



# Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fabulous start to the beginning of term. Our new wriggly little Caterpillars have settled in brilliantly and it is wonderful to see them learning through play with their friends. It is hard to believe that half term is just three weeks away.

Thank you to those of you who supported our Sponsored Bounce by allowing your child to collect sponsorship money. The Sponsored Bounce has always been a big money raiser for the PTA - who are currently raising money to completely revamp our garden, pond and wildlife area - it has certainly seen better days. Please see further in the newsletter for more info.

A big thank you to Mr Johnson and Mrs Cooper (a former parent) for giving up their time away from their own families voluntarily to take the year 5/6 children on their residential to Areté in North Wales. They were blessed with the most amazing weather and took part in some memorable activities. Thank you to those parents who have contacted Mr Johnson/Mrs Cooper directly, either face to face or sending a card/message expressing your thanks and appreciation. It is no mean feat taking children on residential, being on call 24/7 whilst also encouraging children to push themselves when trying new tasks. The thank you's show staff that their time and dedication to your children is appreciated. Without staff volunteering their time such memorable trips would not be able to take place.

The school calendar is beginning to be filled up with sporting fixtures and other events - please check dates for the diary/the calendar on WEDUC - as always Autumn term is such a busy one.

Best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

## PE T-Shirts

PE t-shirts can be ordered from the school office by messaging via WEDUC; however, going forward T-shirts will not be given to your child until payment is made on WEDUC. A large number of families have asked for and received a t-shirt but have not yet paid for them - we are waiting for nearly £100 in t shirt payments. Please do not get cross with Office staff because your child has not received the t-shirt whilst we wait for payment. You would not take items from a shop and then pay later and school is no different. You will find the payment for the t-shirts under offers in WEDUC.

## 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 £7.20, 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 £499 from only 24 tickets sold - last year we had 31 tickets sold at one time- our all time high is 41 tickets. We have the ambitious target of 51 tickets! The more tickets we sell, the higher the prize money and the more money we raise for school. 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 107 ticket with a weekly prize of £31.20.....! Friends and Family can buy too. I won at the weekend and have won nine times since we started the lottery. Some people are far luckier than me! If you refer a friend, you get a chance to win £200.

## Harvest Festival

It is that time of year again. This year our Harvest festival will take place in St John's Church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October starting at 1:30pm. All parents/carers are more than welcome to join us. As we have done in previous years, we are asking for donations for local foodbanks who are in particular need of tinned soup, baked beans, tinned potatoes/carrots/sweetcorn/fruit/tuna/pulses/spaghetti/sponge puddings, meat (especially tinned meatball hot dogs, chicken in white sauce, stewing steak), jars of pasta/curry sauce, dried pasta, rice, breakfast cereal, tea, sweet treats - penguins/kit-kats etc., snacks - cuppa soups, pot/instant noodles, jam, long lie milk, tea bags as well as toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, bars of soap, shaving foam and razors - NO alcohol please and please ensure all food is unopened and in date. Feed the Need in Coalville are also in needs of cat/ dog food and size 5/6 toddler nappies. Staff and members of the PTA will also be organising fruit and veg hamper raffle (again fresh fruit, vegetable and preserve donations are very much appreciated). Teas and coffees will be available in the school hall after the service for all to attend and the fruit and veg raffle will be drawn before the end of the school day. Raffle tickets will be for sale on the day and outside the church. Donations need to be taken into the classroom by the children on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. All donations will be split equally between Feed the Need in Coalville and the Ashby Foodbank.

## Lunch Times and Play Times

As always at this time of year it is useful to send some reminders regarding expectations for lunch times and play times.

Snacks at play time need to try and be as healthy as possible. Ideally that means a piece of fruit, Caterpillar and Ladybird are entitled to a free piece of fruit every day. We prefer as much as possible for snack to be wrapper free as this is much better for the environment. Crisps, chocolate bars etc. are not acceptable at Heather as a play time snack. Children that bring these items will be asked to put them away and will be offered a piece of fruit as an alternative.

We 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. They have enjoyed eating their lunch with the support of their Year 5/6 buddy.

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 are expected to ask if they have eaten enough before they start their pudding. They will always be encouraged to eat more before they are allowed to start their pudding. Most children will know the eat ??? (insert a number) more rule, which usually depends on their age - this will include the vegetables on their plate. I am so looking forward to the 10 more Brussel sprouts conversation with year 5/6 when we are having Christmas lunch!

Most children bring in a healthy packed lunch - pasta salads, soup, cucumber/carrot sticks, peppers etc. which is great to see. Heavily processed, sugar/salt laden food in some children's lunch boxes such as dairy lea lunchables are really not suitable and are also incredibly expensive. A substantial carbohydrate is necessary at lunch to give the children the energy they need for their learning - these heavily processed items tend to be filled with empty calories. Some children who eat lunches of these heavily processed foods does affect their behaviour at lunch time due to the sugar rush, and then they display a lack of concentration in the afternoon. 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.

### Garden Clearance

School will be open on the following weekends if any families or friends are able to help us clear the vastly overgrown pond area and other jobs in order for us to fully see the space we have available and amend our design accordingly. School will be open at the following times:

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Time to be decided**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October - probably from half one until 4pmish.**

No gardening experience is necessary, all you need is to be willing to get stuck in, decent pair of gardening gloves etc. If you have a petrol strimmer (school will happily reimburse for any petrol used), leaf blower, loppers, secateurs they would not go a miss either.

If you are able to help, please speak to myself or a member of the PTA - Katie (Sophie's Mum), Frances (Tegan's mum), Sammy (Franky's mum), Beth (Tala's mum), Abbie (Rubie's mum), Alice (Corey's mum), Ciara (Charlie's mum), Kara (Henry and Toby's mum). Children are welcome but they will be the parents' responsibility.

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)

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - Year 3/4 Before you go Beaumanor Meeting 3:30pm start

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Garden Clear up - all Volunteers welcome - Time to be decided

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Bikeability Year 5/6 - details to follow (children need a fully functioning bike and a helmet)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October - Year 3/4 Residential to Beaumanor

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October Year 5/6 TAG Rugby - selected children

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Bumblebee Forest School

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Festival @ St Johns Church (1:30pm start all welcome)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Broom Leys Cross Country - details to follow 10am start

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Garden Clear up - all Volunteers welcome 1pm-4pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October - Year 3 Multisport Festival - details to follow

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October - PTA Bags 2 School Collection - drop off by 9am please

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Ladybird Forest School

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October - School closes for children

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October - INSET DAY 3 - Children not in school**

**Half term Break - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - School open for all

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Individual Photos

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Inclusive Sports - selected children more details to follow

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October - year 1/2 Multi Skills Festival - details to follow

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Halloween Dress Down Day and PTA disco after school - details to follow

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Seasonal Flu Immunisations (details to follow)

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October KS 2 School Council Visit to Ellistown Primary School - details to follow

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Caterpillar Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Open Morning for children starting school Autumn 24-25

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Mrs Thornley's SEN Surgery - please contact the office if you wish to make an appointment

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November Packington Cross Country 10:30am start - TBD

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November KS 1 School Council to visit St Denys School - details to Follow

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November - Dragonfly Forest School Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Ladybird Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Parents' Evening 3:30pm-5pm (details to follow)

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Parents' Evening 3:30pm- 7pm (details to follow)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Year 5/6 Unity Football tournament - details to follow

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November - Anti Bullying Odd Sock day -- £1 contribution for Children in Need

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Dragonfly Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Bumblebee Class Assembly 9 am start in the hall

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2:30pm (details to follow)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 10:00am (details to follow)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2:30pm (details to follow)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Bumblebee Carol Service at the Church (Provisional Date)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - School Closes for Christmas Holidays for pupils

**Christmas Break - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January - INSET DAY 4 - Children not in school**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January - School open for all

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February - School Closes for Half Term**

**Half term Break - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - School Open for all

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Parents' Evening - 3:30pm-7pm

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Parents' Evening - 3:30pm-5pm

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - School Closes for Easter Break

**Easter Break - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April - School open for all

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May - May Day Bank Holiday**