



# Heather Herald

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

Head Teacher: Mrs Maxine Michalowski  
Chair of Governors: Dawn Guzzetta  
Website: <https://www.heather.leics.sch.uk/>  
Issue 3 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn is well and truly with us and I really hope you have enjoyed the Harvest festival yesterday. Thank you to all of you who have sent in donations for the foodbanks and the fruit and veg raffle boxes. I am in no doubt our veg box winners will be enjoying the fresh produce over the next week and big congratulations to whoever wins our pumpkin on Friday. We look forward to seeing what you do with it – it will certainly make a lot of soup! Gardening club have been really excited in watching the pumpkin grow. We might not have enjoyed the rain over the last few weeks but the pumpkin certainly has!

Classes are coming towards the end of some of their units of work in geography this term and it is fantastic to see the children showcasing what they have been learning in their Showstopper books about Life on the Farm, Where our Food Comes From and Scandinavia – there are some great displays around school of their work too.

Last week Caterpillar parents were treated to a fantastic class assembly – the first one for Reception children and their parents. All of us are in complete awe of how these little ones settle so well in to school, and have such confidence in showcasing their time in Caterpillar this year, in front of the whole school and their parents. Hats off too to Mrs Smith, Mrs Harden and Miss Perkins for making sure that these children have such a fantastic start to their Heather school journey. Bumblebee class assembly is next – they have some big shoes to fill, the bar has been set high!

A big thank you to Miss Barton, Mrs Winterton and Mrs Goode (AKA David Bailey) for taking some of Bumblebee class on their 2-night residential to Beaumanor Hall, where the children have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of outdoor education activities such as orienteering, climbing, canoeing, archery and survival skills. Also, a big thank you to Mrs Tatham and Mrs Conway for supporting on the Tuesday evening so Mrs Goode and Miss Barton could attend a meeting. I know the children had a great, but exhausting time – in fact a few power naps were had by all on that Wednesday afternoon! As I have said previously, residential take a lot of planning, staff volunteer to attend and give up time away from their own families.

The school calendar is already very busy – please check dates for the diary and the calendar on Arbor to make sure you are up to date. Thank you to those of you who have downloaded the app (please make sure you have your notifications on for this app so you can see when messages come through). We now have 'School shop' on there and those of you who bought PE t shirts will now find those on there. This is also where you will find where to buy tickets for the PTA Halloween Disco and where to pay for any trips/transport for sporting events. Dinner money is also to be paid via WEDUC – some families are mounting up significant debt – please make sure your child's dinner money account is in credit at ALL times.

Congratulations to Leonora, Fraser, Anabelle, Ruby, Dean, Evelyn, George, Bella and Olivia who are our School Council representatives for this year. Our Year 6 reps were chosen by the whole school with 7 children taking part in the hustings, giving their speeches before the whole school voted. It is great to know that so many children are passionate about our school and the importance of the children's 'voice'.

Not long until the half term break – this term has flown by. If you are away over the break, please send us a postcard.

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

Best wishes,

Maxine Michalowski

## PE

Please remember for PE days your child/ren will need to have a full PE kit, in a bag, in school – black shorts/trackie bottoms/running tights (not leggings), black school PE T-shirt, jumper – preferably a school hoody and trainers. PE happens outdoors regardless of the weather and as we move further into the Autumn term – trackies and a hoody are essential. Please see below for our PE timetable for the second part of the Autumn term.

Going forwards, after half term, we would like PE kits to be in school all week – this means any last minute timetable changes due to events occurring in school or inclement weather PE can still go ahead but on a different day.

To aid us with this we would appreciate it if your child's PE kit is brought into school at the beginning of a half term and left in school until the next holiday and then returned home to be washed (**in a draw string bag please** (see below) – **NOT** a rucksack due to restricted space in the cloakroom). It is unlikely at this time of year that the kit will get sweaty and smelly (although parents of children in Dragonfly may wish their child to take them home weekly to be refreshed as hormonal body changes and strenuous PE sessions can result in some unpleasant odours!). This means that after PE, children will get changed back into their school uniform – which is how PE was organised in the 'olden days' before COVID. Being able to get dressed and undressed are both important developmental milestones and since COVID all staff had witnessed a decline in children being able to remove and put on their own clothes, as well as being able to manage and locate their own belongings. All children are expected to attend school on PE days in their school uniform NOT their PE kits unless this has been agreed otherwise between your child's class teacher and Mrs Michalowski.

As always, if you are sending your child into school wearing PE trainers with laces, they are expected to be able to tie them – even when they are in KS 1. **If your child struggles with this, can I please politely ask that you invest time to teach them 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 also be purchased from Tesco (and other supermarket retailers or Sports Direct) if your child is finding tying shoe laces challenging.

For next half term our PE days are as follows:

|           | Caterpillar   | Ladybird | Bumblebee | Dragonfly |
|-----------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Monday    |   |          |           |           |
| Tuesday   |   | PE Day   | PE Day    |           |
| Wednesday | PE Day  | 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

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October Year 3 Multi Skills Festival @Coalville Leisure Centre 10:30am-12:15pm

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October Bumblebee Forest School session (please ensure appropriate clothing is into school that day)

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Individual Photographs

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October - Year 1 and 2 Multi Skills @Coalville Leisure Centre 10:30am-12:00pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - School closes for half term for children

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - School open for staff Heather INSET Day 3

HALF TERM Break - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - School opens to pupils

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October - Inclusive Multi Sports @ICC 1pm - 2:45pm selected children

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October - PTA Halloween Disco 5pm - 6:30pm details and payment on Arbor

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Mrs Thornley's SEN Surgery - please contact the office if you wish to make an appointment

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Bumblebee Class assembly - all parents/carers welcome - 9am start

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November - NWL Cross Country @ St John Moore School 10am start

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Dragonfly Bikeability - details to follow (children need a fully functioning bike and a helmet)

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November - PTA Bags to School (flyer sent via Arbor) 9am

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November - Parents' Evening 3:30pm-7pm (details to follow)

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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 12:30pm - 3pm Year 5/6 Sports Hall athletics selected children

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Anti Bullying Odd Sock day -- £1 contribution for Children in Need

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November - Dragonfly Forest School Session (please ensure appropriate clothing is into school that day)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November - Year 3/4 Dodgeball Festival @Castle Rock 3:30pm - 5:30pm selected children

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November - Year 1 and 2 Dodgeball Festival @Ashby School 3:30pm-5:30pm selected children

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Ladybird Class Assembly - all parents/carers welcome - 9am start

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Year 5/6 Dodgeball festival @ICC 3:30pm-5:30pm selected children

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November - Ladybird Forest School Session (please ensure appropriate clothing is into school that day)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Dragonfly class assembly - all parents/carers welcome - 9am start

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Year 5/6 Dodgeball Competition @ ICC 3:30pm-5:30pm selected children

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November - NWLSSP Let's Get Moving Awards @Ashby Leisure Centre 2:30pm-4pm selected children to attend

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December Mrs Thornley's SEN Surgery - please contact the office if you wish to make an appointment

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December PTS Christmas Fayre 6pm -8pm (details to follow)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2:00pm (details to follow)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 10:00am (details to follow)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Caterpillar and Ladybird Christmas Production 2:00pm (details to follow)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - School closes for pupils for Christmas

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - School open for staff Heather INSET 4

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 School opens for pupils

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January NWL Cross Country @ Hugglescote Primary 10am

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January Unity Cross Country @Woodstone School 10:30am

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February NWL Cross Country @Measham 10am

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 School closes for half term

Half Term Break Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - School opens for pupils

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March - Unity Cross Country @ Packington 10:30am

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Unity Cross Country @Snarestone 10:30am

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April - Unity Cross Country @Griffydham 10:30am

School Closes for Easter - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Easter Break - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - School opens for pupils

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - May Day Bank Holiday

KS 1 Assessments take place throughout May\*

KS 2 Sats - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May\*

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Unity Netball Competition @ Woodstone (Selected Children)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 - School closes for half term for all

## Parking Safely at School

It is important that we are respectful of our neighbours when parking (it is rude and selfish not to) and also that we park in a way that ensures the safety for all – families who walk to school are not able to cross the road safely due to careless and thoughtless parking. When parking please make sure you keep clear of:

- Zig zags
- Dropped kerbs
- Local residents' driveways
- Opposite or within 10 metres of a junction to ensure visibility for all.

Take particular care when it is bin collection day as local residents have reported that their refuse has not been cleared away as the lorry has been unable to gain access to St. John's Close, and remember – if a bin lorry cannot get up there, neither can a fire engine if there is an emergency. Please do not park in The Crown or The Queen's Head carpark unless you have agreed this with the owners of the pub first.

## The Governing Body

### The School's Strategic Plan

The school's Strategic Plan is important because it's where we set out the overarching priorities for the children and staff members in our school. It covers the next 3-5 years and looks ahead to the skills, knowledge and behaviours/attitudes pupils will need to equip them for their future lives.

Our vision is to educate each child through a well-rounded curriculum, to become a well-motivated and independent citizen with the aspiration, skills and resilience to become a life-long learner and ultimately realise their potential.

You are probably already aware of the values we teach and instil in our children – the Three Rs (Respect, Resilience and Reflection) – along with our motto of 'Aim High'.

We focus on 6 areas including leadership and management, the quality of education, staff development and wellbeing, engagement and partnership with parents and the wider community, building on our learning environment and shaping attitudes and behaviours.

You can find out more by visiting our website under 'Governors' to see how we are going to champion our School's development over the next 3-5 years.