



Newsletter

Heber Primary School

Heber Road, London, SE22 9LA

t: 020 8693 2075 | F: 020 8299 0239
w: heberprimaryschool.com
e: adminoffice@heber.southwark.sch.uk

twitter : @heberschool

End of Year Message

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It is four months to the day that we closed our gates on school as we knew it. Possibly the hardest thing that I have had to do as a Headteacher. We have now finally reached the end of what has felt like the longest and definitely the strangest school year. All plans went out of the window and new ones were drawn up quickly and then reworked several times to fit the changing situation. It wasn't the year that we had planned for and it certainly wasn't the year that we had hoped for, but we have all done our absolute best to make it work. We now look forward to returning in September to a school that will feel a lot more familiar to us.

The children have adapted and displayed resilience along the way. It has been so lovely to see many of them return today. We have missed them all so much. I know that some felt a little strange about it, but they quickly settled in and have really enjoyed their session.

We said goodbye to our wonderful Year 6's on Friday. I am so pleased that we had the time with them that we did. End of year celebrations were modified slightly (to say the least) but it still felt like a send-off to remember, with lots of mementos to take away. We managed a Sports Day, a Leavers Assembly, shirt signing and of course the awarding of the beautifully presented Year Book.

We also had some lovely picnics for our children in the Nursery. It was great to see them reunited and especially nice for Mr Howard to have the chance to say goodbye to the children, as he is now leaving us. Good luck to Mr Howard in his new role and best of luck to the children in Nursery who are leaving us now for other schools.

Mr Piddington and the cleaning team have worked very hard as usual to make us all feel safer upon reopening. The kitchen staff have completely adapted the way they have worked to keep us going. Our lunch time staff have stepped into different roles at short notice. The office team, the engine of the school, have adapted and slogged away to bring order to the chaos. And the teaching and support staff have had to support in the complete reconfiguration of the school and in the adaptation of how we provide for our families. They have gone above and beyond to be there for our community and I know it hasn't been easy, especially as their own lives have been turned upside down at the same time. I would like to thank them for their creative thinking in making it work and for doing it, as always, with good humour and energy.

Unfortunately, the P&F were not able to run all the amazing events they would have hoped to, but the events earlier in the year were a huge success and as ever we are very grateful for all their support and hard work.

Thank you to our governors who have somehow managed to volunteer their time to support the school over the course of the whole year, but particularly over this period. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support and understanding over this challenging time. And if you have been home-schooling, congratulations on making it to the end of the school year! I hope you all have a very restful break over the summer holidays.

Miss Rosenberg



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The Lockdown Sports Day

The sky may have been overcast but spirits were high as the Heber children walked in their bubbles to the Alleyn's running track on their top field. A sports day! Socially distanced; but a sports day nevertheless.

There were 5 teams – the four year 6 bubbles (reds, oranges, blues and greens) and also the older-key-worker-bubble-class – who we decided to give the catchier name of 'yellows'. The format was rather traditional. There were 5 athletics events where each class would try to record the fastest time or the longest distance. In essence it was a battle against the stop-watch or the measuring tape. The results were recorded centrally so the children could see which team was doing the best.

Although the athletic events resembled the London Olympics in 2012, we decided to do without the Queen parachuting into the middle of the running track for an opening ceremony. The children did not want to hang around, they wanted to compete! For over 2 hours all the children competed with enthusiasm, resilience and a lot of skill. Rivalry between the 'bubbles' was intense, and extra spice was added by the youngsters in older-key-worker-bubble-class... sorry... 'yellows', where the Y4 and Y5 children were keen to challenge the Y6 times and distances.

There were many notable performances.

- 75m – Connor
- 200m – William
- Hurdles – Spencer
- Long Jump – Roman
- Javelin – Reuben, closely followed by Artur.

There were also some standout performances from the girls; Chisom in the 75m, Daisy in the 200m and Scarlett in the hurdles. The final two races were 400m relays where all the teams competed on the track at the same time but with social distancing. A fantastic performance by the young yellows who came 3rd both times. The fastest relay team was the Red/Pinks who had Spencer running very strongly on the final leg.

As with all Olympic athletic events there was some controversy. Amidst all the intense competition, the timing and measuring of some of the teaching staff was 'open to interpretation'. There were suspicions of 'confused' measuring. Naming no names, however, Ms Kleywegt did seem to struggle with using the metric system and seemed more at home measuring in yards and fathoms. However, the children were above any complaining or moaning. They were very happy. It was wonderful to see them all running, jumping, throwing, cheering and just smiling so much. Well done to all the children for competing so hard and with such good spirit – they will be sorely missed. The Y6s that is... not the 'yellows' who will stagger back in September!

Transition Videos

To ensure that all of our children get some closure on the school year, our teachers have recorded transition videos to share with the children. They include a farewell message from their current teacher and a welcome message from their teacher for next year. The videos can be found [here](#), we hope you and the children enjoy them!



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Our Amazon Wishlist

<https://amzn.eu/hgbxX4o>

We have set up an Amazon Wishlist and would be incredibly grateful if anyone is able to contribute. With social distancing between staff and children in place in classrooms, it is really tricky for us to be able to see and respond to the children's work in the moment. This is such a valuable way of providing feedback to children, even more so than marking after the lesson.

We would love to have Visualisers in every classroom as they provide so many benefits. Purchasing them will enable us to:

- Carry out live demonstrations without the need for children to crowd around a table
- Look at children's work as a class to support editing and provide feedback that can no longer be done in close proximity.
- Showing work/objects/artefacts that would usually be passed around the class.
- Magnifying worksheets etc so that they can be seen from the back of the classroom.
- Connect classrooms for assemblies



School Food Matters Breakfast Boxes

As you may have read in previous newsletters, Heber has joined with the charity School Food Matters to provide healthy breakfast boxes every other Wednesday during this time, for our most vulnerable families. We are delighted to say that we have arranged to continue this provision over the summer holiday. Staff will open the school as a delivery point to ensure that our families continue to benefit from the easy commute to us, rather than be redirected to other hubs. The breakfast box contains bread, milk, fruit, Weetabix and reduced salt baked beans. If you are in need of this provision, please contact Mrs. Joseph-Williams who can give you more details. gjoseph@heber.southwark.sch.uk

School Uniform Orders for September

We can confirm that uniform will be available to order on ParentPay from Monday 24th August. Any orders placed can then be collected from the school reception at the following times:

- 9am – 11am on Wednesday 26th August
- 9am – 11am on Tuesday 1st September
- 9am – 11am on Wednesday 2nd September

We will no longer be accepting cheques or cash for uniform order, as we are now a cash free school. If you still haven't activated your ParentPay account and you need an activation code, please email adminoffice@heber.southwark.sch.uk



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End of Year Music Message

From Mr Treen

What a year it has been! It certainly feels odd not to finish on a song (and a performance) in a summer music concert, but I hope this means next years' will be bigger than ever. A big well done goes to all of our children for their enthusiasm this year! Our assemblies would not have sounded so good without your voices and instrumental skills on show! The success of music learning units such as our Year 2 African Music unit, the Year 5 Motown learning, and the Year 4 Gospel music unit, among others, is down to the engagement of the Heber children, so well done indeed!

A massive thank you to all the adults who enriched the children's musical involvement along the way; Mr Pritchard and Miss Adegbite for the amazing choir and singing assemblies, Mr Ogbeide for his incredible help in learning from Year 1 to Year 6, and a particularly big thanks to the parents of the Parent Teacher Band aka 'Justin Heber' (David Buckle, Matt Allin, James O'Brien, Lynlea West, and of course Mr Elliott!) and to the parents that came in to demonstrate musical instruments such as the tabla and tunbi, and run workshops. There are so many more who helped of course, and thanks so much to you for everything. Keep a song on your lips and have a great summer all!



The Heber Gazette

Year 6 journalists who were part of the Heber Gazette Team were presented with a surprise leaving gift at the end of term. Each young writer received an appreciation certificate and a personalised card to remind them of their much valued contribution to the school newspaper. Regina (Laila and Isaac's mother) who led the gazette club sessions said: "It has been a pleasure to work with such talented young journalists. They are the founder-members of our school newspaper and we will miss them immensely. We wish them all the best for the future."

Regina established the Heber Gazette club and has given a lot of her time to nurturing the children's journalistic talents. The children have had some incredible opportunities whilst working on the gazette, including visiting the New Scientist Live and Downing Street. We are very grateful and are already looking forward to working together again in the next academic year.



To all the budding journalists out there: Would your children like to be part of an exciting journalism project for children? Regina is launching a news website over the summer. If your child would like to contribute please get in touch via the contact form on the website: www.youngjournalist.co.uk

Volunteering Opportunities

Are you looking for ways to volunteer this summer? Look on the [Do-it volunteering website](http://www.do-it.org.uk) and search for Burgess Sports and Team 100.

There should be a few opportunities available - these opportunities change over the months, so keep an eye on the site.

Currently they are looking for:

- Rugby coach/helper for the 5/6/7 year olds for September - no experience necessary at all! Just a sense of humour.
- Fundraiser - someone to write funding bids for the charities