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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

9th FEBRUARY 2024



SCHOOL MEMBER



Hello Everyone

The end of the half terms seems to have approached quickly, with some brighter days and lighter evenings approaching. Each term senior leaders meet with teachers to discuss children's progress across the curriculum. It is always a real privilege to hear how hard the children are working and the many ways staff adapt their teaching to the children's needs. Please could I ask that all our families continue to hear their children read at least three times each week - just five minutes can make such a huge difference as it allows the children to build on the skills they are learning in class. If you have any questions about what your child is given to read, then please do get in touch with your class teacher, I am sure they will be happy to help.

We have had a new wave of book purchases through school for Accelerated Reader and personal choice books. The library non-fiction sections have also been expanded. We are currently replenishing all our nursery books and story sacks for the children to enjoy. A reading shed has arrived in nursery – the staff are excited about the extra reading opportunities outdoors for our youngest children. Staff raised money by being sponsored at the Kendal Mountain Festival 10K race, this was then match funded by FOHH to purchase this shed. Thank you also to Mr Stanger for assembling it. Congratulations to Miss Addison and Miss Ashworth who won £150 for new books from the Lakeland challenge!

Staff are busy preparing and planning for an amazing World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. It is a wonderful opportunity to immerse ourselves in the wonder of stories and imagination. Please look out for more details in this newsletter.

Thanks to all the children and staff who took part in the many clubs this half term; yoga, French, choir, board games, judo, multi skills, spelling shed, maths and dance. Additionally, Year 4 and 6 are having Maths in the Dark sessions in a morning before school. After half-term, some of the younger children are starting more adventurous clubs in the warmer weather with a Den Building club and a creative Art in the Woods Club. Key Stage 1 as well as Key Stage 2 will enjoy our orienteering course in the school grounds next half term - thanks to Miss Wilson. Mr. Buxton continues to develop the bird hide, at the bottom of the field. We are grateful for the donations of seed, bird houses and binoculars he has received so far - we would welcome more! As the weather improves more classes will be able to enjoy this facility. Both nursery and reception have enjoyed a less muddy outdoor areas so far this year, thanks to the tracks and beds that have been created by Bay Landscapes.

I do hope you have a lovely half term holiday.

Trish Merritt
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Friday 9 th February	Half term holiday begins
Monday 19 th February	Return to school
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day (see page 2)
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief Day (see page 2)
Friday 15 th March	Bags2School collection date (bring bags into school from Monday 11 th March)
Parent Consultation Meetings - see page 2.	

learning together. playing together. growing together

World Thinking Day – Thursday 22nd February 2024

Children who belong to uniformed organisations, eg Guides, Beavers or Scouts, can wear their uniform to school on World Thinking Day.

World Thinking Day has been celebrated on 22nd February each year by Guides and Scouts around the globe since 1926. Originally, this day was chosen as it marked the joint birthday of founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and his wife, Olave, who later became World Chief Guide.

The Creative Month of March!

World Book Day, Thursday 7th March

To celebrate WBD, we offer you a choice, please do ONE but not both of these things:

- Your child can come to school dressed up as a book character OR
- Your child can decorate an item related to a book, e.g. a paper plate, pebble, potato, wooden spoon, shoe box, paper lantern, pillowcase, t-shirt, poster, the options for creativity are endless! Children who choose this option are welcome to wear Mufti/own clothes.

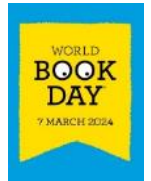
There will be prizes for the best costumes and the best decorated items in the following ages groups, Nursery/Reception, Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6. Throughout the day, there will be special activities in class aimed at inspiring love of reading. Lots of fun will be had!

Comic Relief Day, Friday 15th March



This will be a Mufti/own clothes day. Your child can wear something odd (eg odd socks, t-shirt inside out/back to front) and/or they can come with a joke, limerick, impression or something to amuse their classmates. If you wish to make a donation to this fundraiser, either make a donation directly to Comic Relief online/by phone, pay £1 online via School Hub from 7th March or send in £1 in an envelope with your child.

Annual Easter Egg Design Competition: Decorate an egg and bring it into school from Monday 25th March. More information in a separate letter.



Parent Consultation Meetings

There will not be a mid-year report issued in the spring term but teachers would like to have face-to-face meetings with all their pupils' parents/carers, to discuss pupils' next steps and targets as well as their general academic progress and wellbeing. Most consultation meetings will take place on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 20th March but please see the exceptions below. The ParentMail booking system to make a 10 minute appointment per child will go live on the evening of Friday 1st March.

In the summer term each child will receive a report but parent consultation meetings will be optional, only if needed or wanted by parents/carers.

Tuesday 12 th March	Thursday 14 th March	Wednesday 20 th March
Reception-Year 2: 2.40 pm-6.00 pm Year 3-Year 6: 3.30 pm-6.30 pm	Year 1 Whinlatter and Year 3 Glaramara ONLY: 3.30 pm-6.30 pm	Reception-Year 2: 3.30 pm-6.30 pm Year 3-Year 6: 2.40 pm-6.00 pm (except Year 1 Whinlatter and Year 3 Glaramara)

Spring Clean Sort Out? Bags2School

Please bag up clothing, bags, shoes, belts etc that you no longer need, want or love and bring them into school from Monday 11th March. Friends of Heron Hill has arranged for Bags2School to collect donations on Friday 15th March, please make sure you donate before 9.00 am on that day.

Attendance

Whole school attendance so far this academic year is 95.4%. A big thank you to parents and carers for continuing to support your children to attend school. Sometimes it can be difficult to decide whether your child is well enough for school. Children can still attend school with minor illness such as a cold and school will contact you if they become too ill to remain in school. If you are unsure, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> or contact school, your doctor or pharmacist for advice. A polite reminder to phone school or email every morning that your child is absent so that their attendance records are kept accurate and up to date.

Nursery

In nursery we have been learning all about 'People Who Help Us'. We have enjoyed some very exciting visits from a paramedic, a firefighter and a radiographer.



Year 5 Kendal Visit

In Kendal Museum's taxidermy section, we all loved the dodo bird (although it was a fake model from Kendal church), huge polar bear and a Tasmanian tiger. We also looked at other ancient artefacts including the Viking longship, the man trap and the mummified hand and toes! The Viking longship is in an airtight container to prevent it from rotting. We have been learning about it in history because it was found by the great-grandfather of a child in our school. The man trap was used to capture people who poached animals - the people who laid the trap would cover it with leaves and sticks so if someone stepped on it, it would trap their leg, like in Roald Dahl's 'Danny the Champion of the World'.

On the way back from the museum, we counted traffic travelling over Stramongate, Victoria and Miller bridges using tally charts, and drew sketches of them. Rain stopped us visiting all the bridges but back at school we dried off and had hot chocolate. Despite the rain, we all loved our visit!

By Alexander S, Oscar W and Sophia B.



Children's Mental Health Week

This week was Children's Mental Health Week, highlighting the importance of children and young people's mental health and encouraging them to think of ways they can look after themselves. Over half term you might like to think of ways you can encourage your child to 'fill up their emotional cup'. Perhaps a family walk, some mindfulness or time to share a story together.

What fills up your child's emotional cup:

- Lots of time for free, imaginative play
- 1-1 special time with a parent
- Regular hugs and cuddles
- Clear rules with a nurturing approach
- Feeling heard and seen
- Words of affirmation
- Time in nature
- Positive friendships
- Family rituals and traditions
- Feeling unconditionally loved
- Having a sense of control
- Having a voice at home



Dog Mess

There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of dog mess on the paths leading to and from the school. We request all dog walkers to pick up after their pooches.

Twenty Mile an Hour Limit

When the orange lights are flashing either side of the Spar junction, that means you are advised to drive no faster than 20 miles an hour.

Parking

It is wonderful to see many more parents parking with consideration for school and our neighbours. However, we still have a number of parents who park on the zig-zag and double yellow lines and on the central island. When politely asked to move, responses range from "I'll only be two minutes" to "There is nowhere else to park" to "It's raining!"

We are very grateful to the PCSO's, Traffic Enforcement Officers and police, all of whom have attended to advise and remind people of the Highway Code.

If you see anyone parking illegally, please politely remind them why they should move. The markings are painted in places that are hazardous to children travelling to and from school. Parking there obscures their view and could – unthinkably - lead to an accident. Thank you.



Sports News

Cross Country: First Stage

Forty Year 4-Year 6 children represented Heron Hill School at the regional cross country event held at Casterton in mid January. All the children finished their races and many of them were in the top half of their year group's results. Thirteen finished so well they got through to the second stage. Well done to all who took part.

Cross Country: Second Stage

The 13 children we took to the Cumbria County Cross Country Championships did themselves



proud again, they all raced competitively to the end, even overtaking on the finishing straight where they could. In all the races we ran for the South Lakes and again contributed to the team as every race was won by the South Lakes runners! They all cheered their friends as they waited nervously for their races.

Y4 girls – Sophie 53rd and Evie G 62nd out of 84

Y4 boys – Ronnie 3rd, Flynn O 19th and Harrison 31st out of 94

Y5 girls – Poppy 12th, Evie Mc 18th and Clara 25th out of 81

Y6 girls – Silvie 12th, Lilly 29th and Emmie 52nd out of 92

Y6 boys – Oliver 19th and Fisher 44th out of 99

Such amazing results! From this, our Y5 and Y6 runners Poppy and Silvie have now qualified to run for Cumbria in the National Schools Cross Country Championships in Leicester on 2nd March.

Governor Insight: Sara Metcalfe, Reception Teacher and Staff Governor

Winter blues...a name given by many to sum up feelings during the dark months of the year. The weather can be colder, the days are shorter and we have all just been waiting forever for the first pay day of the year.

I am a January baby and I embrace the winter with open arms when I celebrate my birthday on the 11th day of the year. As a child I did not like my birthday so close to Christmas but as an adult I have come to appreciate my special day and the time of year I get to celebrate it.

January is behind us, the month when new resolutions were made (some abandoned immediately) and the blank pages of our diaries were waiting to be filled. Whatever your hopes, dreams or goals are for 2024 I would like to remind you all to think positively and approach the rest of the year with resolve to find hidden opportunities in all that you do.

I look forward to representing my colleagues in my new role as a staff governor but I also cannot wait to see what the future holds for all at Heron Hill School.



Heron Hill, a Nut-Free, Healthy Snack and Healthy Lunch School

At morning breaktime, Year 3-Year 6 children can have fruit, vegetables or cheese for their snack if they wish. Milk is also available to order via www.coolmilk.com No oaty biscuits or other snacks are allowed. This is to ensure children are not having sugary, unhealthy snacks. Children should have a water bottle – no sugary drinks, juice or squash.

A few of our children have a severe, life-threatening reaction to nuts, therefore we ask all parents not to include food items that have nuts in them in packed lunch boxes. We have noticed that more than ever, children are having NUTELLA sandwiches in their packed lunches. Nutella (and similar products) contains hazelnuts. Please do not make sandwiches with any spreads that contain nuts.

We have noticed more children have sweets in their lunch boxes, such as chocolate bars and other confectionery. Please enable your child to have a [healthy lunch](#) each day.

Kenya Fundraising

The School Council's hot cross bun sale after school last week in aid of the Kenya visit over Easter raised £127.57. This will support the travel of our Heron Hill team as well as the development of our joint projects. We hope to partner with our Kenyan colleagues in sharing ideas for making both schools more Eco-friendly and celebrating our love of music! Our next Kenya fundraiser, 'Melodies For Our Planet', is a concert in the school hall on Wednesday 13th March, 4.00 pm-5.15 pm, in which our choir and instrumentalists will be performing. All are welcome, contact the school office to book a place if your child is not performing.