



Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Well this term seems to have flown by and I can't believe we break up on Friday for half term – although looking at some of the children, they are ready for their half term as there are some tired faces about.

The children seem really engaged in their learning at the moment – Donaldson and Rowling Class are currently learning about Neil Armstrong and I have seen some amazing writing about why Neil is famous. The children in Churchill class are getting back into the swing of things after spending a lot of last week learning outdoors whether that be at Beaumanor Hall or in school. As are Mr Johnson, Mrs Thornley, Miss Chappell and Mrs Winterton, who gave up time from their own families to accompany the children to Beaumanor to enable the residential to go ahead. Obama class are busy finding out about World War Two whilst also planning an end of year leavers' service – it is busy, busy, busy in there.

It really has been a strange year and we are hoping we will get some guidance soon from the government as to how school should 'look' for the new academic year – I know I am not the only one that has missed seeing all the children playing together. I have always been proud of how in a little school all the children know each other and play together and the fact that our Year 6 children and Reception children don't really know each other makes me feel a little bit sad. Fingers crossed that the Autumn term is a bit more normal.

As always in the school holidays in the current climate, please let school know if your child tests positive or shows symptoms with the Corona Virus up until and including Tuesday 1st June so we can assist with contact tracing.

Enjoy half term, when it arrives and fingers crossed for a little less rain.

Take care,

Maxine Michalowski

Safe Online Behaviour at Home

Over the past term staff have been dealing with friendship issues that have escalated in school due to unkind exchanges online, out of school, either through texting, playing games online or via social media. Please see below a Youtube link for a presentation by Simon Genders who is part of the Local Authority Safeguarding Development Team to support parents to encourage safe behaviour online when at home. Please note this presentation is detailed and informative and is aimed at adults and not children. I hope you find it useful.

<https://youtu.be/hfy1FSivDws/>

Sports Days/Afternoons

Our in-house sports days are coming up after half term – please check the dates for the diary. Your child needs to wear their PE kit on that day – this includes trainers not their school shoes – and a drink. There is no requirement for children to wear a t-shirt in their house team colours as we have done previously.

Absences from School

If your child is off school, it is important if possible to report these absences promptly. Messages can be left on the school answer phone. When you do report your child being absent it is important that you also let us know the true nature of their illness for record keeping purposes. Saying your child is 'ill' or 'poorly' is not quite enough. Likewise, if you just say that they won't be in and do not provide any further information then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Also, just a gentle reminder that holidays should not be taken in term time. School is given strict guidance from the government regarding holidays taken in term time and only in exceptional circumstances can these holidays be authorised. If you are planning to take your child out of schools for a holiday or any other leave of absence, school should be notified prior to the child not being in school. We state this should be at least four weeks before although I appreciate if the absence is due to a bereavement then this is not possible. If you are requiring any leave of absence for your child, then a form must be collected from the office, filled in and returned to school as soon as possible. As I am sure you are aware, unauthorised holidays can be referred to Leicestershire County Council who will then issue penalty notices in line with their policy.

Year 6 End of Year Leavers' Service and Presentation Evening

On Tuesday 29th June the year 5/6 will be performing their show which is part of the year 6 leavers' Service/Presentation evening. If all goes to plan we will be live streaming the show in the afternoon and invites will be sent out via TEAMS for all the Year 5 parents/families to be able to watch the show. As I said, these are tentative plans at this moment in time and if we are able to invite families in for the performances, then we will.

All the children, whether year 5 or 6, have a role to play in both these performances therefore we will be expecting **ALL** the Year 5/6 children back in school for 5:30pm that evening as that is when the Year 6 parents/families will get to watch the performance. As part of this performance, we will also be presenting some special awards to some of the year 6 children.

I have heard some of the songs and there have been auditions taking place and I am in no doubt we are in for a great show.

Character Traits

We have been working hard in school reviewing what we want teaching and learning to look like in school and what character traits in particular we want the children to be aware of and strive to be as much as possible. After lots of work and conversations with staff and children these are the skills we feel that are required for our children to become well-rounded adults in the future. We will send out more details after half term about how we are supporting these skills in school and how you can help at home.

At Heather we are:

Hardworking
Enthusiastic
Aspirational
Team-spirited
Honest
Empathetic
Responsible



In class, we strive for the children to be:

Creative
Helpful
Independent
Logical
Determined
Reflective
Engaged
Noticing to make connections

PE, School Sport and Physical Activity Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to fill this in. The responses are interesting and informative. For those of you in Key Stage 2 who indicated that your child finds it difficult to ride a bike, we are hoping to liaise with a local company to arrange some session to help support for this – as of yet we are unsure as to whether these will take place in school or at the end of the school day or if there may be a small charge for the session. Those families which suggested that school could provide swimming lessons after school, I am afraid that this is not possible as we do not have the staff expertise or the facilities to facilitate this; however, I do know that Ibstock Community College, Ashby School and Hood Park Leisure Centre do offer lessons. I am sure you will be able to find the details out about this online.

Key Dates

Wednesday 26th May Virtual PTA Meeting 7pm – please speak to Mrs Riley Lowndes if you would like a link to join the meeting

Friday 27th May – Last Swimming for Churchill
School closes for half term Friday 28th May 2021
Half term Break

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021
School Open for Pupils Monday 7th June 2021

Monday 7th June – Year 5/6 Beaumanor Residential Parents meeting – 6pm via TEAMS

Tuesday 8th June Obama Class WW2 day at Beaumanor Hall

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

~~Monday 6th June 25th June Year 4 Multiplication Check* Cancelled*~~

Wednesday 9th June – Swimming for year 5/6

Thursday 10th June – Treasure Island Cinematic Theatre Visit – all classes

Friday 11th June – Obama Sports Afternoon

Tuesday 15th June – Donaldson and Rowling Sports Afternoon

Wednesday 16th June – Obama Class – Warning Zone

Thursday 17th June – Bags to School Collection

Friday 18th, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd June Bikeability for 6

Tuesday 22nd June – Churchill Sports Afternoon –

Tuesday 29th June – Year 6 presentation evening and Year 5/6 leavers' assembly – all 5/6 children required in school for 5:30pm for a 6pm start – **MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

Thursday 1st July – Anticipated 'meet your new teacher day'

Friday 2nd, Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th July Bikeability for Year 5

Monday 5th July – Year 5/6 Marle Hall Residential Parents meeting – 6pm via TEAMS

Year 5/6 Residential at Beaumanor Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th July (provisional and more details to follow)

School closes for Pupils for the summer break Friday 9th July – Whoop Whoop

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

Autumn 2021/22

Monday 23rd August – INSET Day for Staff

Tuesday 24th August – INSET Day for Staff

Wednesday 25th August – School open for all pupils

Monday 30th August – Bank Holiday School Closed

Tuesday 31st August – School Open for all pupils

Tuesday 31st August – Year 5/6 to Marle Hall (provisional and more details to follow)