



Heather Herald

Main Street, Heather, Coalville, Leics,
LE67 2QP

Tel: 01530 260257

E-Mail: adminoffice@heather.leics.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Maxine Michalowski

Chair of Governors: Andy Smith

Website: <https://www.heather.leics.sch.uk/>

Issue 4 1st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write this newsletter, I am so thankful that no one in our Heather family has yet received a positive test for Covid -19 – we have been so incredibly fortunate that we have not had to close any bubbles so far this term. I am sure you are aware that other schools have not been so lucky. Like me, I am sure we would like to keep it this way, therefore it is important that we do not become complacent over the next few weeks to enable us all, children and staff alike, to enjoy a safe and healthy Christmas with our loved ones.

Please remember:

- To observe the one-way system at **all** times – even if you are ‘running late’ – your journey time is only going to be approximately one minute longer by entering school by the correct gate – your child will still be able to enter their classroom or wait safely with their teacher if it is at the end of the day so there is no need to panic.
- We enter school either via the car-park or the gate opposite the entrance for Pre School and exit the school grounds via the gate near The Crown. Mrs Riley Lowndes has made some larger signs in order to remind those of you who are forgetting this 😊
- Masks are required to be worn by all adults as you enter school grounds and must not be removed until you have left the school premises via The Crown gate. Please remember that this instruction has come directly from the Local Authority and we appreciate your compliance in this matter.
- Only one adult per family to come onto the school grounds to collect your child/children
- Please make sure any adult collecting/dropping off your child/children are aware of the above
- There is no need whatsoever to be rude to any adult, whether it be a member of staff or someone in our school community, if they politely remind you of any of the above.

Thank for your support in all of the above.

This term seems to be flying by, it is hard to believe that it is December already. Normally by now the classes would be beginning to work on either their Christmas performance or the Carol concert, neither of which can go ahead under the current guidance but plans are afoot – please read the Christmas at Heather section of this newsletter.

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

Christmas at Heather

This year Christmas at Heather is a little bit different and we are having to adapt how we do things to ensure that Christmas 2020 in school is still an exciting time for all.

- All classes are going to be doing a Christmas celebration assembly on a particular theme which then will be videoed and shared with all the families in the class.
- Christmas cards – we would still like all children to be able to send in Christmas cards. These need to be put in a marked box in the classroom and then they will be placed in the post box in the school hall. Children are NOT to hand out cards to their friends on the playground. The final date for 'posting' is Friday 11th December. They will then be sorted on Monday 11th December and given to the children to take home on Thursday 17th December. Cards must have the recipients first name, last name and their class on the front of the envelope to ensure our Elves are able to easily prepare the cards for delivery.
- If you would rather offer a charity donation instead of your child sending in Christmas cards, we will be collecting again for Ashby Foodbank. There will be boxes in each classroom for the donations.
- Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner. Children to wear a Christmas Jumper with their uniform bottoms. Please donate £1 for Save the Children fund
- Christmas Parties in our bubbles. Children to wear a Christmassy style top/bottoms but outfit must be suitable for winter outdoor play. Your child will need a small plate/tub of food that they like to eat at the party. Please remember they will have had their lunch so a three-course meal is not required! **No sweets or bars of chocolate.** School will provide drinks.
 - Donaldson and Rowling – Friday 18th December.
 - Churchill – Wednesday 16th December
 - Obama – Monday 14th December

Staffing update

As mentioned in the previous letter, Mrs Clarkson will be beginning her maternity leave at February half term, however, in order to keep Mrs Clarkson and Baby Clarkson as safe as possible, Mrs Clarkson will not be teaching in Donaldson class from the beginning of the Spring Term. Guidance from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists states that the risk of Covid -19 is greater for expectant mothers and their unborn babies from 28 weeks gestation and that 2m social distancing must be in place at all times which I am sure you will agree, is nigh on impossible when working with 4 and 5 year olds. Mrs Clarkson will still be working in school but with smaller groups of children providing intervention support across the year groups. The governors and myself are currently working hard to ensure we employ a suitable early years specialist to lead Donaldson class until Mrs Smith returns from her maternity leave, to become Donaldson's class new teacher. I am delighted to say that Mr Johnson has agreed to stay as Churchill's class teacher until the end of this academic year.

Reading

During the last week of term, we will be doing our Golden Ticket draw for those children who are reading their books at least three times a week at home and their diary is completed and signed by a grown up. In some classes there are a significant number of children whose diaries are not signed therefore we are not sure if your child is reading at home. In order to develop their fluency and understanding, regular reading aloud at home to an adult is essential. Reminders will be put in diaries and some parents may be contacted individually to remind them that they need to be more proactive in supporting their child's reading development.

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2020

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

Friday 4th December - Non-uniform day in exchange for £1 to make up Christmas Hampers for the raffle

Friday 11th December - Xmas Jumper and Xmas Dinner day - £1 contributions for Save the Children

Friday 11th December - Christmas raffle to take place in assembly - tickets for sale at the beginning and end of the day £1 each

Friday 11th December - the last day for 'posting Christmas Cards

Monday 14th December - Year 5/6 Christmas Party Afternoon

Wednesday 16th December - Year 3/4 Christmas Party Afternoon

Friday 18th December - Donaldson and Rowling Christmas Party Afternoon

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**