



Heather Herald

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Issue 6 4th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am aware that it has been a long time since you have received a newsletter and I am determined to get back on track with news letters this term.

Everyone seems to have had a great Easter holiday. Every year the children seem to return to school after the Easter break so much taller, it must be all of the Easter Eggs, I really must get some!

The children in Caterpillar class are loving their new canopy. I can't believe despite all of the area being covered, it is so much lighter and brighter. A big thank you to ME Sports for helping with finding the company to create the canopy within our budget. Although it is finished, we are still raising funds for the final payment, so please support our PTA events wherever you can. We are hoping in the next few weeks to arrange a 'painting party'. Mrs Riley Lowndes has managed to acquire some free Cuprinol paint from Wickes so it would be great to give the fence a bit of a freshen up. We also have a few 'pallet projects' that the more DIY orientated of you may be able to give us a hand with. Please let us know if you can help.

The children in their classes have been enjoying getting to grips with their new topics this term. There has been some impressive reading in Caterpillar class - thinking carefully as to whether the words they are reading are real or nonsense. In Ladybird a mysterious rucksack seems to have been left in their room with all sorts of things in it and they are creating great 'Lost' posters to try and reunite it with the mysterious owner. Bumblebee have been investigating some images linked to Tudor England and have been so inspired they have been completing lots of research at home and keeping Miss Barton on her toes. In Dragonfly they are being wowed by the achievements of Phillippe Petit and have been producing some superb pieces of persuasive writing as a result.

The Summer term is always such a busy term with lots of things packed into it - yes the statutory assessments which take place in EYFS, Year 1, 2, 4 and 6 but also things like Sports Days, Saffron Lane Athletics, Leavers' Assemblies, end of year reports, move up days - it is certainly going to be a jam packed 10-week term.

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 - May the Fourth be with you -   

Heather Character Traits

It is great to visit classes to hear the children use our character words when they are explaining their understanding.

Noticing - Noticing may seem to be a strange character trait to value, but it is a key skill that all good learners have and is a skill utilised in all areas of the curriculum. This can be noticing a specific number pattern in a times table for instance or the difference between an isosceles and right angles triangle in maths, to noticing an author's particular word choice when reading, spotting a pattern in a spelling rule, noticing what happens when we mix blue and red paint, and how we can change that by adding white, why a car travels differently down a wooden ramp to a sandpaper ramp etc. and the list goes on. If we keep working on this skill the children might be better at noticing where they have left their jumper, fleece, water bottle and even notice that it is their belongings that have been left on the cloakroom floor 😊

Year 6 – SATs week

Year 6 statutory assessment begin on the 8th May 2022.

Traditionally at Heather since 2017, we have held a year 6 SATS breakfast each morning before their tests and will be continuing with this tradition this year after a two year 'sabbatical' from SATS. This has always been very well received in the past and it is a great way for the children to spend some time with their friends each morning before the test. The year 6 children will be able to come into school from 8:15am and will be offered breakfast in their classroom with their friends. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to offer a 'full English' breakfast but there will be toast and cereal and hopefully all children will be able to join us.

It is important to remember that these SATS are just a snapshot of how your child performs in those subjects on that day. They have all been, under the guidance of Mr Johnson, working very hard and I am in no doubt will do the very best that they can.

Holidays in Term Time

Over the past half term, I have received a large number of holiday requests. Although I fully appreciate that for some families holidays during the last couple of years have been few and far between due to COVID restrictions, I am unable to authorise any holiday in term time unless the circumstances are exceptional. Non-attendance, however short or infrequent is treated seriously and our current school policy states that any unauthorised holiday **exceeding** 5 days, within a school year, once a child is of statutory school age, will be referred to Leicestershire County Council who will be requested to issue penalty notices in line with their policy. Term dates are provided well in advance and can be found on the website – please consult these before booking your holidays - [Term Dates](#).

Key Dates for the Diary

KS 1 Sats take place throughout May*

Monday 9th May PTA Meeting 7pm Start

KS 2 Sats Monday 9th -Thursday 12th May*

Thursday 12th May – Dragonfly Forest School Session

Friday 13th May – PTA film night (details to follow)

Tuesday 17th May – Netball Tournament (after school for selected children)

Thursday 19th May – NWLSSP Quidditch Event for Dragonfly – PE kits in school please

Monday 23rd -Friday 27th May – Jubilee theme week (details to follow)

Tuesday 24th May – Class Photos

Thursday 26th May – Ladybird Forest School Session

Friday 27th May – Bumblebee Forest School Session

Friday 27th May – School Closes for Half Term

Half Term Break Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June – School open to all pupils

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

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

Wednesday 15th June – Sports Day (details to follow – probably 1pm start)

Wednesday 22nd June – Sports Day reserve date

Thursday 16th June – Saffron athletics for selected children years 4-6

Tuesday 28th June Leavers' Performance – involving all Dragonfly children – 2pm performance for Year 5 parents only

Tuesday 28th June Leavers' Performance and presentation evening – involving all Dragonfly children – 6pm performance for Year 6 parents/families only

Weds 29th/Thurs 30th – Induction days for Ashby, Castle Rock, ICC, Ivanhoe and Newbridge

Thurs 30th/Fri 1st July – Induction days for TMBS

Thursday 30th June – Class move up morning

Thursday 30th June – M and P Productions Theatre Group – Oliver Twist – Year R-5

Friday 1st July – PTA Family Fun on the Field Afternoon and Barbecue

Tuesday 5th July – provisional year 6 Leaver's Party

Thursday 7th July – School Closes for the Summer Holidays ****** Change of Date**

Heather Primary INSET 4 – disaggregated staff not in school Monday 11th July 2021