



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Wow! What an amazing first half term we have had. I feel so honoured and privileged to be the headteacher of our fantastic school and so proud of all that we have achieved in the past 8 weeks. It has been a long, busy and very enjoyable half term. There is already so much to celebrate and we have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating our magnificent pupils' achievements each week via our assemblies, certificates and this newsletter. I really hope that you have enjoyed hearing more regularly about what is happening in school.



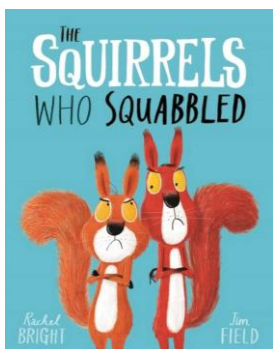
The biggest thing I have noticed since moving to Heron Hill is the sense of community and belonging felt, day in and day out; it really is a special place to be. Monday night's Pumpkin Walk was an excellent example of what happens when our community comes together to celebrate. Over 110 pumpkins were lovingly crafted this past weekend by our families. Seeing them all displayed so brilliantly by our FOHH team for a community moonlit walk was nothing short of magical. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to build this autumnal memory. I was so impressed by the creativity on display!

As the half term draws to a close, I want to express my sincere thanks for such a warm welcome in my new role. I wish you all a restful half term break.

**Mrs Middleton**

## HANDWRITING AND PRESENTATION PRAISE

Each week in our assemblies, we celebrate and highlight the achievements of one child per class in their handwriting and presentation. Pupils may be chosen because of a marked improvement over time, immense effort or because of a specific piece of amazing work. This week, we were proud to acknowledge the following children:



### ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK....

Focused on our school values: **RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY – RELATIONSHIPS** and was our HARVEST FESTIVAL too.

As a complete bookworm, I had to share a favourite picture book of mine with the children. This week it was the turn of Rachel Bright and 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled'. This book centres on a bountiful harvest and teaches the importance of sharing what we have with others; perfect for our Harvest Festival!

Our choir sang beautifully for our Harvest Festival and it was wonderful to see so many food donations on display in the hall too. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Class:	Pupil:
Y1 Angletarn	Chloe K-C
Y1 Whinlatter	Milan L
Y2 Outerside	Maisie H
Y2 Yewbarrow	Peggy R
Y3 Kentmere	Olivia H
Y3 Glaramara	Harrison L
Y4 Thornthwaite	Lola R
Y4 Blencathra	Charlee-Rose K
Y5 Fairfield	Sophie H
Y5 Catstycam	Isla B
Y6 Helvellyn	Jasmine A
Y6 Scafell	Ben S



### ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

If there is something you'd like to highlight and celebrate for your child. Please email [admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk) with the subject 'F.A.O Mrs Middleton – Newsletter' to ensure your email makes its way to me.

*NB: By submitting photographs, you are consenting to your child's image being added onto the newsletter which is shared via ParentMail and online.*

Our keen and talented skier George E took gold on the podium in a national skiing slopestyle competition at Kidsgrove in Stoke last weekend. Well done George!



Max N in Y3 had an extra busy weekend of football this weekend.  
Friday night: playing for his GT7 team against Workington X academy (won)  
Saturday: playing for his Kendal United team against Cockerham and won 11-2  
Sunday: playing for his GT7 team against Fleetwood academy (lost)

Matylda B from Year 4 has her artwork featured in exhibition at the Brewery Art Centre. ('His Name Will Not Be Lost' 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct-2<sup>nd</sup> Nov) She is very proud of her work and rightly so. Great job Matylda!



### PREFECTS PRAISE

Our Prefects have been on duty during lunchtimes supporting pupils with their play. Harrison, Jasmine, Ben and Molly have been keeping an eye out for children who are being kind, building relationships and helping others. This week, they would like to say well done to the following children:



#### Pupils who have been noticed:

Emily T – Y2

Phoebe M – Y6

Alfie H – Y2

Leo N – Y6





### **OUR SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN**

As promised, a collation of the ideas shared at the recent parent voice events is included on the back page of this newsletter.

### **TRIAL OF A NEW START TO THE SCHOOL DAY**

To try to reduce the volume of traffic and footfall in such a short period of time at the start of the day, we will be trialling an alternative approach to morning drop off from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

- ***Pupils will no longer line up on the school playground and will instead be able to make their way into school from 8.45 am.***
- They will be greeted at the door by their class teachers and head into the classroom to begin some quiet reading, handwriting practice or similar starter activities.
- The register will be taken at the usual time of 8.55 am.
- Anyone arriving after this time is late and will need to enter school via the main office.

It is hoped that this approach will reduce congestion at 8.50 am and also prevent any delays to parents leaving the school site after waiting for lines to go in etc.

We will regularly review the trial's impact and then look to formally adopt this approach if it is successful. Your feedback will be valuable throughout so please do let us know what you think.



### **WOODCHIP WANTED!**

Our EYFS outdoor areas are in need of some woodchip topping up as the paths have worn over the past year with all of the amazing outdoor learning and exploration our pupils have been doing. If any of our wider Heron Hill family/community have any contacts in this area, we would be really grateful of your support. Please contact the school office or speak to Mrs Metcalfe in Reception. Thank you!



### **NETBALL TOURNAMENT REPORT**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October Heron Hill School hosted the Primary Netball Festival for Kendal girls. We had 6 schools with 8 teams in total.

After many energetic and competitive games, lots of goals were scored - Clara (1), Josie (1), Myla (3) and Poppy (3).

Unfortunately we were beaten in both groups by two very strong Stramongate teams who came out on top. Along with our netball teams we had amazing helpers who made sure that photographs were taken and organised the other schools when they needed help too - Jasmine, Matilda, Esme, Imogen, Sophie and Elana. Thank you to everyone who took part and represented our school so well on the day.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### ATTENDANCE

This week's table shows class attendance percentages for this half term. All classes are aiming for a minimum of 96% attendance this academic year.

We are seeing a large number of pupils taking time off from school for family holidays. Although we acknowledge there is an increased focus on this in terms of fining since September, term-time holidays have not been allowed or authorised for many years.

**Please do not book holidays for term time as these will not be authorised and you are very likely to be fined. (The fines are £80 per parent, per child and do escalate in cost if they go unpaid.)**

**13 of our classes are currently achieving an overall % of 96+ Well done to all those highlighted green in the table below.**

Registration Form	Class %
Reception - Latrigg	98.8
Reception - Mellbreak	96.6
Y1 Angletarn	95.6
Y1 Whinlatter	98.3
Y2 Outerside	95.0
Y2 Yewbarrow	96.4
Y3 Kentmere	98.4
Y3 Glaramara	97.9
Y4 Thornthwaite	96.7
Y4 Blencathra	96.8
Y5 Fairfield	97.7
Y5 Catstycam	97.8
Y6 Helvellyn	98.0
Y6 Scafell	97.2



### CALENDAR DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM (Any added dates are highlighted in yellow)

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>/Fri 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 4 Level 1 Bikeability

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 9-10.30 am** – Nursery autumn craft stay and play session for parents/carers

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Celebration assembly

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – Return to school

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November** – Sept 2025 Reception New Starters Open Morning, 9.00 am-11.30 am

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November** – Sept 2025 Reception New Starters Open Afternoon, 2.00 pm-6.00 pm

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Individual and family photographs

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November** – Sept 2025 Reception New Starters Open Morning, 10.00 am-11.00 am

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need – mufti day

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November** – Parent consultation meetings after school

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November** – Parent consultation meetings after school

NB: Our Christmas dates can be found here: [Heron Hill Primary School – Newsletters](#)

**Please note** there was a small typo and the Christmas Production on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December is for Year 2 only. Year 1 perform for families via the 'Carols Under the Canopy' event on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Apologies for any confusion caused!



**Parent Voice Coffee Events re Safe Journeys to School  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Compilation of Responses and Ideas**

**The BIG Issues**

- Wider catchment walk or cycle quite far and feel their safety is compromised, eg Burton Road and Asda roundabout (does this lead to these parents preferring car travel?).
- Parent conduct - parking, driving, stressed. Culture and psychology of drivers.
- People regularly not crossing with the lollipop man.
- Drop-off in the morning feels intense (rushing to get somewhere else - time sensitive schedules).
- The congestion on Hayfell Avenue from Dunmail Drive up to the school is particularly bad.
- Walking to school - do not feel it is safe for older children to walk alone so this is stinting their independence.
- Parking on both sides of the road makes things even more dangerous.
- The volume of traffic (and it keeps growing!).
- 'We just want our children to be safe.'
- The enforcement of current measures is not happening by council etc.

**Parking**

- Promote the Leisure Centre for parking (school has not done this for some time).
- Long term, is a bigger car park needed for visitors and parents?
- Switch off engines when waiting for pick up.
- Car sharing to be encouraged more.
- No parents using the staff car park.
- Block parking from Dunmail Drive to the school.
- It is important to not be 'anti-car' – remove the barriers to walking/cycling, do not isolate drivers from the conversation.

**Drop-Off Point**

- A drop-off that functions as a drop off, so parents do not need to get out of the car. Staff man the gates/doors and children walk straight in.  
(Need to consider how drop-off parents can communicate any messages to their child's teacher.)
- The walkway is really busy next to the drop-off point. The grass needs removing and the path extending to allow for a greater number of people to walk in this congested area.

**Signage**

- One group who attended felt that any signage (including any created by children) would not be effective.
- Posters along problem areas for parking, designed by children.
- Pupils hand out 'parking tickets' to try to raise awareness with drivers/their parents.
- 20mph zone and increased council signage.
- Design new leaflets with pupils and use these to educate via windscreen leafletting.

**School Procedures**

- Return of the school bell to signal the start and end of the school day.
- 8.45 am start to the school day – no lining up on playgrounds which delays the day starting and parents getting away for work etc. Have staff on doors to greet children as soon as the bell goes.
- Educate children further about disabilities and the negative impact of parking.
- Remove barriers to walking in bad weather – accommodate wellies and waterproofs in class cloakrooms.
- Spread the volume over a longer drop off time.

**Other Ideas**

- Natland have a school bus (how is this funded?)
- Make it a no traffic zone with support from the council.
- Walking bus from the Leisure Centre.
- Open school to parents and their children for family reading from 8.30 am.
- Ask council to repaint and extend the double yellow lines. Also increase signage to remind parents about illegal parking on the roundabout.
- Lollipop person to be repositioned closer to school.
- Pedestrian crossing/Toucan crossing/Zebra crossing.
- Swap the bike park with the dog park – they are the wrong way round!
- Discuss the option of a second entrance to school ideally accessible from the canal path.