a lot of planning, staff volunteer to attend and give up times away from their own families. Those of you, and it isn't many to be honest, who have actually taken the time to say thank you to these ladies - your thanks are very much appreciated.

Well done to some children in Dragonfly who played very well at the 5/6 Rugby Tournament last week and came a respectable 4th place - thanks to Mr Johnson for taking them. The Year 3 children thoroughly enjoyed their double decker bus ride to the new leisure centre for a multi sports session - the basketball, golf and football were the most popular events there.

Have a restful half term.

Best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

WEDUC

We have had several messages over the past few weeks asking for information about events such as Harvest Festival, Cross Country etc. Just so you know, most correspondence sent home is sent via Notices on WEDUC, so you are able to refer to them at any time. We would be grateful if you could check if the information you require is on there before messaging the school office. Term dates for this year and next are also on their and on our website.

Staffing update

Today we said a sad farewell to Mrs Ottey. Mrs Ottey has worked in the mornings in MASH since August 2018 and has also been known to do the odd Midday Supervisor shift as well when we have been short. Mrs Ottey is going to spend more time at home and hopefully get chance to put her feet up as well. We wish you all the very best Mrs Ottey and hope you will pop back to come and watch our Christmas and End of Year productions. Mrs Winterton and Leoni will be taking on Mrs Ottey's role as a job share and are both looking forward to working with Mrs Tatham in breakfast club after half term.

We also saying another sad farewell to Mrs Cook in the Office. Mrs Cook joined us as Administrative Assistant in September 2022 and has been fantastic not only at keeping on top of WEDUC, the bookings and payments for MASH but also endless other tasks behind the scenes in a busy school office. Mrs Cook has managed to secure a position elsewhere enabling her to work more hours and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Parking Safely at School

It is important that we are respectful of our neighbours when parking and also that we are parking in a way that ensures the safety for all. When parking please make sure you keep clear off:

- Zig zags
- Dropped kerbs
- Local residents' driveways
- Opposite or within 10 metres of a junction to ensure visibility for all.
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Take particular care when it is bin collection day as local residents have reported that their refuse has not been cleared away as the lorry has been unable to gain access to St. John's Close, and remember – if a bin lorry cannot get up there, neither can a fire engine if there is an emergency. Please do not park in The Crown or The Queen's Head carpark unless you have agreed this with the owners of the pub first.

PE

For next term our PE days will be changing. We are now delivering our PE slots in 6 week blocks so there will be a further change to PE days before Christmas. PE days the six weeks after half term are listed below. For those days your child/ren will need to have a full PE kit, in a bag, in school – black shorts/trackie bottoms/running tights (not leggings), black school PE T-shirt, jumper – preferably a school hoody and trainers. The weather will start to become chillier – PE still happens outdoors – trackies and a hoody are essential.

As always if you are sending your child into school with PE trainers with laces they are expected to be able to tie their shoe laces. If your child struggles with this, can I please politely ask that you invest time over the holidays to teach your child how to tie their laces – it is really not our job to do it and untied laces are just an accident waiting to happen. Very reasonable priced children's trainers with velcro fastenings can be purchased from Tesco if your child is finding tying shoe laces challenging.

	Reception	Year 1/2	Bumblebee	Dragonfly
Monday			PE Day	
Tuesday		PE Day		PE Day
Wednesday	PE Day		PE Day	
Thursday				PE Day
Friday	Forest School – children to come to school in their forest school kit	PE DAY		

Debts

Some of you recently have received a formal letter from myself and a member of the governing body regarding monies owed. I appreciate that you may have not liked the formal nature of the letter as it gives a specified time to pay for the monies owed and also states that the Local Authority legal team will become involved if the deadline is not adhered to. Yes, the debt may only be £6.50 or £4.50, but multiple small amounts all add up. Sending these letters does not sit comfortably with myself, governors or office staff; however, in the past 18 months we have been chasing a total of approx. £4500 debts from multiple families for things such as MASH, residentials, uniform etc. We are happy to support families who are finding payments difficult by introducing a payment plan where required. Ignoring requests for payments and taking your frustrations out on staff when such letters are received, is really not helpful.

Key Dates for the Diary (Full set of term dates for 23-24 can be found on our website and in notices on WEDUC and 2024-25 will be with you shortly)

- Thursday 12th October PTA Bags 2 School Collection - drop off by 9am please
Thursday 12th October - Ladybird Forest School
Thursday 12th October - School closes for children
Friday 13th October - INSET DAY 3 - Children not in school
Half term Break - Monday 16th October - Friday 20th October
Monday 23rd October - School open for all
Tuesday 24th October - Individual Photos
Tuesday 24th October - Inclusive Sports - selected children
Wednesday 25th October - Year 1/2 Multi Skills Festival
Friday Day 27th October Halloween Dress Down Day and PTA disco after school - See WEDUC for info
Monday 30th October - Seasonal Flu Immunisations (details to follow)
Monday 30th Poppies for sale in in school
Tuesday 31st October KS 2 School Council Visit to Ellistown Primary School - details to follow
Wednesday 1st November - Caterpillar Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall
Thursday 2nd November - Open Morning for children starting school Autumn 24-25 9:30-11:30am
Friday 3rd November Mrs Thornley's SEN Surgery - please contact the office if you wish to make an appointment
Friday 3rd November Space Centre Team to visit Dragonfly - details to follow
Saturday 4th November Packington Cross Country 10:30am start
Thursday 9th November - Dragonfly Forest School
Thursday 9th November KS 1 School Council to visit St Denys School - details to follow
Tuesday 14th November Year 5/6 Sports Hall @ ICC 1-3:30pm selected children details to follow
Tuesday 14th November - Ladybird Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall
Tuesday 14th November - Parents' Evening 3:30pm-5pm (details to follow)
Wednesday 15th November - Parents' Evening 3:30pm- 7pm (details to follow)
Thursday 16th November - Year 5/6 Unity Football tournament - details to follow
Friday 17th November - Anti Bullying Odd Sock day -- £1 contribution for Children in Need (School Council Fund Raiser)
Monday 20th November - Year 3/4 Dodgeball Festival - selected children details to follow
Tuesday 21st November Year 5/6 Dodgeball Development Competition - selected children, details to follow
Tuesday 21st November - Dragonfly Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall
Tuesday 28th November - Bumblebee Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall
Thursday 30th November Year 5/6 Dodgeball Excel Competition - selected children, details to follow
Tuesday 5th December - Open Afternoon for children starting school Autumn 24-25 1:30-3:00pm
Tuesday 12th December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2:30pm (details to follow)
Wednesday 13th December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 10:00am (details to follow)
Wednesday 13th December - Year 2 Christmas Journey at Marlborough Square details to follow
Thursday 14th December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2:30pm (details to follow)
Tuesday 19th December - Bumblebee Carol Service at the Church (Provisional Date)
Wednesday 20th December - Whole school trip to Peter Pan the Musical - letter already sent - please pay via WEDUC
Friday 22nd December - School Closes for Christmas Holidays for pupils
Christmas Break - Monday 25th December - Friday 5th January
Monday 8th January - INSET DAY 4 - Children not in school
Tuesday 9th January - School open for all
Friday 16th February - School Closed for Half Term
Half term Break - Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February
Monday 26th February - School Open for all
Tuesday 5th March - Parents' Evening - 3:30pm-7pm
Wednesday 6th March - Parents' Evening - 3:30pm-5pm
Friday 22nd March - School Closes for Easter Break
Easter Break - Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April
Monday 8th April - School open for all
Monday 6th May - May Day Bank Holiday
KS 1 Assessments take place throughout May*
KS 2 Sats Monday 13th -Thursday 16th May*
Tuesday 21st May Year Group Photos
Friday 24th May - School closed for Half Term
Half term Break Monday 27th - Friday 31st May
Monday 3rd June - School Open for all
Wednesday 19th June - Sports Day 1pm Start - Parents/Carers/Families welcome
Monday 3rd June - 14th June - Year 4 Multiplication Check*
Monday 10th June Year 1 Phonic Screen - take place this week*
Wednesday 26th June - M&M Productions - The Little Princess (TBC)
Tuesday 2nd July year 5/6 Leavers Performance 2pm (Year 5 parents/carers/family only)
Tuesday 2nd July Year 5/6 Leavers' Performance 6pm (Year 6 parents/carers/family only)
Wednesday 10th July - End of year Assembly on the Playground - All welcome
Thursday 11th July - School closes for Summer Break for Children
Friday 12th July 2024 - **INSET DAY 5 Disaggregated. - Children/Staff not in school**