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Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello and welcome back. What a great first week we have had back in school – and as usual we are all commenting how much the children have all grown over the summer!

The holiday has been a bit of a mixed one weather wise but we really hope you have all managed to have a great holiday – we have received lots of postcards and have enjoyed listening to the children talking about their holidays etc. this morning in assembly.

This term we are welcoming Harriet, Leonora, Hugo, Dhruva, Evie, Elsie, Brooke, Eliana, Reign, Alicia, Ted, Harry, Oliver and their families to Heather; we really hope you enjoy your time with us – please make them feel welcome on the playground.

As usual, we have had a busy summer getting school ready for the new term. Mrs Brown has been busy deep cleaning the school and tidying the school grounds ready for the new term. Bumblebee class has been decorated. Big thank you to Mrs Tatham and Mrs Winterton for their help with that – I can highly recommend them as a decorating duo! The classroom has also had a new carpet and yesterday the new tables and chairs arrived – the children in Bumblebee are buzzing about their new classroom. 😊

You will also probably have noticed the new drainage gully on the playground – I have forgotten the technical name. The gully is hopefully going to solve the issues of silt collecting on the tarmac during the Autumn and Winter which makes the playground very muddy – fingers crossed it works!! Staff have worked really hard over the summer getting their classrooms ready for the beginning of term and the children this week have been finding out about their new classroom routines and expectations. Today, you will be receiving your termly newsletter and planner regarding themes being covered this term.

Friday assemblies – back in the olden days before COVID – Parents used to attend Friday Assembly to see certificates, birthday cards etc. given out. Parents are more than welcome to join us – we start at 9 am.

Next week the temperature is due to rise again – please ensure your child has a hat in school and adequate sun protection. We are looking at temperatures of 24 degrees plus and the – no hat, no outside play rule will apply.

Have a lovely restful weekend – it has been a busy week for the children and staff getting into the new routine and a few early nights are in order for all. Lots of us are looking a little bit weary!

Best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

Uniform

Lost property is looking pretty empty at the moment – although I may have spoken too soon!!!!!! Please, please, please – name all of your child's uniform (including lunch box, water bottle, coat) – it is really not tricky. Staff are not responsible for your child's belongings – so please do not get grumpy with us when things are missing. Staff have talked a lot this week about responsibility and independence – looking after your own things is important and some children find this a bit of a steep learning curve when in school. Several children have come to school in trainers today. Please note as part of our uniform expectations that children should come to school wearing black sensible shoes. Also, some children are wearing nail varnish – please can this be removed as soon as possible. Bracelets also need to remain at home.

Communication

Hopefully by the end of the day the new families will have received their Welcome to WEDUC email. We use WEDUC as our main communication with our Heather families, it is also used to pay for school dinners, book MASH, clubs etc. Please download the app so that you are up-to-date with all information and ensure your notifications are turned on. Please note if you send a message after the end of the school day or over a weekend, please do not expect a reply until the following morning or next working day.

Any messages for staff can be either written in their school diary (these are checked daily) **or** sent to the office VIA WEDUC – there is really no need to do both.

We also have a private Facebook group which you can ask to join. This is a great way to swap unwanted uniform, share what the children are doing out of school, track down missing uniform/spellings etc. You can find us here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/heatherprimaryschoolcoalville/>. Staff members are also part of this group and we politely ask you not to contact them directly via Messenger under any circumstance. Members of the group that do so, may be removed from the group.

We also have a school PTA page where we promote PTA events and if Twitter is your thing you can find us @HeatherPrimary – if you do use social media, share our events and news if you can. There is also a @HeatherPTAPreLovedUniform – run by Sammy Martin (Franky in Year 4's Mum) which is a great resource, not only to save money but also good for the environment. Please contact her if you would like to know what stock they have – I believe there is lots of it – mainly unnamed uniform that has hardly been worn.

This week, you will have received a large envelope full of information – please make sure they are returned ASAP:

- GDPR Compliant Form – please complete and return to school
- Acceptable use policy for children – it is important to talk to them about this
- Medical update information
- Home School Agreement – two copies – one for you to keep and one to sign and return to school
- A blank copy of the contact details sheet- please complete and return to school
- Information regarding Free School Meals – please apply if you are eligible

A disability questionnaire will be sent electronically and will be with you next week. Also, next week a letter will hopefully be sent about social media. Please read carefully and your support in this matter is much appreciated.

Voluntary Contributions

Thank you to those of you who paid your child's contribution for the theatre visit of The Railway Children over the summer holidays after my reminder in the last newsletter of last academic year. For those of you who questioned the payment, as it is deemed is voluntary – yes you are quite right, you do not have to pay and yes, your child/ren will still be able to enjoy the experience/trip etc; however, school is not in a financial situation to cover the cost of all trips and events. We try as much as possible to keep the costs of such events as low as possible, and in fact, we have since COVID, really reduced the trips that we have gone on due to the current cost of living crisis. Nearly forty percent of families have made no contribution to the theatre visit and it looks like we will need to cancel next year's production of The Little Princess as it is not financially viable. Thank you to those of you who contacted saying you would like to make a contribution but could not afford the full amount – we have reduced your payment and appreciate all contributions made. If you have not yet paid, but would like to, the offer is still available (this is for children who were in school last academic year – not our new starters in Reception and Year 3). If you are not sure if you have paid, then please ask myself or Mrs Davies/Mrs Cook in the office and we can check for you. It will be a real shame if the production does not go ahead as the children find them such memorable experiences.

Before and After School

Please remember that when the children are waiting on the playground before school and after pick up time, they are not to play on any of the equipment or on the school field – this includes the trim trail and the small wooden house. If your child comes to school on a scooter/bike, they are expected to wheel and push it on the school grounds not ride it – this includes any pre-school aged children too. Parents of children in Caterpillar and Ladybird, please position yourselves in a place where staff can see you as they open the class gate. The children will not be dismissed until the collecting adult can be seen and has acknowledged that they are ready to receive their child. Please make sure staff are aware if it some one different picking up the child other than yourself. In such rare cases when school have not been informed we will keep hold of your child until we are able to contact you to confirm the arrangements. Please make sure all adults collecting your child know of these expectations.

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)

- Sunday 3rd – Wednesday 6th September Year 5/6 Children residential to Arete
- Monday 11th September PTA Meeting – details to follow
- Wednesday 20th September – Caterpillar and Ladybird Phonics and Reading meeting – 3:30pm (details to follow)
- Friday 22nd September – PTA Sponsored Bounce – details to follow
- Monday 2nd October – Bikeability Year 5/6 – details to follow (children need a fully functioning bike and a helmet)
- Monday 2nd – Wednesday 4th October – Year 3/4 Residential to Beaumanor
- Thursday 5th October – Bumblebee Forest School
- Friday 6th October – Harvest Festival @ St Johns Church (Provisional Date)
- 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
- Monday 30th October – Seasonal Flu Immunisations (details to follow)
- Wednesday 1st November – Caterpillar Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall
- Thursday 9th November – Dragonfly Forest School
- 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)
- Tuesday 21st November – Dragonfly Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall
- Tuesday 28th November – Bumblebee Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall
- 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)
- Thursday 14th December – Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2:30pm (details to follow)
- Tuesday 19th December – Bumblebee Carol Service at the Church (Provisional Date)
- 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 22nd 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 – MSM 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