



Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers,

If I am honest this first newsletter of the academic year is a little later than expected – seems a little late now to say welcome back!

Well, we all had a great first week enjoying seeing all the children back in school and seeing them all play together at play and lunchtimes. It has been lovely to welcome our 15 new children in Caterpillar class (I am trying hard to remember the new class names!). They have settled in magnificently well and spent the first full day with us on Friday 27th August. Then we all had a lovely bank holiday weekend, followed by a slightly eventful week last week.....! The summer holidays seem a life time away!

The children, despite some disruption, are working hard on their new topics and seem to be enjoying being back with their friends. As of Wednesday 1st September - we are back working and playing in bubbles. Yes, I know, the children are as disappointed as we are, but it was an important measure to put in place to try and stem the flow of cases in school. Thank you to those of you with children in Bumble Bee and Caterpillar who followed the advice we were provided by Local Authority Health protection team to action a PCR test for your child as that did identify several asymptomatic children. Those members of the school community who have tested positive vary in their symptoms and some children have been quite washed out by it all. Luckily staff cases are low at the moment which is enabling us to more or less run as normal, although some classes are not having as much support time as they would normally have.

Some classes are quite reduced in number; therefore, your child might be completing some activities/subjects/topics that are not on the termly planning grid until more children return back to school.

The children who are at home as they have tested positive for COVID 19 – remote learning is provided by school as this is an expectation of the government – it is expected that it mirrors the work that is happening in class but we all know the reality of this is somewhat different because you may also be working from home and you are also their parent/carer. Having had COVID 19 myself, I know you have good days where you feel better and other days where you want to sleep all day – please do what you can; however, if your child is unwell/not up to it then there is no expectation to do work. Regular reading, Numbots, Timetables is fine if that is all they are well enough to do. Where we can, we will offer online support/sessions but staffing is tight at the moment too so please bear with.

Thanks to those of you who messaged over the weekend to up date us regarding test results, and those who just messaged with offers of support and well wishes – the messages of appreciation really do help.

Hopefully by the end of September things might have slowed down, we will have all children and staff back in school and possibly feel a sense of normality again.....fingers crossed!

With love and best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski and all the staff at Heather School.

Holiday Dates and Bank Holiday Update

Some of you have been asking about holiday dates for 22-23. As of yet these have not been set by the Local Authority, as you may remember they sent out some dates for consultation earlier on this year. They are going to 'panel' in the middle of September and we will let you know them when they have been released and we have agreed the INSET (teacher training days).

The Local Authority have also announced the following regarding the Platinum Jubilee which is being celebrated next year:

On 2nd June 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British Monarch to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, celebrating 70 years on the Throne. Both local and national events will centre around an extended weekend – the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th June. Regulations have come into force in June reducing the school year 2021-2022 to enable relevant schools to close for the additional bank holiday to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The official day for Leicestershire maintained schools to use as an additional holiday in respect of the Platinum Jubilee has now been agreed as Friday 8th July 2022. Therefore, school will end for pupils and staff on Thursday 7th July.

Arete Residential

Last week, Mr Johnson, Mrs Winterton, Mrs Tatham and myself went on a residential to Arete Outdoor Centre in LLanrug Wales. This was instead of going to Marle Hall as this centre is now being closed by Warwickshire County Council. We had a fantastic time in Wales, the weather was incredibly kind to us, no liquid sunshine! The children completed an arrange of challenging activities – such as gorge walking, climbing, rock scrambling, rock pooling, beach art, Tyrolean traverse and finished the week with raft paddling on Lake Padarn at the bottom of Mount Snowdon. A very big thank you to Mr Johnson, Mrs Tatham and Mrs Winterton for giving up their own precious family time to go with the children and be on duty 24/7 for the 4 days – it is not a requirement that staff attend a residential – they volunteer their time. Thank you to those children/families who remembered to thank the staff before they left on Friday – it really means a lot. I am sure the families of the children in Dragonfly have been hearing about it all weekend. I will provide information regarding the photos of the trip in due course. We are looking to book for Autumn 2022 as soon as the Local Authority confirm next years holiday dates.

Communication with School

Thank you to all the new families in Caterpillar who have engaged with WEDUC – please make sure you do have your notifications turned on or if not check it regularly so you don't miss anything. Messages are checked regularly during the school day – if you message in the evening or at weekends please do not expect a reply straight away.

We also have a private Facebook group which you can ask to join – we used this during previous lockdowns for parent to share what their children have been doing – it is also a useful place to track down missing uniform, off load used uniform and bags and bags and bags of plums!!! You can find us here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/heatherprimaryschoolcoalville/>

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.

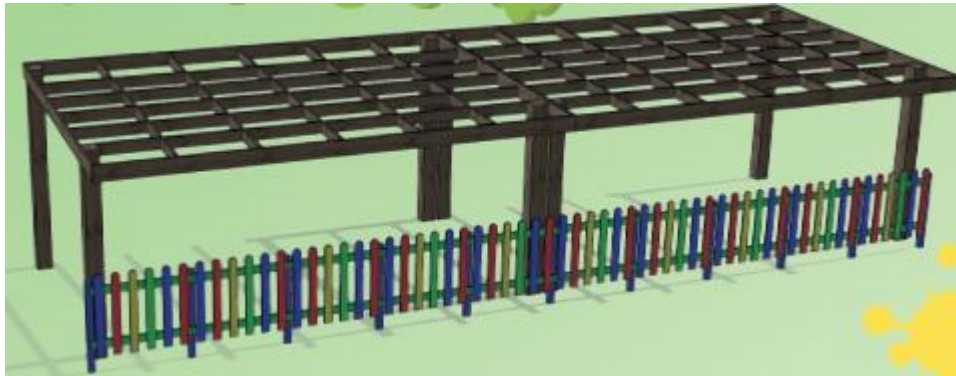
School Lottery

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 £10.20, with a chance of up to £25,000. To join the lottery please visit yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Heather. To date we have raised £728 from only 35 tickets sold. We have some school adults joining 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 ticket..... Friends and Family can buy too. I never win but I know some ticket holders are very lucky!

Canopy

As most of you know we are looking at raising funds for a new canopy outside Caterpillar and Ladybird class. MES Sports have put us in touch with a company who can provide us with a canopy that goes all the way from Pre-School right to the end of Ladybird classroom – you may remember the original quote finished at the end of Caterpillar classroom – for a similar price. The design below will cost £19,900 that is with a clear poly carbonate roof and if we can raise £24,800 we can have a rainbow coloured roof!!

We have currently raised £11,500, this included a substantial donation from Pre School and of course the marvellous donations from Franky's Three Peak Challenge. This has been an amazing achievement in a term and we still have a long way to go – please see our up and coming PTA events which will be coming out to you soon.



Future Events

We are planning at the moment to hold a harvest festival, a Christmas performance, performed by all children in Caterpillar and Lady Bird and a Carole Service organised by the children in Bumble Bee class. These are all subject to guidance requirements and we will send out details closer to the time.

Key Dates

Monday 13th September – Road Safety for some children in Ladybird Class (more details to follow)
School closes for the half term break Friday 15th October
Half Term Break - Monday 18th October to Friday 22nd October 2021
Monday 25th October 2021 School opens for all children
Tuesday 26th October – Individual Photographs
Mon 1st Nov – Thurs 4th Nov – Parents Evening week (more details to follow)
Thursday 16th December – whole school trip to see Alice in Wonderland at the Old Rep Birmingham
(more details to follow)
Friday 17th December – School Closes for Christmas Holidays for pupils
Monday 20th December – INSET Day for Staff
Tuesday 4th January 2022 – School open for all children
Friday 11th February – School Closes for half term
Monday 21st February – School open to all pupils
Friday 8th April – School breaks up for Easter
Easter Break Monday 11th April Friday 22nd April
Monday 25th April – School open for all pupils
Monday 2nd May – School Closed – May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 27th May – School Closes for Half Term
Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June Half Term
Monday 6th June – School open to all pupils
Thursday 7th July – School Closes for the Summer Holidays**** Change of Date