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Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers of

What a great first week of half term we have had. The children have returned to school eager and ready for this nine-week busy block until Christmas. We welcome Lucas to Heather Primary school and we hope you and your family will be very happy here.

There are still a few parents who have not downloaded our WEDUC App. As some of you will have noticed, we are now using the APP as a means of authorising the permission for some school events, so please make sure that you have set up your notifications correctly as we have quite a few events this term.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening this week.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate, in the first instant, to contact your child's class teacher

Best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

Gareth Metcalf – Build a Mathematician

As some of you will have noticed on our dates for the dairy that we have the well-regarded Teacher and Mathematician, Gareth Metcalf, visiting us in school on the 13th November. Staff have already had some training from Gareth and he worked with the last years Year 1 girls on a project based at Woodstone school in liaison with Newton Burgoland. On his visit to us, Gareth is spending the morning working with the children and staff in Donaldson class and the afternoon likewise in Obamas. After school, Gareth has offered to hold a workshop/meeting for parents called Grow Your Own Mathematician which is promising to be a very informative session. To support your attendance, we will be showing a film in one of the classrooms for the pupils. Please check your WEDUC for your invitation message where you are able to accept or decline to indicate if you are able to attend.

Code of Conduct

Attached to this letter is a copy of the school Code of Conduct which applies to everyone involved in our school – pupils, parents/carers or guardians, volunteers, teachers, other staff members and governors – all are included whether they are on school property, offsite or at school organised activities/events.

Over the last few weeks there have been a few incidents where a minority of adults have been overheard saying unkind things about members of our school community. Myself and the rest of the staff feel very strongly that as adults we must provide our children with appropriate role models through what we say, how we react and what we do etc. Staff often spend a significant amount of time dealing with squabbles and fall outs when they would rather be spending that time teaching the children the curriculum, and supporting the children in developing their resilience, ability to compromise and develop their understanding of tolerance – skills all of which you will agree are essential as we move through life, as we all encounter people in our life that we find difficult to 'get on with' or annoy us for one reason or another. We are all human and we all make mistakes. The children in our care are young - they are growing up and are discovering the boundaries of what is and is not acceptable behaviour and do at times make the wrong choices often without fully considering the consequences of their actions. Yes, some mistakes are far more serious than others but what these children do not need are labels or unkind comments but our support to help them understand and encourage them to make better decisions next time.

Lunchtimes

In order to enhance the running of our lunchtimes we are making a few changes. Children in key stage 2, both dinners and sandwiches, will initially go straight out to play at lunch and will be called in on a rota system to come to the hall to eat their lunch. The purpose of this is to reduce the queue of children waiting for their hot dinner and maximizing the time the children get to spend outside.

As from Monday 4th November water bottle crates **will not** be taken into the hall or out on to the yard (except in exceptional hot weather). Children having school dinners will be provided with a beaker of water as they collect their lunch from the hatch. Children bringing in packed lunches **will need to bring a separate drink** for lunch time. This may be a carton or a plastic water bottle – not a can, energy drink or anything fizzy. If they do not have a drink, they will be directed to take a cup of water from the 'water station' in the hall.

The Midday supervisors are also going to be wearing different coloured tabards. The ones in the green tabards will be organising different games for the children to play whilst the member of staff in the orange tabard will be available to administer any first aid or sort out any concerns.

Children are not to take their water bottles outside. This is to prevent the time spent trying to locate lost bottles, to prevent children thinking it is a good idea to squirt their drink all over the floor, to stop children flipping bottles which can result in breaking them or running around with their bottle in their mouth which could result in a nasty accident. The children will be given ample time back in the classroom to have a drink during afternoon registration.

Please can water bottles in classrooms be named and have a sports cap if possible as there can often be spillages with bottles with screw caps. Where possible bottles should be filled with water.

WEDUC Online Payments

Weduc is now fully set up for payments. We have already received a lot of payments through Weduc for dinner money, which is great. Dinner money is the main payment that will be made on a regular basis which will be paid into the 'catering purse'. You can pay as much as you like in one go and you will also be able to see what dinner choices your child/ren have made. The other option is an 'ePay purse', underneath the ePay purse you will see a number of options, offers and bookings. Offers will be events such as trips and teacher led afterschool clubs. Bookings is where you will need to book them in for MASH breakfast/afterschool club. We will continue to accept cash/cheque payments for a short while and will then go completely cashless. If you have any issues making payments through Weduc, or you do not have Weduc set up please speak to the office.

Absences, Holidays and Medical Appointments

This year we are working closely with Naina Zavery, our Educational Welfare Office, to improve the attendance across school and tighten school procedures regarding the management of attendance issues in general. Following Naina's advice, we will be requesting to see a copy of any appointment cards/letters if your child is absent for a medical appointment. If you are wanting to request a leave of absence for your child/ren, please obtain the specified form from the School Office. However, I would like to remind you that if you choose to take your child out of school in term time for an unauthorised holiday or other unauthorised absence, you may well be contacted by Naina and a penalty notice may well be requested by the Local Authority - currently £60 per parent. Mrs Riley- Lowndes and myself monitor attendance data monthly and send letters out to families when we have a concern about a child's attendance. As a school we have an ambitious target of 97%. Anything below 95% is monitored very carefully and below 90% is considered to be persistent absenteeism and will automatically trigger a referral to Naina. Please remember there are 190 school days each year which your child is expected to attend. That leaves 175 days for family time, visits, holidays, shopping, watching football matches and appointments like dentists/opticians etc. and that we are very fortunate in Leicestershire to have several weeks holiday that do not seem to follow the holiday pattern of the rest of the country.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 30th October
Thursday 31st October
Thursday 31st October
Friday 1st November
Saturday 2nd November
Monday 4th November
Tuesday 5th November
Wednesday 6th November
Thursday 7th November
Wednesday 13th November

Thursday 14th November

Wednesday 20th November

Friday 22nd November

Wednesday 27th November

Thursday 28th November

Friday 29th November

Monday 2nd Friday 6th December

Tuesday 3rd December

Saturday 7th December

Monday 9th December

Tuesday 10th December

Wednesday 11th December

Thursday 12th December

Friday 13th December

Wednesday 18th December

Friday 20th December

Monday 6th January

Tuesday 7th January

Thursday 9th January

Saturday 18th January

Friday 14th February

Monday 24th February

Wednesday 4th March

Thursday 5th March

Saturday 21st March

Friday 3rd April

Monday 20th April

Saturday 25th April

Friday 8th May

Month of May

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May

Thursday 21st May

Friday 22nd May

Monday 1st June

Monday 8th June

Monday 15th - Friday 18th June

Monday 8th June

Parents' Evening 3:30-6:50pm

Year 1/2 Multi Skills - please authorise via WEDUC

Parents' Evening 3:30-5:00pm

NO ASSEMBLY - Judo Workshops for some classes

Cross Country @ Packington 10:30 start

NO RUNNING CLUB OR MATHS GROUP

Year 5/6 Sports hall for selected children at ICC @3:30pm

Rowling 1 and 2 Sharing Assembly 2:40pm start

Obama Sharing Assembly 2:30pm start

Maths day in school with Gareth Metcalfe (maths consultant &

author). All parents invited to attend a parent workshop after school

'Grow your own mathematician'. Film and popcorn to be organised

for children so parents can attend. Details to follow

Churchill (10am), Obama (1:30pm) tree planting at Sence Valley

(details to follow)

KS1 Dance Festival from 4pm-7pm @Ivanhoe College

INSET DAY - STAFF ONLY

Year 5/6 Dodgeball for chosen children

NWLSSP Sports Award invitations to be sent out by Mrs Thornley

PTA Christmas Fayre (details to follow)

Science Week - Note change of week

Flu Vaccinations (details to follow)

Cross Country @Viscount Beaumont 10:30am start

Donaldson Christmas Production 2pm

Donaldson Christmas Production 9:30am

Churchill Sharing Assembly 2:30pm start

Year 1/2 Rowling Christmas Production 4pm

Year 1/2 Rowling Christmas Production 2pm

Carol Service at the church involving all children but led by Year

3/4 Churchill Class

Break up for Christmas

Christmas Holidays Monday 23rd Dec- Friday 3rd January

INSET DAY - STAFF ONLY

School open for children

Whole School Theatre trip to Peter Pan at the Rep in Birmingham

Cross Country @Woodstone

Children break up for half term

Mon 17th Feb - Fri 21st Feb HALF TERM

School open - back from half term

Parents' Evening 3:30-6:50pm

Parents' Evening 3:30-5:00pm

Cross Country @Snarestone

School Breaks up for Easter

Easter Holidays Mon 6th April - Friday 17th April

School open for children

Cross Country @Griffydam

Spring Bank Holiday (change of date to coincide with VE Day celebrations)

Key Stage 1 Assessments take place across this month

Key Stage 2 SATS week

Unity Netball Tournament @Woodstone 4-6pm

Break up for Half term

Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May HALF TERM

School open - back from half term

Year 1 Phonic Screen Week

Sports and Health Week

Year 4 Multiplication Check over the following 3 weeks

Heather Primary School Code of Conduct

Everyone involved in our school system – pupils, parents or guardians, volunteers, teachers, other staff members and governors – is included in this code of conduct, whether they are on school property, offsite or at school-authorized events or activities.

All members of the school community are to be treated with respect and dignity.

Insults, disrespect and other hurtful acts disrupt the learning, teaching and ethos of our school community. **All members of the school community share responsibility for maintaining an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a civil and respectful way.**

Members of the school community are expected to use non-violent means to resolve conflict. Aggressive behaviour of any kind – physical or verbal – is irresponsible and unacceptable as a way of interacting with others.

Where behaviour and actions are unacceptable within this context, clear support and guidelines from the governing body and the Local Authority will be used with recourse to legal and police advice, as appropriate. It is a responsibility that we welcome as a school to support our children, families and staff in this way.