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admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

21st OCTOBER 2022



SCHOOL MEMBER



Hello everyone

Thank you to everyone who brought in packets and tins for our Harvest Festival. Mrs Patrick led the School Council on a visit to Manna House to donate our gifts and everyone found it an incredibly rewarding experience. Our exciting new School Council is brimming with more charity, art and history projects for the coming year.

This has been a very busy half term with so many wonderful things happening at Heron Hill. All our new staff, Mrs Hunter, Miss Wilson and Miss McMinn have settled into our school family.

Sadly however, it is time to bid farewell to Mrs Roberts. She has served the school faithfully for over 30 years. Throughout that time her own children and grandchildren have benefitted, as have many generations of Kendal families, from her tireless commitment to this school. Carmen Roberts and Heron Hill are almost synonymous. She has worked for decades behind the scenes to keep the finances running with great expertise, transparent integrity and honest management.



Carmen puts the families first at Heron Hill School. She is the first point of contact, the friendly face on the gate and the answer to every enquiry on the telephone. Always the first to arrive at school, she is often the last to leave. She quite simply knows everything about Heron Hill. She will be greatly missed in the office and by everyone in school, but we wish her well in her retirement. We wish her all the best as she has time to enjoy her children, grandchildren and new home. We will strive to continue to serve our families with the same example of dedication she has shown to us.

Ms Debra Worthington is taking over as School Business Manager and Mrs Amy Roberts will start as receptionist from after the half term holiday - we welcome them both to the Heron Hill team.

Until this week, the weather has been beautiful. We have enjoyed a long summer. This has extended the amount time the outdoors could be used every day by every child. It still delights me to see whole classes walking out to the woods or Secret Garden for their lessons. Bike safety training and PE lessons have taken place in the sunshine! Year 4 and Year 6 have enjoyed using our 6-acre grounds for orienteering courses. Mrs Harper and Mrs Cottam have taken classes to make soup and salad with home grown vegetables. These are truly memorable experiences!

Best wishes

Trish Merritt
Headteacher



Online Safety– Message from PCSO Mark Walker

On Wednesday 19th October I came into school to deliver our Internet Safety message to very engaging Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Children regularly use different websites and apps, and it can be hard to keep up in this ever-changing digital world, but the things that help keep children safe online are often similar to the things that keep them safe offline. Popular platforms with children and young people include Snapchat, Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter.



TOP TIPS

- If your child wants to use a social media platform, create the profile together and make sure the privacy settings are set to the highest level.
- Do not post personal details including addresses, mobile number, school name, DOB, This is all private personal information.
- Explain that whatever goes on the internet can live there forever. Even if you remove a picture, it could be copied or saved by someone and posted elsewhere on an Internet platform. This then could potentially go viral.
- Talk to your child about their username and password choice and explain that you need to know these details for safety/safeguarding reasons. Make sure their password cannot be easily guessed.

Think about your child's online activity much like you think about their offline activity. You can have rules just as you do in the offline world. These could be about when and where they can access different social media platforms, whether they are allowed to post pictures of themselves or if they are allowed to open new profiles without talking with you first. Remind them that if anything happens that makes them feel uncomfortable or scared to firstly tell you before taking any other action.

Parking

Please be considerate of other road users. The area outside the school has become very dangerous for pedestrians. If you can, please park away from the school and walk in.

We have heard that the Leisure Centre is enforcing the use of parking discs in their car park. You can park there free of charge for up to 3 hours if you display your parking disc but some people who did not, have received £50 fines.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 21 st October	End of half term, 3.15 pm
Monday 31 st October	Return to school
Tuesday 1 st November	School Photograph Day - individual and family photographs
Friday 11 th November	First term reports will be sent home
Thursday 17 th November	Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.30 pm
Tuesday 22 nd November	Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm
Wednesday 23 rd November	Nasal flu inoculations, Reception-Year 6
Thursday 24 th November	Reception and Year 6 weights and measures
Thursday 24 th November	FoHH Christmas Shopping Evening, adults only—7.00 pm-9.00 pm
Tuesday 13 th December	Reception carol service at the Parish Church, morning
Wednesday 14 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 carol service at the Parish Church, 10.00 am
Wednesday 14 th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 16 th December	Year 3-Year 6 carol service at the Parish Church, 2.00 pm
Tuesday 20 th December	End of term, 3.15 pm

Year 6 have been busy!

We have enjoyed a couple of outdoor learning activities recently in Year 6:

- we did a fitness orienteering course where children explored the grounds of school whilst completing fitness challenges
- we have entered a leaf art competition to win a trip for our classes. Here is our collaborative leaf art – 'Bee Leaf in yourself' is what we have called it,
...aaaaand we have had a Year 5/6 assembly with Mark Walker (PCSO) about online safety.



Year 2 Art Workshop

Artist Chas Jacobs worked with Year 2 all day, his visit was funded by FOHH. The children learned lots of new skills and had clear artist demonstrations. They each created a water colour painting in the morning, which they added pastels to in the afternoon and then we talked about Kendal landmarks as Chas drew out a Kendal landscape, which will we be painting over the next few terms to produce a new piece of art for the school.

Flight of the Bumble Bees

Year 3 pupils have learned some bee songs and performed one in an assembly in which Mrs Harper told us all about bees and explained that she was giving out a jar of honey to everyone!

We have listened to Flight of the Bumble Bee, found out about the instruments that played it and collaboratively painted to the music (see below).

We are now working on a class bee composition of our own.

Harvest Appeal - Manna House

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our harvest appeal. The School Council delivered a carload of food and bedding to Manna House staff. They were very appreciative and took the time to talk to the School Councillors about their work for the homeless, the vulnerably housed and the lonely.





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.

Further information and application forms are available at

www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

or by contacting the school office – telephone 01539 721276

or email admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Successful applicants to start as soon as possible.

learning together playing together growing together

Cumbria in Bloom and Kendal in Bloom

Heron Hill School has done remarkably well in this year's Cumbria in Bloom and Kendal in Bloom competitions. We got Gold for Biodiversity, Gold for our woods and Gold for our school entry (scoring 99/100) and we were the winner of the Rex Marsden Challenge Trophy - a special award for Enriching And Widening The Curriculum. Our thanks must go to Mrs Karen Harper, outdoor lead teacher and Mrs Jacqui Cottam, Chair of governors, both of them our Bee Queens and champions of the natural world.

On their autumn walk, Reception children each planted an acorn. Hopefully, these will grow into mighty oaks, a legacy for years to come.



Governor Insight: Duncan Shaw

So... two months into my first term, after you appointed me as your shiny new parent governor (thank you to all who voted for me!) and a lot seems to have happened already.

My congratulations firstly must go to the Senior Leadership Team and all the staff for showing off the school at its best during the recent Ofsted inspection. The usual 24 hours' notice hit us on Monday 3rd October, followed by two days being put through the wringer! Reading, phonics, maths and history were given the 'deep dive' and DT and RE were checked and challenged as well. As it has been several years since our last Ofsted and we have a new Headteacher, we knew we were high on the list. An inspection is always a trying time for staff, and we commend them for their professionalism and ability to cope with the scrutiny. We probably can all relate and remember in our academic past the stress and strain of being assessed! Once the report is published we will have some time to fulfil its recommendations. To those who filled out the Ofsted parents' response form, THANK YOU! It helps give a broader insight into the school for the inspector.

A bit more about where I fit in now and how I want to add value going forward...

I have joined the governors 'Premises Committee' and we are responsible for the structure and fabric of the school. With 6 acres to look after this is no mean feat. Governors partner with the County Council and the school to keep the built school environment, in which your children learn and play, as inspirational as possible. During Covid, we had some great outside spaces created to get the children outside and continually learning. We are now turning our view internally, to keep things in tip top condition. We hope to be improving some areas soon. Watch this space!

My main priority when I went for Governorship, was getting children outside more; this came from wanting children to have time to enjoy the area we live in, to give them an opportunity to see what surrounds them, in the school grounds, within Kendal and throughout this amazing area of the country we live in. I hope to meet up with the SLT and Outdoor Lead soon to see what we can do to take further advantage of our wonderful grounds and benefit from the fantastic environment and opportunity that surrounds us.



learning together, playing together, growing together