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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

28th MARCH 2024



SCHOOL MEMBER



Hello Everyone

The last few weeks have flown by and this week has been no exception. There have been so many extraordinary visits and visitors across school this term: Reception-Year 2 Beauty and the Beast pantomime, Key Stage 2 classes to Kendal Museum, Quaker Tapestry, Kendal Parish Church and the Brewery Dance Platform, Year 6 had a memorable residential in Manchester and Year 5 are currently in York on their residential. Visitors into school have included our MP Tim Farron, Kendal Climbing Wall, and Travelling by Tuba, World Book Day was enhanced by Jane McFie, who read aloud to every class and Year 5 had an Engineering workshop on Biomimicry. I would also like to say well done and thank you to our wonderful choir, talented musicians and music teachers for the hugely enjoyable spring 'Melodies for our Planet' music concert. As well as showcasing the children's talents, this special event raised money for our Kenya link. Thank you for your generous donations. The Kenya team are leaving this weekend to spend a week with Open Arms Academy in Eldoret, Kenya. If you would like to know more about this important global links work, please visit the new page about Open Arms Academy on the school website: <https://www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk/page/?title=Kenya+Link&pid=56>

It was lovely to be able to welcome so many families into school for Parents' Evenings recently. If you missed this opportunity or would like to discuss any more aspects of your child's education, we do encourage you to approach the office and make another appointment. Your children's happiness is our primary concern.



I am delighted the Key Stage 1 yard is having an oak climbing structure built. I am sure you will agree it will provide hours of good quality play and imagination for our children. A sincere thank you to *Friends of Heron Hill* who made a substantial donation towards this and whose fundraising makes such a difference. Miss Ashworth had the original inspiration for this and it is wonderful that she should see this project completed before she moves on to pastures new.

Save the date: on **Friday 5th July** (backup date of 12th July in case of bad weather) we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Heron Hill Primary School! We have so much planned for this event; excitement has begun already. Each year group is studying a decade between now and 1974 and will share something of their learning with our families outside under the Cube. Parents are warmly invited to attend and take their children to the Summer Fair that will follow afterwards. We are jointly planning this celebratory occasion with Friends of Heron Hill who are looking for as many volunteers as possible to help with the stalls and exciting plans they have afoot. Please see their updated webpage: <https://www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk/page/?title=Friends+of+Heron+Hill&pid=139>

Finally, all that remains is for me to thank all of our families for their support and to wish all of you a very happy Easter.

Trish Merritt
Headteacher

Year 5 Troupe at the Brewery Dance Platform

The Brewery Dance was AMAZING! At first it was nerve-wracking but when we stepped on stage everything changed. Check it out here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A5YY9YbzlfW7bulzrSXVQjKmh5XIQ3LJ/view?usp=sharing> (written by Dance Troupe Members)



World Book Day Winners

Costume

Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

- 1st Kade K—Whale and the Snail (Reception)
 2nd Ava W—Scarecrow (Reception)
 3rd Theo L—Enormous Crocodile (Nursery)

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

- 1st Robyn S—Betty Scarecrow's Wedding (Y1)
 2nd Maisie H—Little Raindrop (Y1)
 3rd Lawson S—Dogman (Y2)

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

- 1st Lola R—Gangster Gran (Y4)
 2nd Sophie H—Isadora (Y3)
 3rd Toby M—Monkey (Y3)

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

- 1st Chris Hope—Tom Gates (Y5)
 2nd Poppy C—The Christmasaurus (Y5)
 3rd Grace G—Luna Lovegood (Y6)

All the costumes and craft on the day were immensely creative and wonderful, well done everyone. Thank you to our judges, Mr Hogg, Mr Stanger, Mr Steele-Davidson and Mystery Cow Person.



Craft

- Ezra H—Starmaker's Apprentice (Reception)
 Charlie S—I Quit (Reception)
 Maia D—Superworm (Reception)

- Seth G—Spot the Dinosaur (Y1)
 Freya H—The Magic Faraway Tree (Y2)
 Sophie B—Unicorn and the Rainbow (Y2)

- Thea B—The World's Worst Monsters (Y4)
 Charlie R—Dogman (Y3)
 Kady M—Pinocchio (Y4)

- Niranjana S—Poster (Y5)
 Layla Y—The Last Firefox (Y6)
 Kanyinsola A—Her own story (Y6)



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

The government has launched a national campaign, focusing on the importance of school attendance. From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. Please see the school website for more details.



ATTENDANCE

From September 2023-15th March

95.2%

Young Carers

Did you know there are around 120,000 young carers aged 5-18 in England? (2021

ONS Census). A Young Carer is someone under 18 who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. We are proud to work with Young Carers and offer a space for them to support children in school. If you think that your child would benefit from this or would like to find out more, please speak to Mrs Little.



Our next Tea and Talk session will be held on Wednesday 8th May at 9.00 am. Come and join us for a chance to meet together informally to gain support from each other (as families) and seek guidance and information on various topics that support your child's development and wellbeing. Sam Hill (Public Health Practitioner) will be talking about the importance of sleep, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. Everyone is welcome. To find out more, please speak to Mrs Little.

School Meal Price Increase

All children in Reception to the end of Year 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, at no charge to parents/carers. Nursery and other children's meals all incur a cost unless you are eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant. Orian, our school meals provider, has raised its costs and so we need to pass on this increase to parents/carers. From 16th April, the price of a Nursery meal will be £2.30 and the price of a school meal for Year 3-Year 6 children will be £3.15.



Easter Egg Designs

YOU ARE **ALL** AWESOME! Here are the prizewinners....

... and some of the prized.

FIRST

SECOND

THIRD

Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery/Reception)

Caleb H (Reception) George J (Reception) Jace R (Nursery)



Key Stage 1 (Year 1/Year 2)

Samuel R (Year 1)

Lincoln N (Year 1)

Elsie Jane M (Year 1)



Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3/Year 4)

Annabelle C (Year 3)

Evie G (Year 4)

Edward S (Year 4)



Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5/Year 6)

Reenie P (Year 6)

Molly P (Year 5)

Sophia D (Year 5)



Family Learning 'Bounceback-ability': Report from a Parent

This is a great course which helps parents/carers look at ways of supporting children while they deal with many everyday situations. You spend time with your child, working on resources, ideas and information that can be used at home to help children become rounded and resilient mini humans! If you get the chance to join this course, I strongly recommend it.

ParentMail

Please read letters we send you via ParentMail so that you are up to date with announcements. As an example, many parents missed the important update we sent about the new booking system for the Hive. Please let the office know if you do not receive ParentMails from us. Downloading the ParentMail app ensures all the emails are easily accessible and searchable.

Nursery, September 2024

If you have a child who will turn three on or before 31st August 2024 and you have not yet applied to our Nursery, please contact the school office.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15 th April	INSET Day, staff training
Tuesday 16 th April	Return to school
Tuesday 30 th April	Class photograph day
Thursday 2 nd May	FoHH May Day Disco, more information to follow
Wednesday 8 th May	Tea and Talk, 9.00 am - Sleep and Healthy Habits
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs begin
Monday 20 th May	Walk to School Week begins
Thursday 23 rd May	FoHH Pollinator Sponsored Walk, afternoon
Friday 24 th May	End of half term, 3.15 pm

Travelling By Tuba

We welcomed back the musical duo 'Travelling by Tuba' who led assemblies for everyone from Reception to Year 6. Laughter rang out from the hall as the musicians used a variety of instruments to educate, entertain and enthral your child.



Sports News

Cross Country National Finals

We sent two pupils to the finals in Leicester in early March, Silvie (Year 6) and Poppy (Year 5). There were hundreds of children in each race and our children joined the team of 12 representing Cumbria. They both ran really well even though Silvie had been unwell beforehand. Poppy came in the top half in a field of over 250 children and the Cumbria team came second overall. Well done to our runners!



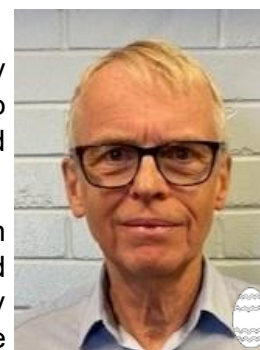
Regional Finals - Ten Pin Bowling

In November, a team of pupils competed in a bowling competition in Morecambe and placed second. This meant it was time for another adventure! Bradley P, Chase P, George D and Jamie D travelled to Bolton to take part in the final. They had lots of fun working together and supporting each other to compete against 22 other schools from the North West.

Governor Insight: Chris Stanger

I am Chris Stanger, I have recently joined the governing body of Heron Hill Primary School. I have already had the pleasure of meeting some of you and I look forward to getting to know everyone. I have two grandchildren in school, one just starting out and the other midway through school.

Coming from an engineering background and having been a governor, I decided upon a career change to become a teacher. After several educational roles in varied settings both at home and abroad, I retired to Kendal. In my leisure time, I enjoy sailing out of Arnside and singing with South Lakes Acappella. I have helped the school with practical tasks such as reglazing the Reception garden Wendy House, assembling book shelves and building a reading shelter in Nursery. This skill set has been recognised by the governing body, and I have been appointed to the Premises Committee. Furthermore, I am honoured to be representing the school on the visit to Kenya over Easter with two members of staff. I hope to work alongside Kenyan teaching staff to support practical lessons, including technical drawing. I hope my time at Heron Hill will be productive and that I can make a difference. Finally, may I wish you a fun and happy Easter on behalf of the school governors.



School Council

School Council has been incredibly busy this term working towards achieving their Green Flag Eco-Schools award. Each of the three focus groups (Waste, Marine and Energy) has been working on their next steps on their action plan. This has included taking part in the Great Cumbrian Litter Pick, monitoring plastic consumption and electrical energy usage across school and starting to compost all of the fruit and vegetable waste from morning snack across the whole school. More to come next term!



Staff News

- Congratulations to Mrs Lowther on the safe arrival of Harry and to Mrs H Hudson on the safe arrival of Jasper, who has already had his first visit to school!
- Farewell to Mrs Barber in Reception, who is leaving Heron Hill and teaching after 17 years here to join an educational resources company, and to Miss Ashworth in Year 1, who is moving to a local school for a promotion. You have both been marvellous, we wish you well and we will miss you both.
- We are happy to welcome back Mrs Moorhouse from maternity leave and Mrs Ladds, who will return after Easter.
- We are advertising an Early Years Foundation Stage Team Leader vacancy, see the school website for more details.
- We wish Mrs Lawson, Miss Holmes and Mr Stanger an amazing, educational and inspirational time at Open Arms Academy, Kenya over the Easter holiday.

