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Heather Herald

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Issue 9 6th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, there certainly has been a lot to cram in during this five week term and we seem to have finished the year as we started it with some Covid 19 cases in school!

Last week Dragonfly treated us to a fantastic end of year production called Year 6 and the Treasure of the Stinkas. There was some great acting, amazing accents as well as some great comic timing. The play was one created by Mr Johnson himself, and the children did him credit with their confident performance including delivering the corny jokes with aplomb! The 'sheep' in the harbour sketch – some what reminiscent of the Two Ronnies 'Fork Handles' sketch (I know, showing my age) was particularly memorable and impressed the cast from MSM productions when they were in school last week!

Last Thursday the children enjoyed the morning in their new classes, followed by an amazing production of Oliver Twist by the aforementioned M and M productions. Four actors took on the many roles from the story, which included some slapstick comedy, great singing as well as some audience participation (oh no it didn't!). The children in Ladybird were very confident in telling me the story of Oliver after we had finished the show and the Year 5 children had an extra special treat with a short Theatre workshop following the show. Thank you to those families who were able to make a financial contribution to the cost of the theatre visit – the payment is still available on WEDUC if you have not yet paid. We have booked them to return again at a similar time next year and they will be performing The Railway Children – I might need tissues for that one as the film always gets me near the end!

This week we formally welcomed Mrs Burditt into the role of Office Manager. Mrs Burditt has had a very busy week working alongside Mrs Riley Lowndes in order to familiarise herself with procedures in school. Mrs Burditt, we hope you enjoy your time with us.

On Thursday we will be saying a final goodbye to the families of Taylor, Freddie, Eliza, Alex, Nadyah and Jasper – we hope you have all enjoyed your time at Heather. We also say goodbye to Ellysia, Corey, Charlie, Nyla, Samuel, Shaun and Mason – we look forward to hearing about how you get on at your new schools through your younger siblings. We wish you all the very best on your exciting new journey – which you are more than ready for. Please pop back and see us sometime to let us know how you are getting on. Lastly, we will also be saying goodbye to Miss Andrews and Mrs Riley Lowndes who will both be starting exciting new roles in local schools – we wish you both the very best. We will continue to see Mrs Riley-Lowndes from time to time as she is continuing as a Co-opted Governor on the Governing Body.

To our Heather families, thanks again for all of your support. I hope you all have a lovely summer and any holiday plans that you have go to plan. If you have any queries over the holidays, please send them via WEDUC and they will be responded to when messages are checked – please don't expect a rapid reply!

Please take note of the school uniform reminders and other information regarding the Autumn term in the rest of the newsletter – particularly regarding attendance and return report reply slips by Thursday please.

Finally, a massive thank you to all the staff; a challenging year again. Your willingness to adapt and pull together to cover different classes and different roles when others have been off with COVID is a real sign of your dedication to the school and despite significant staff absences at times school has always remained open.

Happy holidays,

Best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

Attendance

Attached to this newsletter you will find a letter that details the impact of missed days in school. I fully appreciate the impact that COVID19 has had on children's attendance as well as children's immune system not being as robust as in previous years, due to lock downs, and tummy bugs especially taking a while to recover from; however, the number of unauthorised absences and holiday request has significantly increased this year. Part of my role is to monitor attendance and due to the impact of this year we have decided not to take as rigorous approach as normal unless a child's attendance has been of a particular concern, and whilst I fully understand the reasons as to why your child may have been absent from school, I still have a duty to write to you as part of the monitoring process. Where as 90% in an exam situation considered as exceptional, 90% in attendance terms is a significant concern and is defined by the government as persistent absenteeism and this data is used as one of the measures to judge school. The governors have high expectations regarding attendance and set a challenging target of 97% for whole school attendance which pre- COVID we were usually on track to achieve. Thank you to those of you who I have written to/met with regarding your child's attendance and a concerted effort has been made to ensure that your child's attendance has improved. Hopefully next year, attendance will be more on track. For those of you whose children have attendance below 90%, I would like to meet with you early on in the Autumn term to ensure school and home are doing all they can to guarantee more regular/higher levels of attendance next academic year - your support in this matter would be very much appreciated.

Key Dates for the Diary

Thursday 7th July - School Closes for the Summer Holidays**** Change of Date
Heather Primary INSET 5 - disaggregated staff not in school Monday 11th July 2021

Thursday 25th August - INSET Day 1 - Children not in school

Friday 26th August - INSET Day 2 - Children not in school

Monday 29th August - Bank Holiday School Closed for all

Tuesday 30th August - School open for all

Monday 5th - Friday 9th September Year 5/6 Children residential to Arete

Thursday 13th October - School closes for children

Friday 14th October - INSET DAY 3 - Children not in school

Half term Break - Monday 17th October - Friday 21st October

Monday 24th October - School open for all

Tuesday 25th October - Individual Photos

Tuesday 22nd November Flu Immunisations - details to follow

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

Friday 16th December - School Closes for Christmas Holidays for pupils

Christmas Break - Monday 19th December - Monday 2nd January

Tuesday 3rd January - INSET DAY 4 - Children not in school

Wednesday 4th January - School open for all

Friday 17th February - School Closed for Half Term

Half term Break - Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February

Monday 27th February - School Open for all

Friday 31st March - School Closes for Easter Break

Easter Break - Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April

Monday 17th April - School open for all

Monday 1st May - May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 26th May - School closed for Half Term

KS 1 Sats take place throughout May*

KS 2 Sats Monday 8th - Thursday 11th May*

Half term Break Monday 29th - Friday 2nd June

Monday 6th June - 23rd June - Year 4 Multiplication Check*

Monday 12th June Year 1 Phonic Screen - take place this week*

Monday 5th June - School Open for all

Friday 14th July - School closed for pupils - Summer Break

Monday 17th 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.