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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO. 5

23rd MAY 2024



Hello Everyone

It was lovely to welcome so many Year 3 and Year 4 families into school this week for the children's truly memorable performance of 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'. The children delivered their lines confidently and sang so well; we feel incredibly proud of them.

Year 4 staff and pupils are positively looking forward to their multiplication tables check in June. Having received a letter from the minister for schools last year congratulating us on our excellent results, we feel we know what we are doing. These hurdles cannot be leapt over so smoothly without the years of prior learning in Year 3 and 2 regularly practising tables. Year 5 and 6 teachers have said how much easier it is for children to apply their skills to solving maths problems when children have automatic multiplication and division facts at their fingertips, especially when they meet fractions and percentages. Thank you to parents who attended the recent maths Numbots and TTRS workshop. Please approach your class teacher if you want to know how to support your child at home.

I am so proud of our Year 6 pupils and the way they approached their SATs, see article further in the newsletter.

Year 1 are currently preparing for the Phonics Screening Check and, as we all know, reading is the gateway to all other learning opportunities. The wide range of new books children have access to in every year group has meant they can experience, compare and discover favourite authors. The KS2 SATs reading booklets for 2023 and every prior year are freely accessible on the internet. As you can see, the amount of reading required to reach expected standard does require fluency and pace which only comes from reading and sharing books daily with adults across the primary years.

Can I remind parents that mobile phones should only be brought to school by pupils if absolutely necessary and must be handed in on arrival. School takes no responsibility for any loss or damage. The phones should already be switched off and must not be switched back on until pupils are well away from school.

We will start next half term with our Nursery Open Afternoon from 2.00 pm-6.00 pm on Monday 3rd June. Please do invite friends and family to see the new outdoor facilities we have and to meet our friendly, experienced Nursery staff team.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for Heron Hill's 50th anniversary celebration on Friday, 5th July from 1.00 pm, followed by the Friends of Heron Hill (FOHH) Summer Fair (12th July if postponed by the weather). Please volunteer FOHH your support and help at this fundraising event if you can spare an hour or two. It promises to be a very special and fun afternoon of entertainment by each of the year groups, followed by the opportunity to tour school and take a look back over the last five decades. If any families have photographs of themselves at Heron Hill in years gone by that they are willing to share, please email them to the school office (admin1@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk). We hope to put together a 'newsreel' of happy memories to share with everyone at our 50th anniversary celebration.

May I wish you all a lovely, restful half term break.

Trish Merritt

Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

There is now a calendar of events on the school website, please go to www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk—Parent and Pupil Home Learning—Parent Calendar.

Friday 24 th May	End of half term, 3.15 pm
Monday 3 rd June	Return to school
Monday 3 rd June	Nursery Open Afternoon, 2.00 pm-6.00 pm
3 rd -7 th June	Kenya Week ending in Kenya Day on Friday 7 th June
w/b 3 rd June	Wall hanging work taking place
3 rd -14 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Thursday 6 th June	Book Fair, 2.45 pm-4.00 pm, for all year groups
w/b 10 th June	Year 1 (and some Year 2) Phonics Screening Checks
Tuesday 11 th June	Reception Sports Day, 1.30 pm (reserve date Monday 17 th June)
Wednesday 12 th June	Year 5 Enterprise Fair, all invited, 2.30 pm-4.00 pm
Thursday 13 th June	Year 1/Year 2 Sports Day, 1.15 pm (reserve date Thursday 20 th June)
Friday 14 th June	Marigold Day/Mufti Day
Friday 14 th June	Nursery Sports Afternoon, 1.30 pm (reserve date Wednesday 19 th June)
Wednesday 19 th June	Year 3/Year 4 Sports Day, 9.15 am (reserve date Friday 28 th June). Please note: This is a change of date.
Wednesday 26 th June	Reception New Starters Parents' Information Meeting, 5.30 pm
Friday 28 th June	Reports to parents
Monday 1 st July	Year 6 Induction day at secondary schools (not Dallam)
Tuesday 2 nd July	Year 5/Year 6 Sports Day, from 9.15 am (reserve date Thursday 11 th July)
Tuesday 2 nd July	Optional parent consultations evening, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm
Wednesday 3 rd July	Optional parent consultations evening, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm
Thursday 4 th July	Transition morning for Reception-Year 5 pupils
Friday 5 th July	50 th Anniversary Celebration and Friends of Heron Hill Summer Fair, 1.00 pm-5.00 pm (reserve date Friday 12 th July)
Tuesday 9 th July	Year 6 SATs results day
Friday 19 th July	End of term, 3.15 pm



Friends of Heron Hill Tea Towels

Look out for a letter from Friends of Heron Hill to order 50th Anniversary tea towels, which will include your child's drawing of themselves.

Music Lessons

Parents/carers of pupils in Years 2-5 have received a ParentMail letter asking if their child would like to begin, continue or stop music lessons from September. Please return the Google form by Friday 7th June. Options include piano, brass, guitar, violin and woodwind lessons.

Staff News

- Miss Holmes, Nursery HLTA, leaves Heron Hill this week, we wish her well in the travels ahead of her.
- Mrs Laura Harte has been appointed as the School Business Manager and will initially share the role with Mrs C Roberts.
- Miss Rebecca Storey has been appointed as Early Years Team Leader and we warmly welcome both new full-time appointments from September.

Kenya Visit

Over the Easter holidays Mrs Lawson, Miss Holmes and governor Chris Stanger visited our partner school, Open Arms Academy, Kenya. They supported teaching colleagues by sharing ideas in music, phonics, Early Years provision, technical drawing and maths. They also worked with the children who live in the Children's Homes on Easter activities and learned how the Community Enterprise Project helps to lift families out of poverty.

We have been fundraising for this link over the past few months. After covering some travel costs, we have a fund of over £2,000 which will be allocated to projects related to Open Arms, with a focus on music and environmental projects. Our grateful thanks to everyone who has supported this link.



Year 6 SATs

It was a very busy and intense time for our Year 6 children last week as they had their SAT tests. They have all been brilliant and we are all so proud of them. Every child came into school with a positive attitude and throughout the week they showed great resilience and determination to do their very best. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have worked so hard with the children to support and prepare them for SATs week. There were thirteen staff supporting the children throughout the tests as well as Mr Stanger, who represented our school governors, and Mrs Knight, a former Chair of Governors and current volunteer, to support each day. Our School Adviser, Joanne Tattersall, visited and commented on the excellent pastoral support the children received. We enjoy bringing the best out of our children here at Heron Hill, whilst building their confidence to take on new challenges. *Mrs Merritt*



SCHOOL DAYS ARE PACKED WITH MOMENTS OF...

CURIOSITY, WONDER AND CONNECTION.

SEARCH 'ATTENDANCE' ON THE EDUCATION HUB

MOMENTS MATTER. ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

NHS

ATTENDANCE

From September 2023-mid-May 2024

95.4%

Year 2 Visit to Windermere

Year 2 had a fantastic geography field trip. We travelled on a train from Oxenholme to Windermere, had a lovely walk up School Knott and a delicious picnic at the top. All around us we could see many physical geographical features, eg hills, the lake and trees, as well as human geographical features, eg fences, train tracks and buildings. Then we had a quick ice lolly stop before the train and walk back. *Miss Wilson*



School Council

School Council have been very busy completing the next steps on their action plan to achieve their Green Flag Eco-Schools award. The Marine team is working with artist, Kerry Howarth to create an eye catching display raising awareness of plastics in the ocean and Waste team is investigating creatures living in the soil using microscopes and learning how to compost with Frankie Kennett from Garden Organic.



Decider Life Skills

The 'Decider Life Skills for Parents' workshop aims to equip you with essential skills to support children to recognise their own thoughts, feelings and behaviours, enabling them to monitor and manage their own emotions and mental health. This event will be a packed interactive session led by experienced Primary Mental Health Practitioners with an opportunity to connect with other parents, share experiences and ask questions. Reserve your place now for this workshop and embark on a transformative journey towards increased mindfulness, less stress and more effective communication for you and your family.

The sessions will take place on MS Teams 4.00 pm-5.00 pm on Tuesday 25th June or Tuesday 6th August. Please email MyTime for more information and to book your place: mytimecumbria@barnardos.org.uk



Year 4 Readers

Scan this QR code to hear Year 4 pupils share their love of reading.



Sports News

Schools' Ski Race

This was a fantastic afternoon where 114 children from 16 local primary schools came together to race in teams. Heron Hill School entered 2 teams. Both teams performed really well with Team Heron Hill 1 getting a podium place, finishing 2nd overall closely beaten by Ghyllside. Kendal Ski Club is welcoming to anyone who wants to give skiing a go. Thank you to Laura Eastham for organising the teams.

Susan Light



Hi Five Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 2nd May, Heron Hill hosted the Netball Festival with 8 local schools arriving with 13 teams of Year 6 girls. Our Helvellyn team won 2 of their games with magnificent goals from Ava who scored 4 and Emmie with 2, ending up 4th in their group. Our Scafell team won 1 game with a super goal from Izzy. The referees from Kirkbie Kendal school did a marvellous job of keeping the games quick and fair. We would also like to give a special thanks to Mrs Foster for all of her hard work throughout! All of the teams did a great job and we had a wonderful time under the warm sun! Thank you to our Year 6 helpers who did their jobs well too.

George and Owen (Chief reporters and photographers)



Governor Insight: Sarah Corbett, Co-opted Governor


As well as being a governor, I have had the pleasure of teaching in Year 3 for the past 7 years. During this time, I have been supported to complete the National Professional Qualification for Leading Teaching (NPQLT). As a result of this, I have created a geography curriculum for our school, centred on our unique geographical location. The geography journey begins in the Early Years and the children continue to build on their knowledge and develop new skills throughout their time at Heron Hill.



Outside of school, I have a love of the outdoors and enjoy nothing more than being out in all weathers walking on the hills or paddling on one of the many lakes. We are surrounded by beauty and I feel so lucky to live in such an incredible place. As geography lead, I am also grateful for our extensive grounds which provide the children with so many rich experiences and opportunities for learning about the world around them. This is an exciting time of year, with so many wonderful events to look forward to. It is such a pleasure to be able to take the children's learning outside and to see all of the wonderful ways in which our school grounds are used.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Please remember to invite anyone you know who has ever had any connection to the school to our anniversary celebration on Friday 5th July, from 1.00 pm, which will be followed by our Friends of Heron Hill Summer Fair (12th July if weather affected). If you can help to run a stall for part of the afternoon, please let the school office or FOHH know.

- Bunting Volunteers: We are going to make bunting out of worn out school uniform. Is someone in the family handy with a sewing machine and willing to sew a few triangles? Please let Mrs Greenwood, Miss Light or Mrs Lehane in the school office know.
- Textile Wall Hanging: Some parents and grandparents have already volunteered to help to create this, but more are welcome, please contact the school office if you can help.
- Marigolds: On Friday 14th June, your child can wear their own clothes to school in return for donations of yellow or orange-flowering bedding plants, which will be used to fill the large soil '50' some of our pupils have created. Please help to make this flower bed  a blooming success.

