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SCHOOL MEMBER



HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

19th DECEMBER 2023

Hello Everyone

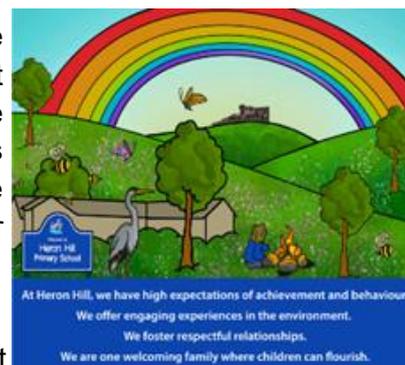
We celebrate the end of our autumn term already; it feels like it has come all too quickly. Reception children already feel so much part of our school family, having grown into their uniforms and school routines. Everyone has had a very busy and exciting time and we have finished the year with the most beautiful carol and nativity services in the Parish Church. Thank you to our pupils who shared readings and sang like heaven's choirs. I am very grateful to Shanthi Thompson, the Vicar at Kendal Parish Church, and her team for their hospitality and for sharing the message of love this Christmas.

Year 2 Nativity and Year 1 Carols Under the Canopy

The Year 2 children made us all proud with their performance of 'Lights Camels Action' and the Year 1 Carols under the Canopy was absolutely magical. No one will forget the Christmas Conga!

Heron Hill Vision Statement

Visitors to the school will have noticed our huge new vision statement in the foyer. We are grateful to Sun Signs in Kendal for their work producing this. It has been shaped with input from all stakeholders to align our priorities. The staff have worked hard this year to make sure their vision for Heron Hill is worked out in all the extra special enhanced experiences the children receive in class. Please see our new photo galleries on the class pages of our website.



Thank You

- To Governors who volunteer a huge amount of time to ensure that school delivers the best for the children, whatever the challenges as well as driving the continuity of our school's success.
- To Mr Hogg, cheerfully helping pupils and families to safely cross the road each day at the Spar.
- To our volunteers who have so generously given their time to hear readers, accompany children to swimming lessons and support educational visits.
- To parents and staff who support Friends of Heron Hill and have worked tirelessly together to offer the children a wide range of exciting and fun events, whilst raising money to fund further enriching experiences for each year group.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Trish Merritt

Headteacher



Reception's Nativity Service at the Parish Church

Anti-Racism Cumbria

Mrs Lawson represented our school at the Anti-Racist Cumbria (ARC) Summit on 2nd November. We are committed, as a school, to ARC's aim of *'tackling and ending racism through action and education to create a forward-thinking and actively anti-racist Cumbria, free from prejudice and systemic inequalities'*. Highlights of the day included hearing the ARC choir (of course!), taking part in a workshop about the impact of climate change on the Global South, and in particular listening to the renowned history professor, David Olusoga, who brought thought-provoking ideas to us all. He called for the need to reframe our local, national and international history to include a full and frank account from black and brown perspectives as well as white ones.

As a school, we know how important it is to help our children recognise and stand up against injustice. We have already audited our library to ensure our pupils have access to a wider variety of literature including books by black and brown authors, and worked with Year 5 pupils in RE to explore the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved People and its impact on us today. Looking at History and other areas of the curriculum will be a key consideration for us. In the Spring term Mrs Barber will also be sharing with staff an award-winning film produced by ARC with black and brown children from the local area called 'The Fell we Climb', about their experiences of growing up in Cumbria. We will then be looking at the teaching resources to accompany it with staff before sharing it with all the children.

If you would like to know more about the ARC summit or how we are dealing with this issue in school, please do contact Mrs Lawson, Mrs Barber or Mrs Wilkinson. More information about Anti Racist Cumbria can be found on their website: <https://antiracistcumbria.org/>

Mrs Lawson, RE and Global Links Lead

Lunchtime Resources Plea!

We are looking for soft toys, books, jigsaws, toys and games to be used indoors at lunchtimes. If you are having a pre-Christmas clear out then we would be very grateful to receive anything you no longer need. Please drop any donations off at the school office. Thank you.

Attendance

Whole school attendance so far this academic year is 95.7%. Attendance is incredibly important to the education of our children and makes a big difference to a child's ability to do well at school. We would like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers for continuing to support your children to attend school and engage so well with their learning so far this year.

Punctuality

Children miss important lessons, eg phonics and spelling, when regularly late. Remember to be in the line at 8.50 am every day.

Parking

Thanks to all our considerate 'parkers', we have had far fewer problems at drop off and pick up times recently. Please continue to park and drive carefully.

Dates for your Diary

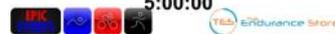
Wednesday 3 rd January	Return to school
Tuesday 23 rd January	Reception-Year 2 Pantomime, 'Beauty and the Beast'
Mon 5 th and Thurs 8 th February	Nursery Open Afternoon, 1.00 pm-2.00 pm
Friday 9 th February	Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 19 th February	Return to school

Nursery and Year 1 Montane Challenge

Nursery have been busy walking around the school grounds as part of the Montane Challenge. We have joined Year 1 in the challenge to collectively walk 105 miles. We have now completed the challenge and received a certificate for our efforts! We are hoping to also receive some book vouchers from the event organisers for taking part.



Heron Hill Primary School
Nursery and Year One
Completed The Lakeland
Festive Ultra Run
in a time of
5:00:00



Fundraising Champions

Year 6's Summer and Reenie raised £52 selling homemade jewellery on their Christmas Fair stall, all for Cancercare.

Aspen Tree Planting Project

What a day! On 30th November we planted nearly 200 trees at our school including an Aspen classroom. We were kindly gifted these trees from the BOOM project, a local community initiative to reintroduce a suite of locally threatened or extinct species to South Cumbria. Despite the frosty weather and hard ground, the sun was shining down and we just about managed to dig down and get planting. Over 80 children were involved plus parent helpers. Thank you so much for all the support. It was a day to remember for our school, an important step for us in working towards becoming an Eco School. We are a school that cares about the incredible planet we get the chance to enjoy every day!



Emily Ashworth

Celebrate: Friends of The Honey Bee Award

Heron Hill School has been awarded 'Friends of the Honey Bee' by the BBKA. We created bee curriculum work in art and science, continued with our pollinator planting and some year groups have even composed their own bee song! We now have the official logo which can be displayed on all our stationery and website. This will support our application for the Eco-award. Some of the curriculum ideas we use are on the BBKA website, which you could use for amazing bee activities during the Christmas holidays.



Nursery Winter Wonderland



We had lots of fun in our winter-themed workshop provided by the Wordsworth Cottage in Grasmere. We listened to stories and met some puppets including William Wordsworth! We also sang some winter songs together. The children enjoyed decorating their own icicles which we have displayed in nursery, it looks like Jack Frost has been!



South Lakes Inter-School SEND Bowling Competition

Earlier this term, a group of children went to Soul Bowl in Morecambe to take part in the South Lakes Inter-School SEND bowling competition. All children had a great time, working together and supporting each other to achieve a high score of 400 points. This meant Heron Hill were awarded second place and returned to school with silver medals and a fantastic trophy which is now on display in the foyer.



Year 2 Nativity

Year 2's nativity performances of 'Lights, Camel, Action!' were a great success. Their singing and dancing was funky and fantastic! Thank you to all parents who helped to sort the costumes.



The Choir at Heron Hill Care Home

Yesterday, our choir visited all three floors of the care home and sang to many residents; some were brought to tears by the familiar tunes and some happily sang and clapped along. The choir had a great visit to our neighbours.



Governor Insight: Kathryn Ritchie, Chair of Governors

As the term draws to a close and the Christmas season is upon us, I encourage you all to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year.

Take a moment to appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Headteacher and her staff and the role you have all played in helping to make our school safe and an enriching place to be for the children. Christmas time is more than just a holiday. It is the season of compassion and goodwill and a time for recognising what is important to us.

On behalf of the Governing Body I wish you all a Christmas full of harmony, laughter and creating memories with your children that will last a lifetime. Enjoy the festivities.



Year 6 Prefects

Our outgoing Prefects, Owen, Izzy, Darcey and Oscar write: *'This half-term we were Heron Hill's first ever prefects. As prefects, sadly our time is have coming to an end and we really enjoyed this time. Everyday at 3.00 pm we get the Y6 phones and hand them out and on Mondays we have had the best ever time by having some hot chocolate in the staff room and it is so good!*

We have enjoyed all of our jobs, although some have been more challenging than others such as decorating the hall for Christmas and helping at the Year 2 Christmas play and Nursery party. We would like to thank our teachers for picking us in the first place and also helping and supporting us on the way. The carol service was a good experience as we got to open the service and speak in front of the whole congregation. We had the privilege of showing off our lovely school to visitors too, and some of these were new parents to the school.

As we pass on our jobs and responsibilities, we hope the next prefects have as much fun as us.'

Mrs Merritt and other teachers joined this term's prefects for a last tea party today, where the prefects made thoughtful suggestions to make being a prefect even better for the next chosen children.

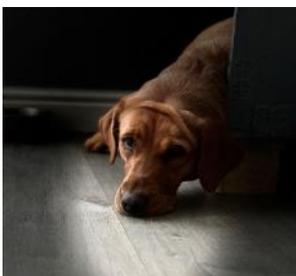


School Council

School Council have worked incredibly hard this term completing the next stage of the Green Flag Eco-Schools award. This has involved carrying out environmental audits to assess the school's effectiveness in ten strands including biodiversity, energy and healthy living. During this process, the children have talked to pupils, teachers, school leaders, office staff, the site manager and kitchen staff and have completed environmental surveys both inside the school building and of the school grounds. They have led whole school assemblies explaining the process and we are now in the final stages of completing our action plan, which we will begin implementing next term.

Photography Award

Leyla in Year 6 travelled to London to take part in an awards ceremony for the Young Photographer of the Year (under 12s Mobile Phones and Devices), and out of thousands of entries, Leyla's entry of her dog, Rosie, settling down for a nap, won 3rd place. We are delighted for Leyla.



On the London Stage!

Two pupils connected to Heron Hill School, one who left in the summer and Evie in Year 4, performed in a show at the Shaftsbury Theatre with Razzamataz Theatre School South Lakes in front of an audience of 1,400! Superstars!



500 Words

Among the thousands of entries submitted to the BBC 500 Words competition, a story by Year 2's Harriet called 'The Snail Who Went To Space' has made it through to the next round of judging. Please cross your fingers for shortlisting in January. Well done, Harriet.