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Website: <http://heatherprimaryschool.co.uk/>

"A good school at the heart of the community"

Newsletter – August 24th 2017

Dear parents, carers, families and friends -

Welcome back after what we hope has been a sunny and happy summer break. If you are a new member of our school community, welcome! We hope you enjoy being a part of our school family. Please do ask if you have any questions - everyone will be happy to help. We're delighted you've joined us and look forward to an exciting school year ahead.

Staffing news

If you were with us last term, you'll be aware of the changes as the school year came to an end and we enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate Mrs Graham's and Mrs Mattley's years with us. We know that they're already enjoying a very happy retirement!

We're excited to welcome Miss Bakewell, who has spent her first day with her new Adventurers class today. I know you'll offer her every good wish and support as she gets to know us all.

Further staffing news

As you'll have seen already from this letter, this is a year of exciting new adventures for the school. In June last term, I applied for and was offered a promotion to the headship of a larger school in the centre of Leicester. Having given this a great deal of thought, and with more than a little sadness at the prospect of moving on from a school that it has been my great joy to lead for nearly ten years, I have decided to accept this opportunity. As many of you know, my time at Heather has also involved living and working with a cancer diagnosis and I'm so grateful to so many of you for your continuing support on a personal as well as on a professional level. It has been an absolute privilege to work with your children and with you, the staff and the governors at Heather Primary School; this is a wonderful school and a fantastic community.

The governors have already met to discuss the path they will take in choosing and appointing a new headteacher for the school and this is where the exciting journey begins. They're looking for somebody very special, because your children deserve the best; the governors will keep you fully informed about the process and its outcomes over the coming term.

SENCo

As you know, Mrs Mattley had done a grand job in the role of Special Educational Needs Coordinator for the last few years. She and I spent some time working together during the summer term so that I could take on the role as the new term begins - you'll see on the school website that I am the school SENCo now. I've spent



time working with the school's new Educational Psychologist, ensuring that we have a clear strategy to support children whose needs are emerging now. Please do come and chat with me if you have any concerns or information to share - and don't be alarmed if I come to chat with you! Everything we do at Heather has the goal of offering every child the best possible support throughout their time with us; shared information and teamwork with families really help our children to succeed.

Outdoor play equipment

I have been advised to remind you that the outdoor play equipment is **not** to be used by **any** child before the school day begins or after it ends. This particularly applies to the time after your children have been dismissed by the class teacher at the end of the day, but also applies to younger children while you're waiting or chatting on the playground. All of the equipment is rigorously checked and maintained, of course, but it is not supervised by school staff at these points in the day and it is not appropriate for it to be used. Please don't be offended if/when we ask children to come off the school equipment or field because of this. We would also ask that scooters and/or bikes are wheeled rather than ridden on and off the school playground, to avoid knocks and scrapes. We have the cycle store, of course, for any child in school who needs to use it.

Governors parent questionnaire

The questionnaire is now back online until the end of the first full week back at school, when the governors will be collating responses and considering the thoughts you've shared with them. We'll let you know how we're moving forward on any of the points you've made as the term progresses, but we can address one concern straight away. One parent said that they would prefer to receive paper copies of the newsletter - we started to send out paper copies for every newsletter following a similar comment in the questionnaire last year, so every family should already be receiving one. Please ask, if your copy has gone astray or disappeared forever into the bottom of a book bag! We post e-versions on the website as well as a backup.

Celebration Assembly

You won't be surprised to hear that there won't be a Celebration Assembly this Friday afternoon! We will begin to share celebrations at the end of next week – the Pioneers will be leading that first Celebration on Friday 1st September.

If you have any questions, queries, comments or concerns about any part of this letter, please do get in touch.

Ms Harrison and the team at Heather Primary School

DATES SO FAR...

Marle Hall Residential	10th-13th September 2017
Kingswood Residential	27th-29th September 2017
Individual & Family Photographs	10th October 2017
Harvest Festival & Open Evening	4th October 2017 – afternoon and after school
Parents Evening #1	5 th October 2017 – 3.30pm to 5.00pm
Parents Evening #2	10 th October 2017 – 3.30pm to 7.00pm
Half Term	All of Friday 13th to end of Friday 20 th October
Carol Service (at the church)	Wednesday 20 th December
School Closes	End of the day - Wednesday 20 th December
School Opens	Start of the day - Tuesday 9 th January 2018