



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Well, time has flown and our first term together comes to a close this Friday. The past few weeks have been an excellent example of the strong sense of belonging and community spirit felt at Heron Hill. Our carol services at the Parish Church have been a beautiful reminder of the joy that the festive season brings and I am sure you are all so proud of your children for their contributions to these annual events. Listening to the sound of their singing - in such a beautiful building - was a complete privilege.



This final autumn term newsletter includes the calendar dates for our spring term, a message from our Chair of Governors, some staffing updates and more. I hope you will find five minutes to yourself to get your fill of Heron Hill news. We are so grateful you (and your child) are on this journey with us! Thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and I'll look forward to working with you in 2025! **Mrs Middleton**

SPRING TERM DATES

Date	Event
Monday 6 th January	INSET DAY – school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 7 th January	School re-opens to pupils
Wednesday 8 th January	Cross country event (30 x Y4/Y5/Y6) at Sedbergh School's Casterton site
Wednesday 15 th January	Year 4 swimming begins
Tuesday 21 st January	2.45 pm-3.15 pm Key Stage 1 Healthy Choices with Sam Hill
Wednesday 22 nd January	9.00 am-9.30 pm Key Stage 2 Healthy Choices with Sam Hill
Wednesday 22 nd January	County Cross Country (qualifiers only)
Tuesday 28 th January	Rock Kidz come to Heron Hill! (More information to follow in the new year)
Thursday 30 th January	Pantomime (Reception-Year 2) 'Jack and the Beanstalk'
Monday 10 th February	Nursery open session for September '25 intake, 1.00 pm-2.00 pm
Tuesday 11 th February	FOHH cakes and table top sale
Friday 14 th February	Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 24 th February	Return to school
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day! (Dress as your favourite book character)
Friday 21 st March	Red Nose Day – Mufti/own clothes. Wear something odd (eg odd socks, t-shirt inside out etc)
Monday 31 st March	Year 5 residential visit to York (one night)
Tuesday 1 st April	FOHH 'Break the Rules for April Fools' - Up to £2.50 for 5 rules
Thursday 3 rd April	FOHH Easter Treasure Hunt at 3.30 pm. Dress as a bunny/Easter costume
Friday 4 th April	Break up for Easter holidays, 3.15 pm
Tuesday 22 nd April	School reopens after the Easter holidays



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As another year comes to a close we can reflect back on what has been a busy and productive year with significant change for our school.

I do hope that by now you have all had the opportunity to meet our new Headteacher Mrs Middleton who started with us in September. Although she has been with us for only one term her quest for making our school the very best it can be is palpable and pervades the whole school. This of course doesn't come without the hard work, dedication and support from ALL the staff, who have been so very welcoming to our new Headteacher and who have pulled together as one amazing team. A special mention must go to Mrs. Wilkinson who helped lead the school through the spring and summer terms and ensured that Mrs. Middleton's arrival was as seamless as possible. Rest assured we have a highly motivated and incredibly professional team looking after your children.

As a Governing Body we have gone from strength to strength this year. We now have a full complement of governors. Governors joining us this year are Anthony Jamieson, Amy Holland and Katherine Haley. Sadly it was time for Natalie Greenwood to leave us a parent governor as her term of office had come to an end. Natalie has been a stalwart of the school and whatever she did in her role as governor, she did it with all her heart.

On behalf of the governors I'd also like to thank all parents/carers and volunteers for their continued support. It has been tremendous to see how everyone has come together to ensure the new arrangements for getting children into classrooms on time and managing traffic flow have worked effectively. Also to the Friends of the School who do so much to raise funds to enhance our children's activities.

Finally I'd like to thank our children who work so hard in school and who take great pride in looking after one another. May this Christmas be filled with smiles, giggles, the joy of sharing and happy memories that last a lifetime for you all. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

Kathryn Ritchie, Chair of Governors



HANDWRITING AND PRESENTATION PRAISE

This Friday is our end-of-term celebration assembly so there are no 'Presentation Praise' certificates this week.

We have celebrated 168 children so far this academic year with these weekly presentation certificates! Well done to everyone whose hard work and efforts have been recognised. We are proud of you all!

STAFFING AND RECRUITMENT UPDATES

I wrote to you several weeks ago (via my newsletter) about some vacancies we had in staffing and the subsequent recruitment needed. We are also expecting **Mrs H Hudson** and **Mrs Lowther** back in school from February, following their maternity leaves. Below are all the details you need about the changes happening as a result.

I am pleased to confirm that the following staff were successful in interview and have permanent positions in school as a result.

- **Mrs Patrick** will continue to be Year 3 Glaramara teacher due to her success in the Year 3 permanent vacancy interview.
- **Miss McMinn** will be the new Breakfast Club lead from January and is excited to begin this role.
- **Mrs Dodd-Hemingway** will be teaching Year 4 Thornthwaite class full-time from February 2025.

Mrs Moorhouse remains a committed member of Heron Hill staff and will be moving to Year 2 to be the job-share partner of Mrs Lowther. Together, they will be teaching Outside class from February half term, when Mr Napper's contract ends. **Mr Napper** has worked at Heron Hill for several years in several different roles; I am sure you all join me in wishing him all the best for the next chapter in his career.

Miss Ashworth is leaving Heron Hill in February at the end of her contract. Mrs H Hudson is returning to Heron Hill from her maternity leave and will be teaching Latrigg class from February. Miss Ashworth has been part of the Heron Hill family for some time so I am sure you all join me in wishing her lots of luck for her travelling adventures in Canada.



Reception performed beautifully this morning, bringing the spirit of Christmas and so much joy to us all!

Thanks to Young Carers and kind customers of McDonald's for donations for presents for our children who are young carers. Katie and Lauren delivered the gifts to our delighted children this morning - wonderful!



Christmas Round-up!

Look at all the brilliant things that have been happening in school this week.

On Friday we will rattle tins to raise donations for our chosen charities as we did not do it at most of our Christmas events! Please bring cash!



Our amazing choir entertained residents at Heron Hill Care Home on Tuesday 17th December. Singing an array of songs, they brought smiles and tears to all who watched them. Well done choir – we are so proud of you!



Year 1 have loved reading the story 'A Superhero Like You' by Dr Ranj in their writing lessons. Today (Wednesday) they got to experience a visit from Cumbria Fire & Rescue.



A very special visitor came to Nursery's Christmas Party today!



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 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.



It's a GOLD for George (Y5) and his brother Harry (Y4), who were ski racing for Kendal Snowsports at the Pendle Winter League Series this weekend. At this event, teams from all over the North of England battle it out in a dual slalom ski race. Well done boys: another superb skiing achievement!



Evie Mc (Y6 Scaffell) came 1st place in the Kendal Gymnastics Club championship competition on 15/12/24 for her age and ability category (red tin) 11U. Evie, congratulations!



We are excited to share that Matylda's artwork (Y4) is going to be featured in the winter youth arts exhibition, 'Northern Lights'. This will be held in the Sugar Store Gallery and Foyer Gallery, from 5th December to 26th January, at the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal.

Isla H (Y5 Catstycam) took part in the annual Kendal Gymnastics Club Competition on Sunday. She put in her best performances of the season and finished 1st place within her category. Isla also achieved the highest individual score of the event with her floor routine. Well done Isla!



RECEPTION HELP A RESUCED HEDGEHOG

During last week's Forest School session, Emma visited us from Kendal Animal Rescue Centre based at Kendal College. She brought with her a hedgehog that had been brought in by a local person who found it out in the day and poorly. The rescue centre helped to make it all healthy again and ready to release back to where it belongs! We were very excited to have the opportunity to release our second hedgehog at Heron Hill!

Emma shared with us some fun facts about hedgehogs and reiterated that 'out in the day is not okay!'. Hedgehogs have now been re-listed as endangered in the UK so we are keen at Heron Hill to do our bit and inspire our local community to look after our spiky friends!

You can find information on how to do this and log any hedgehog sightings using the link below:

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/>





ATTENDANCE

Attendance to school is important for all pupils. Primary-aged pupils rely on adults to get them to school each day and on time. Please ensure you do all you can to get your child into school daily. If you are experiencing any challenges, please let a member of the senior leadership team know so that we can endeavour to help you.

OUR 8.45 AM STAGGERED DROP-OFF IS HAVING A REALLY POSITIVE IMPACT ON PUNCTUALITY EACH DAY. THANK YOU TO OUR PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS FOR EMBRACING THIS TRIAL CHANGE.

Remember: "Teachers close the door at 8.54!"

The table below shows class attendance % for the whole of this term. Eight of our classes are currently at or above the national target of 96% Well done to them!

Registration Form	Class %
Reception – Latrigg	95.4
Reception - Mellbreak	94.9
Y1 Angletarn	95.7
Y1 Whinlatter	97.4
Y2 Outerside	94.8
Y2 Yewbarrow	95.7
Y3 Kentmere	96.8
Y3 Glaramara	96.4
Y4 Thornthwaite	96.0
Y4 Blencathra	95.9
Y5 Fairfield	97.0
Y5 Catstycam	97.6
Y6 Helvellyn	97.1
Y6 Scafell	96.2

APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE IN 2025

If your child is due to start Reception in September 2025, the deadline for applications is approaching!

You must visit: [WFC Apply for Reception](#) and submit your application before 15th January 2025.

If you have any difficulty accessing this site, please let our friendly office team know and they can support you.



CHILDREN IN NEED TOTAL

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising for Pudsey this year. Our final totals have been counted and verified....we raised £409.24. Well done everyone!

THANK YOU
Heron Hill Primary School
for raising a fantastic
£409.24
The money you have raised will be used to help change the lives of children and young people facing disadvantage in communities across the UK.
BBC CHILDREN IN NEED
BBC Children in Need has not verified the above fundraising. This is not a receipt. © BBC 2022 Reg. charity England & Wales no. 802052 and Scotland no. SC039557

ASDA CASHPOT TOTAL

Thank you to everyone who chose to support our school via the Asda Cashpot for Schools incentive. Our grand total reached £2,311!! We are absolutely thrilled with this and will be able to use this money to further enhance our school curriculum.

Cashpot for Schools
Thank you for taking part in Cashpot for Schools! Together we have raised money to help schools across the UK buy items like sports equipment, books and stationery
Together we have raised:
Heron Hill Primary School
Hayfell Avenue, Kendal, LA9 7JH
UK total raised
£2,311