



# HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER NO 1: 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022



Hello everyone!

Thank you to all who attended the 'Parent Information' sessions. I enjoyed meeting many new families.

Our teachers all mentioned reading during their presentations. Reading takes the prime place in our curriculum. It is a vital life skill which is essential for being able to understand every other subject. Research shows that children gain more new vocabulary from reading than any other source. This makes sense because we talk informally to one another. Books on the other hand, paint pictures in our imagination and deepen our knowledge with precision. At Heron Hill, we want all our children to develop a real love for reading. I would be very grateful if families could please listen to their child read as often as possible - at least three times a week. This allows children to practise phonics whilst they are young, then they can focus on understanding the text afterwards.

School Subject Leaders have purchased many more books in school to support teaching science topics and foundation subjects including history, geography, design technology and art. Have a look at the curriculum mapped out for your child on our website <https://www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk/curriculum.html> There are so many beautiful and accessible books, please use the recently refurbished Kendal Library or look out for books on sale whenever possible, in order to immerse your child in the wonderful world of reading.

*Trish Merritt*

Headteacher

### Curriculum Spotlight: Geography

**Mrs Corbett** is the Geography Subject Leader at Heron Hill. She is currently studying for the National Qualification in Subject Leadership. Along with all other subject leaders, last year she ensured that each year group covered her subject's material missed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, each teacher will revisit previous learning in geography and work out what the children remember, before they move on to new vocabulary.

- **Early Years** talk about the features of their immediate environment with visual representations eg classroom maps, Pete's story map around school, nature area map and read commons signs, etc.
- **Year 1** expands on this, looking at 'Our School'.
- **Year 2** uses maps to read and draw representations of the school.
- **Year 3** children study the water cycle.
- **Year 4** take this understanding further into climate zones, rainforests and biomes.
- **Year 5** build on their map work to learn about 6 figure grid references. They will use atlases, globes and compasses.
- **Year 6** learn about the location of Central and North America and will need all the above knowledge to read about the natural and man-made characteristics of this continent.

### Geography Quiz:

Can you point North from where you are now?

If you keep going North which country would you get to?

Which arrow on a compass points North?

What is the difference between a biome and a climate zone?

What is the difference between physical and human geography?



Over the course of the last three weeks, the children have been able to share their thoughts, memories and feelings about the Queen. These will be gathered together to form a special book for the school to look back on in years to come. We felt it very important to capture the children's response for future generations as well as to ensure they have been able to make sense of what has happened in our country.



### Police Notice

Our school PCSO Mark Walker has noted that in some places road markings around the school need to be repainted. He has informed the County Council, who have added this to their long list and the lines will be re-done going forward. He asked us to remind parents not to park on the yellow lines.

### Harvest Festival

We held our Harvest festival assemblies in school today. We are collecting donations of dried food, tins and packets to donate to Manna House. Please send in donations until Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Our School Councillors along with Mrs Patrick and parent helpers will deliver the donations to Manna House, which is an amazing resource providing food support for local families. We do appreciate that these are very testing times financially for many, many people but would be incredibly grateful for any small donations that you are able to spare.



### Hair Accessories

Hair bands, bobbles and other accessories should be kept simple, plain and unobtrusive. We have noticed some extravagant hair decorations which are inappropriate for school.

### Governor Insight: Kathryn Ritchie

Starting school for the first time or starting a new class brings with it a range of emotions. Rest assured that the highly skilled staff and governors of your school are committed to achieving the best for your child whether they are beginning or continuing their education journey. Critical to this is the partnership we develop with parents so it is important that we operate an open door policy at all times.

This is also a time of new beginnings for our Governing Body. Jacqui Cottam, a huge driving force for the past 5 years as Chair, moves into the role as Deputy Chair as I take up the role of Chair. Jacqui's impact as a Governor and Queen of the Bees is clearly evident throughout the school and I know she will continue to be an highly effective governor as well as an inspiration to us all.



During this current cost of living crisis, the staff and Governors will be very focused on getting the best outcomes we can for our children whilst making the most effective use of the school's finances and resources. We are fortunate to have a highly skilled and talented team of Governors who are experienced in managing budgets and finances. We will also do our very best to strengthening our support to families in order to ensure that no child is disadvantaged with regard to any costs associated with school. Whilst there are challenges ahead, it is important to remember that Heron Hill is a unique and special place that places children at the heart of all it does and it is that principle that will guide our Governing Body in all the decisions we take. Here's to a year full of promise, aspirations and enjoyment in learning.

### Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Closing date for donations to Manna House
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Special theme day for school lunch, check Lunchshop
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Supersonic Phonics and Early Reading Workshop, 2.30 pm <i>In this workshop, we will demonstrate our new innovative and exciting approach to teaching phonics. You will be able to see how to effectively support your child's first steps in reading. This workshop will also be useful for parents who would like to help with reading in school.</i>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Friends of Heron Hill AGM, 5.30 pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Maths Workshop (TTRS and Numbots), 2.15 pm. Information to follow
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	End of half term, 3.15 pm
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Return to School
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Closing date for secondary school applications
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Individual and Family Photographs