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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

20th OCTOBER 2023



SCHOOL
MEMBER



Hello everyone!

We have certainly raced quickly towards the half term holiday - I cannot quite believe how quickly the last few weeks have gone by!

The School Council/Eco-Council

Our School Council have been busy setting up their Eco-Committee, which will work towards achieving our Green Flag Eco-Schools award during the year. The children have shared their passions and concerns around environmental issues and have begun to investigate key priorities for our school. As part of National Recycling week, they completed the 'Big Recycling Hunt', researching what can and cannot be recycled in our school (photograph above). School Council also helped sort the harvest donations, ready to be taken down to Manna House to help the homeless and other people in need (photograph on left).



Harvest Festival

We held our Harvest assembly in school this week, which all of the children took part in. Key Stage 1 were given a recycling challenge and Key Stage 2 thought about how we need to share food with others. Thank you to all of our families for their very generous donations of produce for Manna House.

Parental Involvement

I am so grateful for all the parental involvement you have given this term. You have supported school visits, heard readers, given feedback on the school's Behaviour Policy and commented on the vision statement. All stakeholders have had time for discussions and shared their thoughts on our key purpose and aspirations we have as a school community. I have had the privilege of listening to so many voices in harmony, sharing the same themes. The governors and senior leaders will complete the vision statement shortly and we look forward to sharing it with you. FoHH elected a new committee at their AGM, with around 15 keen parents attending the meeting. They have many fundraising plans for the year ahead. I thank them for organising this week's pre-loved uniform stall.

A huge thank you to my resilient team of determined grandparents and relatives who have dug along with me each Friday after school. We made a sterling start on the Bumble Bank. We particularly enjoyed the fire-starting sessions by the fire pit. We finished with food, which was well earned after all their hard work.

Outdoor Developments

Reception's outdoor area now has reimagined walkways, bark, newly re-seeded grassy areas and raised bed areas and the children are loving playing in their beautiful new spaces. There are new markings on the Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 playgrounds, they look great.

Assistant Headteacher

I am delighted to announce that we have just appointed Mr Michael Corrie as Assistant Headteacher. He is currently at a school in Windermere and we look forward to him joining us in January.

Yours sincerely
Trish Merritt
Headteacher

Dance Choreographer Needed

Year 5 are seeking a choreographer to help to create a dance for the Brewery Dance Platform. Do you know anyone who might help? Ideally, they would be able to join some of our Tuesday afternoon lessons between January and March to prepare for the performance. We have funding for this role.

Parent Consultation Meetings

The autumn term report will be sent home on Friday 10th November and to follow up, teachers would like to have face-to-face meetings with all their pupils' parents/carers, to discuss how their child has settled in and next steps and targets. Most consultation meetings will take place on Thursday 16th November and Tuesday 21st November 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 Monday 6th November. There will be no report in the spring term but there will be parent consultation meetings. This term, Nursery will hold play and stay sessions for its parents/carers.

Tuesday 14 th November	Thursday 16 th November	Tuesday 21 st November	Thursday 23 rd November
3.30 pm-6.30 pm Only: Y5 Fairfield (Mrs Hunter) Y5 Catstycam (Mrs Altounyan) Y4 Thornthwaite (Mrs Dodd-Hemingway)	2.40 pm-6.30 pm All Reception-Year 2 teachers 3.30 pm-6.30 pm All Year 3-Year 6 teachers, except Y5 Mrs Hunter, Y5 Mrs Altounyan and Y4 Mrs Dodd-Hemingway	3.30 pm-6.00 pm All Reception-Year 2 teachers, except Y2 Miss Wilson 2.40 pm-6.00 pm All Year 3-Year 6 teachers.	3.30 pm-6.00 pm Only: Y2 Yewbarrow (Miss Wilson)

Dates for your Diary

Monday 30 th October	Return to school
Mon 30 th /Tues 31 st October	Paul Sturgess basketball assemblies (parents invited, 9.00 am) and workshops
Tuesday 31 st October	Closing date for secondary school applications
Monday 6 th November	Reception Open Afternoon, 1.00 pm-5.30 pm, for new starters, September '24
Tuesday 7 th November	School Photograph Day - individual and family photographs
Wednesday 8 th November	Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights Measurements
Thursday 9 th November	Reception Open Afternoon, 1.00 pm-5.00 pm, for new starters, September '24
Friday 10 th November	Autumn term reports will be sent home
Tuesday 14 th November	Parent consultation meetings begin, see table above
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need Mufti/Non-Uniform Day
Friday 24 rd November	Friends of Heron Hill Christmas Shopping Event, 6.30 pm-9.00 pm
Monday 4 th December	Nursery/Reception Disco (FOHH), 4.30 pm
Wednesday 6 th December	Year 2 Christmas Production, 2.15 pm and 5.30 pm
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7 th December	FOHH Christmas Party, 5.30 pm-6.15 pm and 6.30 pm-7.15 pm
Friday 8 th December	Year 6 Christmas Party
Monday 11 th December	Year 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 12 th December	Reception carol service at Parish Church, 9.30 am-10.30 am
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 5/Year 6 to 'The Jungle Book' at the Box Theatre
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 3 Christmas Party
Wednesday 13 th December	Nursery Christmas Party (morning)
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 carol service at the Parish Church, 10.00 am-11.00 am
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 14 th December	Year 1 Christmas Party
Friday 15 th December	Reception Christmas Party
Friday 15 th December	Year 3-Year 6 carol service at the Parish Church, 2.00 pm
Monday 18 th December	Friends of Heron Hill Christmas Bake Sale
Tuesday 19 th December	End of term, 3.15 pm
Wednesday 3 rd January	Return to school

All after-school sports and activity clubs which are held outside have now ended. Lunchtime and indoor clubs will end in the week beginning Monday 27th November.

Advance notice: The closing date for Reception 2024 applications is Monday 15th January 2024.

Nursery

Nursery visited the woods and looked for signs of 'Autumn.' We collected lots of interesting materials!



Year 6 Prefects

Year 6 have elected 4 prefects who will be class and school ambassadors for the coming half term. They will wear prefect badges and will have various responsibilities in school as well as special privileges, including a hot chocolate once a week in the staffroom! We will elect 4 new Year 6 prefects each half term. For the second half of the autumn term, we proudly announce our first-ever Year 6 Heron Hill prefects are Darcey B, Oscar M, Izzy W and Owen C.



Year 5 Poetry Competition

We have been working on poems for a Young Writers competition - the theme was 'This Is Me'. We joined a live stream, run by a poet called Mark Grist, about recipe poems which inspired us to create a poem about ourselves. These poems empowered us to celebrate our individuality. We are incredibly proud to announce that our poems will be published in a book!

By Harrison N and Max C



Royal British Legion

We will be selling poppies and other Royal British Legion items in classrooms after we return to school. We will give more information soon.

Year 2 Art Workshop



Local artist Chas Jacobs brought his artwork into Year 2, the children watched him paint a landscape using watercolours, then they used watercolours to create their own landscape paintings. Thank you to FOHH for funding this amazing experience.



Yesterday, the school was awash with cutlasses and hooks as Year 2 pupils came to school dressed for their pirate-themed day, they looked maaaaarrvvellous.

Choir and Brass

Our new Brass Club have teamed up with choir this week to prepare some music for Christmas. They are making so much progress - a great sound already and so much fun to work on something altogether!



Parking

The situation is improving at drop off and pick up times as a result of a raft of measures to monitor parking: school staff are having a presence outside the gates, we have reinstated safe parking signs, we are putting posters (made by Y6 children) on windscreens, PCSO/police are dropping by occasionally, promoting this week's Feet First Walk to School Week focus and generally raising awareness are all helping to keep the road outside school safer.

We have some 'hardcore' parents/carers who still need reminders but we are aware of them and most incorrectly/illegally parked parents/carers, when spoken to, understand that what they are doing is not safe and willingly move to safer parking places.

We will keep on it! Thank you so much to everyone for their encouragement and ideas too; between us all, we will make sure it is safe for our children and better for our neighbours. Please encourage fellow parents/carers to use the Leisure Centre for parking if possible and to walk the remaining way to school. Better still, plan to walk or cycle to school.

Caught in the Act!

On Friday last week, Year 1 children set up hedgehog houses (made by current Year 2s last year) next to our hedgehog highway, with a trail of hedgehog food. On Monday morning Miss Ashworth went down to our wildlife camera to find over 100 photographs of hedgehogs, as well the occasional cat and squirrel, next to the houses! The children were very excited and pleased to hear they have created a home for our spikey friends to enjoy! We hope that we will keep getting more visitors and Heron Hill can become a habitat for many of our wild friends. A great contribution to our journey into becoming an Eco-School!



Message from Mrs Jones, SENCO

The SEND Partnership have recently launched their Rolling SEND Survey for parents, carers and families in Cumbria. Parent / carer voice is so important for improving SEND provision in our schools. It should only take 5 minutes to complete. [Click here for the survey.](#)

Got Their Marbles!

Year 2 Yewbarrow had their reward last week for getting 50 marbles in the jar. They had a 'bring a toy to school' day. Look how happy the toys are.



School Staffing Structure 2023-24

Headteacher: Mrs Merritt (Designated Safeguarding Lead, DSL)

Deputy Head: Mrs M Wilkinson (Deputy DSL)

SENCO: Mrs Jones (DDSL)

School Business Manager: Mrs C Roberts (temporary)

Senior Leaders: Mrs C Hudson, Mrs Barber

Year	Class	Teacher/s
Nursery	Rannerdale	Miss Addison
Reception	Latrigg	Mrs Barber
Reception	Mellbreak	Mrs Metcalfe
Year 1	Angletarn	Miss Ashworth
Year 1	Whinlatter	Mrs Foster
Year 2	Outerside	Mrs C Hudson
Year 2	Yewbarrow	Miss Wilson
Year 3	Glamara	Mrs Lowther
Year 3	Kentmere	Mrs Corbett
Year 4	Blencathra	Miss Watson
Year 4	Thornthwaite	Mrs Dodd-Hemingway/Mrs Patrick
Year 5	Catstycam	Mrs Altounyan
Year 5	Fairfield	Mrs H Hunter
Year 6	Helvellyn	Miss Hildrew/Mrs Osborne
Year 6	Scafell	Mrs H Hudson/Miss Dando

PPA Teachers: Mrs Lawson, Mr Napper

Pastoral Learning Mentor: Mrs Little (DDSL)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Bennett, Mrs Breaks, Mrs Broomby, Mr Buxton, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Domashenko, Mrs Dyer, Miss Freeston, Miss Holmes, Mrs S Hunter, Miss McMinn, Mrs Morcombe, Miss Pinder, Miss Powell, Mrs Smith, Mrs Taylor, Miss Walker, Mrs Waters, Mrs Sam Wilkinson, Mrs Shelley Wilkinson

Admin: Mrs Lehane, Mrs Dowker and Mrs A Roberts

Mid-Day Supervisors: Mrs Johnson, Mrs Almond-Marples, Miss Beck, Mrs Fenna, Mrs Gospodinova, Mrs Hooton, Mrs L Jones, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Shirkoubian

Hive: Miss Pinder, Mrs Johnson, Mr Buxton, Mrs Breaks, Miss Powell, Miss McMinn, Mrs Gospodinova

School Gardener, Mr Murphy

We are grateful to Mrs Carmen Roberts, who has temporarily returned to the role of School Business Manager whilst we advertise the Business Manager vacancy; look out for the advertisement coming out today. We are also grateful that Mrs Dowker did not leave us at the end of the summer term, as stated in the July newsletter.

Attendance and Punctuality

We take attendance and punctuality very seriously at Heron Hill Primary School. Our attendance target this year is 97%, but all pupils should strive to achieve 100% attendance if they can. Our current attendance percentage is 95.8% so we can improve.

It is important that your child arrives at school every day and on time. This ensures children can have a calm and settled start to their morning. They are able to listen to the timetable for the day and begin learning straight away. Please make sure your child arrives on the yard at 8.45 am ready for **school starting at 8.50 am.**

Any child whose attendance falls below 90% is considered a persistent absentee. **12% of children have been persistently absent since the start of the new school year.** Schools are required to contact families if their child's attendance is at risk of dropping below 90% so that together we can take action to prevent this from happening. If you would like to speak to someone, please call into the office.