



# Heather Herald

Main Street, Heather, Coalville, Leics,  
LE67 2QP  
Tel: 01530 260257  
E-Mail: [adminoffice@heather.leics.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@heather.leics.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs Maxine Michalowski  
Co- Chair of Governors: Rachel Aucott and Caroline Ludlam  
Website: <https://www.heather.leics.sch.uk/>  
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Dear Parents/Carers,

The children and staff have settled back into school like they have never been away. We are so impressed with our new little caterpillars who are already getting to grips with the new school routine. The children, in all classes, are becoming familiar with their class routines and are finding out more about their topics.

Already the school calendar is beginning to fill up with sporting fixtures and other events – please check dates for your diary at the end of this letter – the Autumn term is such a busy one.

If you are messaging in with queries, please remember manners cost nothing. Some messages are somewhat abrupt and occasionally verging on rude – which I am sure is not the writer's intent – a simple please/thank you, would not go amiss.

Currently I am not in school as my dad is seriously unwell and receiving end of life care. Please bear with all staff as they are very busy doing their own jobs, whilst also picking up some of mine. Your support and patience in these circumstances would be very much appreciated.

If you have any concerns or queries, in the first instance, please contact your child's class teacher.

Best wishes, Maxine Michalowski

## Young Voices

We are delighted to take part in Young Voices again this year – the last time we did this was 2019 – wow, what a lot has happened since then!

For the past 20 years, Young Voices has staged the largest children's choir concerts in the world. Over 2 million children have taken part in a Young Voices concert and they believe passionately in inspiring the next generation to find their love for music. Each night, between 5,000-8,000 children perform as a single choir to a sold-out audience of family and friends. As a bonus, many famous singers and bands perform alongside the children. This year's special guest performer is the legendary Heather Small of M People.

We are so pleased that once again we can take part in Young voices 2023. Mrs Smith will be running a Young Voices club to prepare the children for the main event, which will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, at Resorts World Birmingham. We have booked 15 places for children who wish to attend and full commitment to the club is required, so we perform to the best of our ability alongside the other primary schools from around the Midlands. Family members will be able to purchase tickets to the performance and what an evening of entertainment it is!

## School Lottery

Your School Lottery is a really easy way to help raise much needed funds for our PTA without having to do much yourself. Tickets are just £1 each and can be paid for via direct debit and each week somebody within our school family wins a cash prize, currently £9.30, with also a chance of up to £25,000. To join the lottery please visit [yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://yourschoollottery.co.uk) and search for Heather Primary. To date we have raised £640 from only 31 tickets sold – last year we had 41 tickets sold at one time and have the ambitious target of 51 tickets! We have some school adults joining too so if a few more of you can join we could raise lots more money for school – another local school also uses this as a fund raiser – and they have sold 138 tickets.....! Friends and Family can buy too. I never win but I know some ticket holders are very lucky!

### Assemblies

For those of you who were with us in the olden days – pre March 202 – would remember that parents were welcome to our Friday Celebration assembly.

Due to the increased number of children in school, we now have 118 children on roll – the most children in school in the time I have been here – having an open assembly where any number of parents and carers join us is a health and safety risk. With this in mind, we are introducing class assemblies which will happen termly where parents and carers of that class are invited join us. These will take place in the hall and the dates for each class are at the end of this newsletter.

We will also continue to 'secretly' invite the parents and carers of the children who are awarded our termly Constant Crew Awards to join us. If your child has had a birthday, then you are more than welcome to join us that week to see them get their card.

Younger siblings are also welcome to join us. We encourage you to ensure they are as quiet as they can be – in my experience this means having a wealth of healthy snacks available to keep them occupied! We would prefer it if they were not occupied by an electronic device as that really defeats the object of them coming to the assembly if they are not going to observe and join in with the celebrations.

### Lunchtimes

I have been really impressed with some of the great eaters in Caterpillar class – it is always fab to see clear dinner trays and children trying and enjoying new foods.

As a reminder, at school, if children eat a hot school dinner, they are expected to use a knife and fork to eat their main meal. Spoons are for pudding or soup and we don't have soup – we do not use our fingers. If this is something your child finds difficult or is not part of your meal time routine at home, please practise using a knife and fork.

Children are encouraged to cut up their own food, stabbing larger items of food and eating small mouthfuls off the fork they're holding like a lolly pop are not the table manners we expect in school. Mid-Day Supervisors are more than willing to support children in the cutting of more tricky items on their plate.

I know I have said we have some good eaters, but this is not all children. Children are expected to eat a wide selection of the food that they have chosen, and this includes the vegetables they have been given. They will always be encouraged to eat more before they are allowed to start their pudding. Most children will know the (insert number) more rule, which usually depends on their age. I am so looking forward to the 10 more Brussel sprouts conversation with year 5/6 when we are having Christmas lunch!

Also, if I am honest, I am also concerned with the amount of heavily processed, sugar/salt laden food in some children's lunch boxes. In the past this has been a small minority of families, but this year this has increased significantly. I understand that some children do not like bread but crackers (not lunchable box type), pasta salads, rice or soup are health alternatives – some children have those pasta/rice cold and others bring warm food in a thermos style container. One little one had tomato soup in hers last week. A substantial carbohydrate is necessary at lunch to give the children the energy they need for their learning. Some children's lunches of these heavily processed foods is affecting their behaviour at lunch time due to the sugar rush, and then they are displaying a lack of concentration in the afternoon. These types of snacks are also incredibly expensive if you are buying them for their daily packed lunch. Sweets and chocolate bars are not to be part of a school packed lunch at Heather Primary. Please don't be offended if these are removed – don't worry your child will not go hungry as we will offer them a healthy alternative.

The school nurse can provide guidance for families who find it difficult to ensure that their child has a varied diet – please do not hesitate in asking for a referral. Likewise, if you are struggling financially to buy food for your family then also get in touch as we will be able to help provide you support with this.

Key Dates for the Diary (Full set of term dates for 22-23 can be found on our website and in notices on WEDUC)

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September Leicester Riders in school to deliver Hoops for Health to the Year 6 children

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September Congerstone Unity Cross Country @Market Bosworth Country Park

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Bumble Bee Class assembly parents and carers invited 9:05 start

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Festival @ St John's Church - details to follow

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Forest School for children in Bumblebee

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Dragonfly Class assembly parents and carers invited 9:05 start

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Forest School for ALL Year 1/2 children

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Forest School for all Dragonfly children

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October - School closes for children

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October - INSET DAY 3 - Children not in school

Half term Break - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - School open for all

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October year 3/4 residential to Beaumanor - please ask for details if you wish your child to go

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Individual Photos for all children

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Ladybird Class assembly parents and carers invited 9:05 start

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November Packington Unity Cross Country @Packington 10:30 start TBC

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Caterpillar Class assembly parents and carers invited 9:05 start

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November Flu Immunisations - details to follow

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Unity Cross Country @ Viscount Beaumont 10:30 start TBC

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - School Closes for Christmas Holidays for pupils

Christmas Break - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - INSET DAY 4 - Children not in school

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January - School open for all

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Unity Cross Country @Woodstone (Ravenstone) 10:30 start

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February - School Closed for Half Term

Half term Break - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - School Open for all

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Unity Cross Country @ Snaresstone 10:30 start

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - School Closes for Easter Break

Easter Break - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April - School open for all

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May - May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May - School closed for Half Term

KS 1 Sats take place throughout May\*

KS 2 Sats Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May\*

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May Unity Netball Tournament @ Woodstone 4pm

Half term Break Monday 29<sup>th</sup> - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Year 4 Multiplication Check\*

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June - Year 1 Phonic Screen - take place this week\*

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June - School Open for all

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July - School closed for pupils - Summer Break

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July - INSET Day 5 - Disaggregated

**\*PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THESE TIMES**

These holiday dates have been agreed by the Governing Body for Heather Primary School and may differ from other schools locally.

NB - Term dates for next academic year - 23-24 - will be shared with your shortly.