



Heather Herald

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Issue 1 28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic first couple of days. It has been wonderful to see the children in school – they have all grown so much and it has taken me a while to remember who is in what year group! The teachers have spent lots of time talking to the children about routines and expectations so fingers crossed all goes to plan from Tuesday.

Along with 19 new families joining us in Donaldson class we also welcome the families of Ella and Amy and Roxanne and Oliver. We hope you enjoy your time at Heather.

Obviously, best laid plans and all that, we may find that over the next week or so we need to tweak our plans if things aren't quite working as we would like them to. So..... please make sure you have your notifications set for WEDUC as this is our prime method of communicating with all parents and we will gradually be reducing the paper-based communication that we send home which, I am sure you will agree, will save a few trees and a few pounds in the school budget! Copies of any documents that we do send home, will also be posted in Notices for future reference just in case you find the text or email that we sent has 'disappeared' 😊 Please use this as first point of reference before contacting the school office – things are very busy in there at the moment. In other words – read what we send home please!

Also coming out this week is the dreaded GDPR form! Please fill it in as soon as possible and thoroughly checking the contacts form for both mobile number and address. An up-to-date email is important too as we will be also occasionally sending emails opposed to texts through WEDUC. For safeguarding purposes, we must have at least two sets of different contact details for all children.

We have called the next two weeks settling weeks – during which we will be getting to know your children again, talking to them about what has happened over the last few months and changes in school. Our usual termly newsletters will come out next week and spellings/homework etc will not begin until 8th September and it is anticipated that a more 'normal' timetable will be in place from then. Gradually over next week, the children will also begin to bring reading books home, in fact I know some have done already and they will also have a library book. We have a clear system in place for changing and swapping books which teachers are discussing with children during these first few days in school.

As a staff we have discussed 'missed learning' and I know over the past few months there has been lots of doom and gloom in the media about how the children are going to suffer. I have always believed our children are a lot more resilient than we give them credit for. Yes, there will be learning they will have missed and there will be learning that they have forgotten. Teachers will be doing some light touch assessments on the basics such as phonics, key year group spellings, number facts and times tables and use this as a gauge. We will continue to plan our English and Maths work as normal, and plan lessons accordingly to children's gaps and at some time in the future when the fog has cleared a little bit we will be in touch with different families about how we can use the governments 'catch up' fund to support children who are really struggling with their learning.

What we won't do, is panic about it. We will work closely with you as parents to do our absolute best for your children. There is going to be no quick fix, there will be the uncertainty of children/staff having to be off school due to shielding, there may even be school closures and we adapt our plans accordingly and move on. What we do know for certain, is that the best way to ensure that your child is happy and learning as best they can, is that we are all working together.

Those families who have children with SEN, teachers will be in touch shortly to arrange time to see you during the second week in September to discuss your child's progress and IEP. Mrs Fuller, our new SENCO will be available on set dates to meet with Parents who have any concerns.

In order to give children ample space to play and ensure that we keep the 'bubbles' apart we are using our Forest School space at play and lunch times. On your child's PE day - they are to come into school in their PE Kit. This must be long joggers but your child may choose to wear shorts underneath, School PE T-shirt, hoody/school fleece (there are school hoodies that you can buy and we may have some at the school office) and trainers (not pumps). On one of the children's PE days will also be the day they use forest school for play/lunch times hence the requirement for long trousers - it is rather nettle down there in places. Also, on PE days they need to have their school shoes in their bag so they can change into them after being outside so the carpet and hard floors don't become muddy - Mrs Brown's job is difficult enough as it is particularly at the moment.

	EYFS/KS 1	Year 3/4	Year 5/6 -
Monday	PE - wear PE kit to school		
Tuesday		PE - wear PE kit to school	PE - wear PE kit to school
Wednesday		PE - wear PE kit to school	
Thursday	PE - wear PE kit to school		
Friday			PE - wear PE kit to school

Finally, due to personal circumstances, I haven't been in school this week as much as I normally would. I would like to express a very big thank you for all staff who have worked tremendously hard to ensure all was in place for the children returning to school this week #TeamHeather

Have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend - fingers crossed the weather picks up

Take care and best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2020

August Bank Holiday Monday 31st August 2020

School Closes for half term Friday 16th October 2020

Friday 18th September - SEN drop in with Mrs Fuller (let the office know if you would like an appointment)

Half Term Break

Monday 19th October to Friday 23rd October 2020

School opens to pupils Monday 26th October 2020

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

School closes for half term Friday 28th May 2021

Half term Break

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021

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