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 @heronhillschool

HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

20th DECEMBER 2022



Hello everyone

We have reached the end of a very busy and long term and were able to finish the year with our usual church services. I am very grateful to Shanthi Thompson, the vicar at Kendal Parish Church, who shared the Christmas message and encouraged us as a school community to reflect on how we can go out into the world to make it a better place, just like Jesus did. Thank you also to our pupils who sang like heaven's choir and led the readings.

Year 2 Nativity and Year 1 Carols Under the Canopy

The 'Bethlehem Bake Off' nativity was the first live performance Year 2 pupils have been able to do in their school life. They grew in confidence during their two performances and it was a complete delight to watch, we enjoyed wonky crowns and angel wings! Year 1's candle-lit carols under the canopy will certainly become a Christmas tradition. It was lovely to get the community back together again.

Ofsted

We have had a successful autumn with the Ofsted visit. Staff shone brightly as the quality of education reflected the determination and hard work they have put in for many years. I commend the children on their behaviour and articulate descriptions of our school, their voices are what matters most to us all.

Welcome and Thank You

The continuity of our school's success is in no small part due to the work of governors who volunteer a huge amount of time to ensuring school delivers the best, whatever the challenges. We say welcome to Ms Ritchie who officially took over in November as Chair of Governors and thank you to Mrs Cottam, who worked with Mr Hicks and Mr Murphy to ensure Heron Hill functioned successfully throughout COVID-19. She will continue to work as a volunteer at the school, bringing her energy and enthusiasm for the environment to the next generation.

Parking

As parents, we have all had that lump in our throat when our children have had a near miss. Please remember to park slowly and sensitively around school. Go up to use the roundabout if you cannot turn in the turning bay. If you cannot turn in one go, please do not reverse in order to get a better angle. We have had several cases where people were unaware that parents and carers have had to manoeuvre children suddenly to compensate for a rushing driver.

Recently a care provider was unable to park on the drive of a house in the vicinity of the school because a parent had parked across the drive. Please park considerately and allow our neighbours to have access to their houses at all times, even if you feel you will only block their access for 'a few minutes'.

Condolences

Pat Harrison MBE passed away suddenly last week, she was the founder of the charity 'New Beginnings' and she leaves a wonderful legacy. Heron Hill has supported this charity for a number of years and our thoughts are very much with her family at this time. <https://www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk>

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Trish Merritt

Headteacher

Thank You for your Support



Heron Hill School contributed 121 shoeboxes to the Boxes of Hope Cumbria charity and they have already been distributed in Romania.

After the performances and carol services, a collection was taken up which will be shared between St John's Hospice, North West Air Ambulance, Open Arms Academy, Kenya and New Beginnings. At the Year 2 performances alone, donations amounted to £131.45.

The recent cake sale in aid of Ukraine raised £241. The sale was planned and executed by our Year 5 children, we are very proud of them.

Children in Need donations made through the school - £192.40.

Christmas Party Time

Year 6 pupils played a 'create a Christmas tableau' game then ate for Britain.



Year 4 at The Brewery Arts Centre



As a reward for being fabulous this term, Year 4 pupils visited The Brewery Arts Centre to watch the puppet play 'Sorry! Christmas is Cancelled...Katie Saves the Day!' Thank you to Friends of Heron Hill for funding this visit and enriching Year 4. Other year groups have been rewarded for being fabulous in other ways.

Parish Church Carol Services: Reception and Key Stage 2



Deputy Headteacher Appointment

Mrs Michelle Wilkinson has been the school's Acting Deputy Head for several months but following an internal application and interview process, the governors have appointed Mrs Wilkinson as permanent full time Deputy Head. We warmly congratulate her on her appointment.



Busy Choir!



Our choir has had a busy term, preparing for a large production at the Leisure Centre, where they sang with 300 children and an orchestra (first photograph is taken in the green room backstage) and then later singing at Heron Hill Care Home and in the carol service at the Parish Church.

Year 2's Production of 'Bethlehem Bake Off'



Reception' Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Craft Workshop with Parents/Carers



Year 1 'Carols Under the Canopy'





Heron Hill
Primary School
Hayfield Avenue, Kendal, LA9 7JH

We have vacancies for
Mid-day Supervisors

Monday – Friday lunchtimes, 1¼ hours a day
Term time only

£9.90 per hour (increasing to £9.99)

No experience necessary as training will be provided.

Enthusiasm and a positive approach to supporting children's lunchtime play and social development is essential.

Please contact the school office to find out more:

Telephone 01539 721276

Or email admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Safer recruitment:

Heron Hill Primary School is committed to the principles of safer recruitment, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS Check and excellent references.

learning together playing together growing together

Pastoral Learning Mentor: Mrs Little

Since starting my new role as Pastoral Learning Mentor in September, I have had the opportunity to work with children across the school, supporting their social and emotional needs and ensuring they are happy and thriving at school. To supplement this role, I have recently been trained by Educational Psychologists to become an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. This will allow me to further support children with a range of topics including managing emotions, building resilience and self-esteem, social and friendship skills and loss and bereavement. I will continue to work closely with Mrs Jones (SENCO) and class teachers to identify children that need a little extra help and sessions are offered on a 1:1 or small group basis dependent on the needs of the children. *Please do talk to me if you have any concerns about your child.* I can be contacted through the school office or please feel free to speak to me in the yard in a morning.



Hive - Late Booking Charge

We have always requested that parents do all they can to avoid same day after-school care bookings. On a very few occasions parents/carers have not collected their child at 3.15 pm, assuming we can facilitate; understandably, this can cause their child distress. Late booking requests are very disruptive, so from January 2023 they will incur an additional charge to cover admin and staffing costs.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	Staff training day, Hive Holiday Club open
Wednesday 4 th January	Return to school
Tuesday 10 th January	Year 5 parent information meeting, 5.30 pm
Wednesday 11 th January	Year 3 swimming lessons begin
Friday 13 th January	Year 6 maths booster lessons begin, before school
Tuesday 24 th January	Reception-Year 2 pantomime (in school)
Friday 17 th February	End of half term, 3.15 pm

Governor Insight: Edward Vittery

Freezing cold weather has been with us over the last week or so. Whilst making the views of our area beautiful on crisp clear mornings they have also thrown up some challenges both in school and getting around in our day to day lives. However, I always feel that in spite of the plummeting temperature there is plenty of warmth at this time of year too.



With the last two years being very disrupted with COVID regulations, it has been so warming and lovely for the children to be able to take part in the full range of Christmas plays, carol concerts and church visits this year. Parents able to come into school and see these, some for the first time in their children's school journey, will I am sure, have special memories to savour.

There is also a strong sense of community at this time of year. The visits to church and other trips in the local area that the children have been on may have brought this closer to home for some. Many in school have also been involved in various charitable projects over the last few months. Friends of Heron Hill organised a fantastic Christmas shopping event at school which many of you may have attended.

Christmas time means different things to different people. However you will spend yours this year, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year