



Heather Herald

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

Head Teacher: Mrs Maxine Michalowski
Chair of Governors: Andy Smith
Website: <https://www.heather.leics.sch.uk/>
Issue 2 5th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

After an eventful half term – the beginning of this term has been slightly smoother. We have a few cases of COVID 19 in school at this current moment in time but nothing like we had seen earlier on in the term. The Local Authority is very clear in its guidance regarding outbreak management; however, in school we had often put in further measures before the Local Authority were recommending them. I want to thank you all for your support particularly in those last two weeks which were particularly challenging and I am so grateful to the way all staff pulled together to ensure that we were able to keep school open because at one stage it was definitely touch and go – not because of the number of cases but simply because we were coming close to not having enough staff in school. I guess on the positive side, it meant we were able to welcome Mrs Grierson back into school as a supply and it was great to have her back!

It has been great to welcome you all into school for Parents' Evening this week. I hope you found your meetings fruitful and enjoyed actually getting to look through your children's work and seeing what they have been up to. Thank you as well for filling in the questionnaires, the governors and I will look into those in more detail next week and share any feedback with you as soon as we can.

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed Megan into Year 4 and Billy and Ethan into Year 5 and Year 1 – welcome to Heather and we hope you and your families will be happy here.

Here is hoping to a more settled few weeks as we approach the run into Christmas! The dates of our productions are on the back of this letter – and we will be in touch nearer the time regarding how we are going to operate the ticketing system for each of the performances.

Have a good weekend.

With love and best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski



Attendance

I appreciate it is difficult to talk about attendance in school in such difficult times, especially as several of the COVID -19 cases in school have not displayed the 'given' symptoms of COVID-19 - starting more with snotty noses and sore throats; however, we are required by law to monitor and address attendance in school. When notifying school of your child's absence – saying they're 'poorly', 'unwell', 'sick' is insufficient for the records that we need to keep – please be clear regarding what is exactly wrong with your child. If your child requires time off school for a medical appointment, then please send in a copy of the letter for our records. Children should be in school unless they are suffering a significant illness, generally, minor illnesses (after receiving a negative PCR) such as a head cold, sore throat, lost voice, they should really be in school. Neither is it acceptable to be off school because it is your 'birthday'. It is the responsibility of everyone in our school community to ensure the children are in school. We regularly monitor pupil attendance and send letters out to parents/carers when a child's attendance shows a level of concern.

Sport in School

I am delighted to say that interschool competitions and sporting events are back! This term some of our 5/6 children attended a Rugby Tournament and played brilliantly – our first competitive sport since March 2020. Big thank you to Mrs Smith for accompanying the children.

Children in year 1, 2 and 3 have all attended a Multi Sports Festival run by the six formers at Ashby School and had a great time trying out lots of different sporting activities. Mrs Michalowski felt old as the music was really loud!

All these events were organised by NWLSSP, who have worked really hard to ensure stringent COVID 19 risk measures are in place to ensure the children can still take part in these events. Hopefully there might be some more events coming up later on in the term.

Some of you have asked about Cross Country and there is the possibility of the Unity Cross Country races taking place after Christmas.

Fundraising

We have had a super half term fund raising for school. The sponsored bounce – when all monies pledged are sent in should raise around **£1650** which is phenomenal. If you haven't sent your child's collection in yet, we will put them on WEDUC and if you can pay as soon as possible we would appreciate it.

Break the Rules day – which I know is very popular – has raised **£102** so far with a lot of payments still outstanding. Please pay via Weduc as soon as possible.

Halloween Dress down day raised **£112**

Bags to 2 School raised **£94.50** – which may have been £100 if I remembered to empty the 8 bags that were in my boot – never mind, will save them to next time!

All of these monies, as you know, will be going towards our Canopy Fund – which currently is standing at **£14, 613**. Hopefully after we have had our Christmas raffles etc we may have enough money to place a deposit to secure the order with the plan to hopefully the new canopy being built during the Easter holidays. Thank you to all fabulous Heather family for all of your support with this.

Heather Character Traits

At Heather we are:

Hardworking
Enthusiastic
Aspirational
Team-spirited
Honest
Empathetic
Responsible

In class, we strive for the children to be:

Creative
Helpful
Independent
Logical
Determined
Reflective
Engaged
Noticing to make connections

Hardworking in school:

- children focusing on what they have been asked to do
- completing work to the best of their ability
- listening carefully so they know what to do
- asking questions when they are not sure or to find out more

Hopefully you heard some of these mentioned regarding your child, during your parents' evening this week!

Collecting Children at the End of the Day

Can I please remind parents – particularly those in Caterpillar and Ladybird that we ask that when you see your child at their class gate that you walk towards the gate to collect them. The playground is very busy and sometimes it is difficult to identify all those who are collecting children. Your child will be held back until they are collected from the gate. Thank you.

Key Dates for the Diary

Thursday 18th November Open Afternoon for children starting school Autumn 2023 – please spread the word.

Thursday 2nd December – SEN Surgery (book an appointment to see Mrs Thornley, via Weduc)

Tuesday 7th December – Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2pm (more details to follow)

Wednesday 8th December – Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 9:30am (more details to follow)

Thursday 9th December – Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 4pm (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

Christmas Break Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January 2022

Monday 20th December – INSET Day for Staff

Tuesday 4th January 2022 – School open for all children

Thursday 6th January – SEN Surgery (book an appointment to see Mrs Thornley, via Weduc)

Friday 11th February – School Closes for half term

Half Term Break – Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February

Monday 21st February – School open to all pupils

Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th Bumble Bee Residential to Beaumanor Hall

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

KS 1 Sats take place throughout May*

KS 2 Sats Monday 9th -Thursday 12th May*

Friday 27th May – School Closes for Half Term

Half Term Break Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June – School open to all pupils

Monday 6th June Year 1 Phonic Screen – take place this week*

Monday 6th June - 25th June – Year 4 Multiplication Check*

Thursday 7th July – School Closes for the Summer Holidays**** Change of Date

Heather Primary INSET 4 – disaggregated staff not in school Monday 11th July 2021

Heather Primary INSET 5- disaggregated staff not in school Tuesday 12th July 2021

*PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THESE TIMES