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Head Teacher: Ms Lou Harrison BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), PGCE, MPhil, NPQH, Adv Dip SEN, Dip SysPrac

Chair of Governors: Dr H. Brewin

Website: <http://www.heather.leics.sch.uk/>

"A good school at the heart of the community"

Thursday 7th January 2016

Dear parents, carers, families and friends,

Happy new year! Lovely to see everyone back to school with a smile this week, even through the pouring rain ☺

This being the first newsletter of term, it comes as a paper copy as well as going on the website, so that you have the most recent set of dates to go onto your fridge. It's also the first opportunity to pass on the outstanding feedback from adults who accompanied the children on their Panto trip at the end of last term – our children all behaved impeccably and everyone was so proud of them. I understand that they were excellent role models for other schools attending the same performance! Well done to all of the children and thank you to the volunteers who went with them.

Wishing you all a very positive 2016,

Ms Harrison and the staff of Heather Primary School

We've been asked to share some very important information with you about OPERATION ENCOMPASS

All Leicestershire Schools have become part of a new safeguarding initiative, which aims to improve outcomes for children and families affected by domestic violence and abuse.

This scheme has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that might have an impact on a child that attends their school. The approach, known as Operation Encompass is used in a number of other places across the UK and is run in partnership with Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police.

All public agencies currently share information where there are safeguarding concerns or risk of harm to children and the Police currently share information on all incidents of domestic abuse in Leicestershire with Leicestershire County Council.

To further support the welfare of children this information sharing is being extended. During the school term our Designated Safeguarding Lead will now be informed when any domestic abuse incident has been reported to the police and one of our pupils was in the household.

This has been introduced because domestic abuse in a household can have a big impact on children, even if they do not see what is happening.

This information will be used to ensure the school is able to provide appropriate support to our pupils. The information will remain **confidential** and only shared on a strictly need-to-know basis, for example with the class teacher. It will not be shared with any pupils.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about domestic abuse, call the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0800 802 0028 or visit <http://lrsb.org.uk/information-for-victims-survivor>.

We look to offer the best support possible for our pupils and believe that this scheme is going to be beneficial and supportive for all those involved. In other areas of the country where it is in place it has been found to be a very effective way of supporting children at a most difficult time.



Calendar dates

Open Evening	3 rd February 2016
Parents Evenings	8 th & 10 th February 2016
Half Term	15 th – 19 th February 2016
School closes	Thursday 24 th March 2016
School opens	Monday 11 th April 2016
May Day	Monday 2 nd May 2016
Half Term	30 th May – 3 rd June 2016
Sports Day (1 st Choice)	10 th June 2016
Sports Day (2 nd Choice)	17 th June 2016
Reports Out	1 st July 2016
Parents open evening to discuss reports	6 th July 2016
School Closes	Friday 15 th July 2016

Academic Year 2016/17

School re-opens	Tuesday 30 th August 2016
October Half term	14 – 21 st October 2016
School closes for Christmas	Friday evening 16 th December 2016
School re-opens	Wednesday 4 th January 2017
Half term break	13-17 February 2017
School closes for Easter	Friday 7 th April 2017
School re-opens	Monday 24 th April 2017
May Day	1 st May 2017
Half term	29 th May to 2 nd June 2017
School closes	Friday 14 th July 2017

Reminder

If your child is due to start school in September 2016 you still have until 15th January 2016 to complete your application for a place.

www.leics.gov.uk/admissions

Any queries, please contact us at the school office.
