



Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers,

With Easter being late this year, this has been a long Spring term and as always very busy. We have been treated to some fantastic class assemblies this term. I hope you have enjoyed them and it has been great to see some many families join us to see the children showcase their knowledge. The children are really enjoying playing out on the field – please remember that coats are still really important in case it rains. Also, after Easter, caps will be useful and when the temperature rises to above 20 degrees – the ‘no hattie, no outside’ rule will apply!

Over the last few weeks we have welcomed Freya to Heather Primary School. Freya has fitted in like a dream, we hope you and your family will enjoy your time here. This week we have also welcomed Miss March to our team. Miss March will be helping support children in Caterpillar, please say hello if you see her around.

Friday is our chocolate bingo dress down day. The children can wear their own clothes, there is no theme, in exchange for either £1 or a chocolate Easter Egg, which will be used as a prize for the bingo on the Saturday 5th at the village hall. Normally this event is a sell-out, but we still have a few tickets available. Please book online via Arbor if you wish to join us. It is always a great family event and if you are lucky you will get some prizes whilst you are there!

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate, in the first instance, to contact your child's class teacher.

Best wishes,
Maxine Michalowski

Parent Questionnaire and Arbor

Thank you to all of you who completed the parent questionnaire during parents' evening. The results of the questionnaire were overwhelmingly positive and there will be more details to follow, probably after the Easter holiday, but I thought it would be useful to address some concerns over Arbor.

Lots of you are still rather attached to WEDUC and although, I appreciate that Arbor does not have some of the features that WEDUC had, but as a school management information system, the benefits of Arbor greatly outnumber what WEDUC had to offer. After a discussion with a few parents, I thought it might be useful to share a few tips with you all to help ensure you don't miss any useful information:

- Download the app – the app allows you to receive in app messages and you are also able to send messages to school in this way. When sending or replying to a message, it helps us if the first three words of the message are used to convey the subject matter, such as NETBALL AFTER SCHOOL –then proceeding to check something about the club.
- Ensure you have your notifications/alerts set to 'on' so you are aware when messages come through
- If we need to send you a document then the message will come through directly to your email; therefore, check emails regularly. Look at your setting as Arbor emails may initially go into your 'spam/Junk' folder maybe move all emails from school into a folder as this may make it easier to search for the document that you need rather than contacting the office
- Arbor has a calendar function which has all the dates that are listed on the Newsletter. It will also have the start and finish date of any clubs that your child has joined. Please check this regularly then you are unlikely to miss when it is a dress down day etc.

We don't have access to the app, but it seems quite intuitive and with a bit of searching around you should see how to book your child into MASH, book your child into other clubs or pay for items such as school trips.

Food Waste

There have been legislative changes to food waste and we are now required to separate all food waste from any other waste we have in school. The children have responded well to this in the dinner hall. Going forwards, any food waste from children who bring a packed lunch will remain in their lunch box – whether completely eaten or not. This way you can see what of their lunch they have eaten in school. On the playground at playtimes we will have two small caddies – one for fruit and veg waste which we can compost in school and the other will be for any other food waste. Your support with this is very much appreciated.

Hex Climber

You will now have noticed after many months of discussion with Sovereign Play regarding warranty and who was paying for the repair, the rubber mulch has been 'fixed' and the Hex is back in action – much to the children's delight, not so much mine – from a health and safety point of view!! In order to reduce the number of accidents, in the past we have had quite a few, we have made the difficult decision that only the children in Key Stage 2 are to use the Hex Climber. The Hex Climber and the Trim Trail should not be used before or after school by anyone. As most of you know, I have no qualms speaking to children that are on the equipment when they should not be, but would far rather you be more vigilant at what your own children were doing during these times, and make sure yourself, that they are where they are supposed to be i.e. with you. School does not take any responsibility for any accidents or incidents during these times.

PE

For next half term our PE days will be changing. Below are the PE slots after Easter; there will be a further change to PE days after the half term break as we rotate the classes around so that all classes have one PE session a week delivered by ME Sports. We like PE kits to be in school every day. Please bring them in on a Monday and they can either be left in school for the half term or taken home every Friday. PE kit is- black shorts/trackie bottoms/running tights (not leggings), black school PE T-shirt, jumper – preferably a school hoody and trainers. The weather should hopefully warm up – so caps will become essential for when we are outdoors. We still have a small handful of children who do not have a PE kit in school – particularly in Year 5/6. Remember we like kits in school every day as sometimes there are last minute timetable changes.

As always, if you are sending your child into school with lace-up PE trainers, they are expected to be able to tie their own shoe laces. If your child struggles with this, can I please politely ask that you invest time over the holidays to teach your child how to tie their laces – it is really not our job to do it and untied laces are just an accident waiting to happen. Very reasonably priced children's trainers with Velcro fastenings can be purchased from Tesco/Sports Direct if your child is finding tying shoe laces challenging.

	Reception	Year 1/2	Bumblebee	Dragonfly
Monday		Swimming	PE Day	Swimming
Tuesday				
Wednesday				PE Day
Thursday	PE Day	PE Day		
Friday	Forest School – children to come to school in their forest school kit		PE Day	

Key Dates for the Diary

Friday 4th April - PTA Event - Dress Down Day in return for an Easter Egg donation for the Easter Bingo

Saturday 5th April - Unity Cross Country @Griffydam 10:30am

Saturday 5th April Easter Bingo PTA Event - 6pm - eyes down 6:30pm (Provisional Date)

Tuesday 8th April - NWLSSP Year 5/6 Orienteering @Donisthorpe Woods 9:30am-2pm (details to follow)

Wednesday 9th April - Roving Book Fayre Visit (details to follow)

Thursday 10th April - Last Swimming Session for Bumblebee

Friday 11th April - Easter Menu

School Closes for Easter - Friday 11th April 2025

Easter Break - Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2025

Monday 28th April 2025 - School opens for pupils

Monday 28th April - Dragonfly & Ladybird swimming starts

Wednesday 30th April Year 3/4 rugby Festival 12pm - 17:30pm @ Ashby Rugby Club - for selected children (details to follow)

Friday 2nd May - Harry Potter Menu

Friday 2nd May - Dragonfly WW2 visit to Beaumanor

Monday 5th May 2025 - May Day Bank Holiday

Thursday 8th May - Heather Primary VE Day Celebrations

Monday 12th May - Caterpillar and Ladybird visit to Battram Woods

KS 1 Assessments take place throughout May*

KS 2 Sats - Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May*

Friday 16th May PTA Film Night - (details to follow)

Tuesday 20th May - Class Photos

Monday 19th May - Year 5/6 Girls Cricket @Ibstock Cricket Club 12pm - 17pm (Selected Children)

Thursday 22nd May - Unity Netball Competition @ Woodstone (Selected Children)

Friday 23rd May Break the Rules PTA Event -details to follow

Friday 23rd May 2025 - School closes for half term for all

Half term Break - Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025

Wednesday 28th May - Late Year Seven applicants are notified of school places

Monday 2nd June 2025 School opens to pupils

Monday 2nd June - 13th June - Year 4 Multiplication Check*

Thursday 5th June NWLSSP Netball Tournament @ Ashby School 15:30-18:00 (selected children)

Monday 9th June - Year 1 Phonic Screen - take place this week*

Monday 9th - Friday 13th June Bottle Donations for Wheelbarrow of Booze - to be drawn at Sports Day

Wednesday 11th June NWLSSP Year 4-6 Athletics @Saffron Lane 11am - 5:30pm NWLSSP selected children (details to follow)

Wednesday 18th June Sports Day 1pm start (on the field - all welcome)

Friday 20th June - Dragonfly alternative sports afternoon PE kits required

Wednesday 25th June - M&M productions - The Secret Garden (in school - details to follow)

Thursday 26th June - TMBS Open Evening for new Year 7 starters

Friday 4th July PTA Event - USA Themed Fun on the Field

Tuesday 1st July - Year 5/6 Leavers' Performance 2pm start for Year 5 families only

Tuesday 1st July Year 5/6 Leavers' Performance 6pm for Year 6 families only **N.B. All Dragonfly children must attend**

Wednesday 2nd July Year 7 Parents induction meeting at The Ibstock School

Thursday 10th July 2025 -School closes for pupils for the summer break

Friday 11th July 2025 - Heather Primary INSET Day 5 - disaggregated

***PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THESE TIMES**