

*Celebrating 50 years of*



**HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER NO. 6**

**19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**



*Our Anniversary '50' flowerbed filled with marigolds etc*

Hello Everyone

I really cannot believe the time has come to say goodbye. I am so thankful for the time I have had at Heron Hill. It is truly the most memorable and exciting place to be. I am so glad I have had the opportunity to get to know so many of you and work with an amazing dedicated staff.

This week we also say farewell to Mrs Jessop who has cared for our reception children since Easter. Mrs Ladds is also moving on after 12 years of service here in our community. We are looking forward to getting to know Mrs Harte who starts full-time in September as School Business Manager. Mrs Carmen Roberts will continue to work alongside her for the first part of the year.

The children across school settled beautifully during their transition days and everyone in school is excited about next year.

At the beginning of the year each key stage shared their enhanced curriculum on their class webpage. These experiences have multiplied as the year has progressed. There has been campfire cooking, bear picnics in the woods, whittling, veg and flower growing, pirate parties, the Enterprise Project, visits to Kendal Castle, museums, Kendal Mountain Film Festival, Easedale Tarn, River Kent, Ingleton, Manchester, Vindolanda and the Quaker Tapestry. I am thrilled to say future plans to extend the outdoor and adventurous experiences are afoot for the coming year.

Year 6 performed their moving leavers' assembly yesterday. They have shown themselves to be great team players, talented singers and speakers, and able to take responsibility for their future and learning. We are immensely proud of the Class of 2024. Many memories were shared about the fantastic sporting events they had been involved in. These have included: netball, cross country, cricket, swimming and many other fun, jam-packed competitions! On behalf of the children thank you to all the parents and teachers who have taught them, cared for them and worked passionately for their success.

This was the first year we appointed Year 6 class Prefects to role model behaviour and responsibility. This role has grown and spread to their peers who have enjoyed opportunities to be nursery helpers and buddy readers. They are so competent at their roles and have shone throughout the school. The younger children appreciate the kindness and friendships they have offered.

There are some vital people I also wish to say thank you to on behalf of the children:

- firstly, to all of the governors who have supported pupils' education behind the scenes, with many hours of work in voluntary service;
- to the teaching staff who have taught the children with dedication, care and great expertise;
- to the families who have worked in close partnership with school. As always, thank you very much for your continued support for the school and
- to the Friends of Heron Hill for the events we have shared and enjoyed throughout the year.

I give my best wishes to Lucy Middleton, your new Headteacher, she has told me she feels like she has won the lottery coming to this school, please give her a warm welcome. I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer,

*Trish Merritt*

Headteacher



Mrs Merritt with Mrs Middleton, new Headteacher

## Eco-School Update

School Council took part in a workshop from the charity Ocean Generation (see photograph below) . They learnt about the benefits of the ocean to our planet, the impact of micro plastic pollution and what we can all do to save our oceans. As School Council will tell you, now is the time to rethink our plastic use, reduce, reuse and recycle!



We are doing all we can to become an official 'Eco School' and part of the process is to create our own Eco-Code. Here is the song Year 5 pupils have composed, which we are all going to learn to sing next year.

### Our Heron Hill Eco-Code

*We're an Eco-School – it's so cool!  
We'll save the planet -  
Let's make it our rule!*

To stop pollution we have a solution:  
Switch off the lights and turn off the board;  
Walk to school - it is so cool  
So turn your Car around, get your feet on the ground!

So much food wasted every day  
We need to do it a better way  
Put your peelings in the compost bins  
We're going to get some very big wins!

When there's plastic in the sea the fish get stuck  
Here's our promise to Clean it up:  
We're going to Cause a big commotion  
There's too much plastic in the ocean!

Let's work together to save our planet  
Planting trees is helping the Climate  
Let's grow more veg and do what's right  
Choose the Eco way and join the fight!

*We're an Eco-School – it's so cool!  
We'll save the planet -  
Let's make it our rule!*

Lyrics and tune created by Year 5, Summer 2024

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

From September  
2023-mid-July 2024  
attendance was

**95.2%**

## Year 2 Visit to Heaves Farm

This term, Year 2 went to Heaves Farm to learn all about farming. We watched a sheep dog at work herding sheep, it was very impressive! Then we saw some sheep being sheared, the farmer told us that each coat was only worth 60p! Next, we went to see some young calves with their mothers, we even saw a calf being born! We held a very cute, fluffy chick and made and tasted some eggy bread, it was delicious. We learnt so much about how produce from farms is used, including milk, eggs, meat and wool. We really enjoyed our day out at the farm and learnt so much. *By Freddie G and Joshua*



## Dates for your Diary

There is a calendar of events on the school website, please go to [www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk—Parent and Pupil Home Learning—Parent Calendar](http://www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk—Parent and Pupil Home Learning—Parent Calendar).

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Return to School
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2 parent/carers' information meeting, 2.45 pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3 parent/carers' information meeting, 2.45 pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 parent/carers' information meeting, 2.45 pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 1 parent/carers' information meeting, 2.45 pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 4 parent/carers' information meeting, 2.45 pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 parent/carers' information meeting, 2.45 pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery Open Afternoon for January admissions, 1.00 pm-2.00 pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery Open Afternoon for January admissions, 1.00 pm-2.00 pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3 swimming lessons begin
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Nasal flu inoculations, Reception-Year 6 (more information in September)
w/b Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 5 Level 2 Bikeability training
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 SATs and residential information meeting, evening
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Torchlight Night Parade
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	End of half term, 3.15 pm



Months of preparation led to a wonderful celebration on 5<sup>th</sup> July to mark the golden anniversary of Heron Hill School. Mrs Merritt welcomed the many parents, carers, neighbours and old members of staff. Past and current Year 6 Prefects introduced each year group's performance.

The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor Jonathan Cornthwaite, spoke of the move in 1974 from Kendal Parish School to Heron Hill County Primary School, under the Headship of Mr Sam Inglesfield. Then each year group sang songs from one of the decades: Nursery and Reception celebrated the NHS during Covid and sang 'Green Green Grass', Year 1 sang 'Let It Go' from Frozen with gusto, Year 2 were adorable Minions and sang Pharell Williams' 'Happy', Year 3 sang and danced to S-Club 7's 'Reach for the Stars', Year 4 learned all the moves to dance along to a 90s mixed tape, including the Macarena, Year 5 were terrific zombies, taking over the stage to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' and Year 6 sang 'Don't Stop Me Now' by Queen and danced to 'Boogie Wonderland'. The Choir sang 'Our Time to Shine' and 'We're so proud of our School' and at the end all the children sang the rousing song "This is our School".

Governor Douglas Rathbone closed the celebration with a short speech then the Friends of Heron Hill Summer Fair began just as the grey skies lifted. The school was opened up so all could look at the children's display boards and exhibitions of their decade, and so that visitors could see the new wall hanging, commissioned to mark the occasion, created by staff and pupils under the creative direction of Kerry Howarth (see photograph). We are so proud of our school.

There are more photographs of the event on the school website, under Newsletter and Events/Recent Events/50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, please have a look.



## Sports News

### Year 6 Cricket

On 6<sup>th</sup> June, all of the Y6 boys were invited to the Cricket Festival at Netherfield Cricket ground. All the boys noticed how teamwork and good communication were vital to being a great cricketer. Although we did not progress to the finals event, they had a lot of fun and learned lots about cricket! Hopefully some of the boys have been inspired to join one of the many local cricket clubs. Unfortunately the girls cricketing event was cancelled due to the high volume of rain sitting on the pitch.



### Year 6 Rounders

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, 3 mixed teams from Y6 went to Vicarage Park School to play lots of rounders! The children competed against other local schools and for one match against each other. The matches



were refereed by Kirkbie Kendal students, some of whom were ex-Heron Hill pupils. All 3 Heron Hill teams played brilliantly and showed excellent sportsmanship, encouraging and supporting each other. Thanks to the parents who accompanied us and to the organisers from Vicarage Park School.

### National Schools' Ski Race

Brothers Harry and George took part in the British Schools' Race Finals attended by 238 skiers from all over UK (and from boarding schools in the Alps!). Both boys finished in the top 10 in their age groups, even though they like freestyle skiing more than racing. Congratulations on their success!



## Governor Insight: Kathryn Ritchie, Chair of Governors

Another school year comes to a close and what a year it has been: a successful celebration for 50 years of the Heron Hill School community, plus some incredible results in the national tests as well as an exciting programme of school visits. It has certainly been a year to remember.

The Governing Body would like to express their sincere thanks to all the staff and to you as parents and carers for all your hard work and support in helping our school to be the best it can be. We would also like to thank our fabulous Friends of Heron Hill for all their efforts in making such a difference by holding events for the children and raising additional funds.

The Governing Body has also gone from strength to strength and I am pleased to report we have a full complement of governors with 3 additional members joining us this year; Chris Stanger, Anthony Jamieson and in the autumn term, Katherine Haley. As an experienced educationalist I have to say I am extremely proud of the Governing Body as rarely have I come across such an experienced and committed group of governors.

Our Year 6 children now have a major milestone in their lives, leaving primary school for horizons new in secondary school. We hope these pupils leave with fond memories of their time at Heron Hill and we wish them much success and happiness in their new school.

It's also a time of change for some members of staff as they move on to other schools. Mrs Ladds, Miss Addison and Miss Freeston will leave us. We thank them all for their commitment and dedication to our children and we wish them well in their new positions. We also say goodbye to Mrs Merritt as she takes up semi-retirement in September, working part-time as an OfSTED Inspector. Mrs Merritt has certainly left us a lasting legacy in leading staff to implement a curriculum that helped us become a secure good school, as well as ensuring our children are safe at all times. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable summer holiday period. We looking to seeing you in September and to welcoming our new children, staff and Headteacher, Mrs Lucy Middleton.



## Torchlight Night Workshop

In order to prepare Heron Hill School's entry for the Torchlight Night parade on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Years 4 and 5 spent a day making the flowers that will be used in this year's torchlight



procession. A big shout out to all the parent helpers that came to help – it would not have been possible without you. We will be taking part in the procession - please come and join us or cheer us on!

## Swimming Advice

John Megson, the swimming teacher at the Leisure Centre, has led assemblies for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 all about swimming safety. It is crucial that our children know how to stay safe when swimming, so John is spreading the message of 'Enjoying Water Safely'. He spoke to the children about stopping and thinking, staying together, calling for help if it is needed and how to stay afloat.

As we approach the summer holidays, it would be helpful for children to start or continue private swimming lessons, if possible, or to go wild swimming accompanied by competent adults. Leaflets about swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre have been sent home with your child.

## Year 5 Enterprise

This year in Year 5 we got the chance to become entrepreneurs, we were able to work on our own or in pairs to hold a stall of our choice at our Enterprise Fair, to market and sell our chosen products, eg lollies, bracelets and pizza. Thank you to everyone who came.

We also got to select 4 different charities to send our profits to. We raised a whopping £1,274 for RSPB, Cancer Research, Lend with Care and Wainwrights Animal Shelter.

Wainwrights Animal Shelter came in to collect their share of our donation, accompanied by 2 kittens and a dog that were given to them by people who could not look after them.

By Sophia B and Matilda C



## Year 4 Residential Visit to Ambleside

The Year 4 visit to Ambleside, Bowness and Brockhole was a tale of two climates; on Monday sun cream management was forefront in staff members' concerns, on Tuesday it was raincoats and hoods. The children did not mind the weather. The whole visit could just have been riding on the top deck of the 555 bus - this was a huge success! The Peter Rabbit show had the children in stitches and we now know what it is like to take 50+ children on the crowded streets of Bowness in July (never again!). Additional highlights included ice creams on the Glebe, skimming stones on Windermere and an enjoyable trip to



the park before a good night's sleep. The pupils say:  
*'The ice cream in Bowness was delicious!'* James D  
*'I really enjoyed the show, it was so funny when Benjamin Bunny started rapping.'* Louie B  
*'At Brockhole, I really liked building the sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.'* Harrison R



## Year 1 Visit to Aquarium of the Lakes

On 18<sup>th</sup> June, Year 1 had a fantastic visit to The Aquarium of the Lakes. The children were very excited to see lots of different animals close up and were able to talk scientifically about them too. They could say which classification the animals were such as reptile, amphibian, mammal, fish, birds, vertebrates, invertebrates or insects. Then we had a very peaceful and calm boat ride on the ferry across to Fell Foot Park. After a delightful picnic we headed into the park to play a variety of games, build bug houses, sit and chat about nature, relax and generally just have fun with our friends. It was a wonderful day with the sun shining throughout.



## Library Summer Reading Challenge

### Marvellous Makers

We are very excited about this year's Summer Reading Challenge and would love to see all our pupils taking part. Read six library books of your choice over the summer and collect rewards along the way. Sign up at your local library and see your reading skills and confidence soar! Bring your certificate to school in September. Your teacher would love to celebrate your success.



## Wonderful People

One of the childminders who has been at Heron Hill School almost every day for 30 years has finished doing drop off and pick up duties. We thank Karen Hathaway for all the care she has provided to many Heron Hill pupils over the years and wish her all the best as she continues to childmind small babies.



We give a big shout out to Mr Chris Hogg, our School Crossing Patrol, who is so steadfast and reliable in his essential role of safely escorting pupils and families across the road at the Spar; thank you Mr Hogg! He has experienced occasional negativity from car drivers over the years, so please make sure you give him a thank you and a kind word while he is doing his job.

## Friends of Heron Hill

Thank you to Friends of Heron Hill for enriching the life of the school with the events you have organised this year, including the Easter egg hunt, the discos and the wonderful Summer Fair.

All the staff thank FOHH for raising £9,672.48 for the school and for supporting school activities to the sum of £8,634.90. See the Friends of Heron Hill page on the school website for more information.

**INCOMING Y6 PREFECTS  
AUTUMN 2024 ARE...**

Molly P  
Ben S  
Harrison N  
Jasmine A

## Year 6 Adventures



And so we bid farewell to our Year 6 pupils. They have ended primary school with excellent SATs results, adventure days at Easedale Tarn, transition visits to their secondary schools of choice and a bit too much ice cream. We love your blossoming characters, your great sense of humour and your care for each other. We wish you well in your new schools.