



Heron Hill Primary School

Welcome to Heron Hill Primary School and Nursery.

It is my pleasure to be this school's Headteacher, please allow me to extend a warm welcome to you and your family. Throughout my teaching and leadership career, my standards and professional drive have been rooted in the belief that the school I am part of needs to be good enough for my own child. Our children get one chance at their primary years; we have to make them count!

School staff are dedicated, talented and inspirational. They ensure not only a robust, well-planned curriculum for all children but also nurture and care for them as if they were their own. We have the highest aspirations for all pupils and exceptionally high standards of all stakeholders. Learning at Heron Hill Primary is ambitious, memorable and ensures that everyone reaches their full potential. Our school values are respect, responsibility and relationships. We believe these values are fundamental in ensuring the young people we serve can positively contribute to their community.

By fostering a deep understanding of these values, role-modelling them and celebrating successes along the way, we are preparing our pupils for their future lives and ensuring success beyond their primary career.

Our carefully considered curriculum places the emphasis on developing a love of reading. We use high-quality texts in every subject because reading is a life skill which opens doors children didn't even realise existed; it opens hearts, imaginations and curiosities - making the impossible seem possible. We want every child to leave our school with a thirst to read more, with expanded vocabularies and with a catalogue of texts they've enjoyed during their time here.

This prospectus provides you with more information about us and shows you our priorities for the education and care of your child. However, I also encourage you to visit school, meet me personally and see our team in action. Parent partnership is extremely important to us and an integral part of school life; no one knows your child better than you.

Whether you are joining us on the beginning of your child's academic journey in EYFS, or in a later school year, we welcome you into our family, my door is always open. It is a privilege to work alongside you in ensuring the very best education for your child.

Mrs Lucy Middleton
Headteacher



Aims and Ethos:

We want each and every child at our school to:

- Feel happy, healthy and safe.
- Respect and value themselves and others.
- Celebrate diversity in school, our community and beyond.
- Succeed through challenging and inspirational learning.
- Grow into independent and responsible individuals.
- Develop a lasting appetite for learning and to look forward to their future with confidence.



We know every child is different and every child in our care is treated as an individual. Our dedicated and experienced staff encourage children to believe, achieve and succeed. We want our children to think big and adopt an 'I can' attitude, be determined, resilient and have a go.



Curriculum:

At Heron Hill we are continually developing and enhancing our curriculum. We provide a broad and enriched curriculum where children and teachers are enthused and have fun.

The Nursery and Reception classes follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Thereafter, English and Mathematics follow the National Curriculum whilst making links from and to other areas. Foundation subjects are covered through cross-curricular themes and often involve experts visiting school or educational visits. Physical Education taught in school time is enhanced through a broad range of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities open to all students. Details of the current curriculum at Heron Hill are updated regularly on the school's website.



“The effort that the Heron Hill staff go too to make our children is awe inspiring; we are very privileged.”

Parent feedback survey, November 2024

Highly Skilled Staff:

Experienced and dedicated teachers are the most important resource for children's learning. At Heron Hill our teaching staff, supported by a team of highly experienced teaching assistants, oversee the delivery of our curriculum. They ensure that all children are making progress from their relevant starting points and have the best opportunity for success.

As a large primary school, we have two classes in each year group. This enables us to plan and work collaboratively within each year group and share resources and expertise between teaching staff.



“Heron Hill is an incredibly warm and welcoming school, where staff are clearly passionate about what they do. The care and support they give to the children is exceptional.”

Parent feedback survey, March 2025

Enrichment:

Whilst delivery of the school's curriculum is core to the work undertaken at Heron Hill, it is the range and breadth of the extra-curricular activities available at our school that truly sets us apart.

Teachers, teaching assistants, governors and parent volunteers together with expert coaches and instructors provide a range of pre-school and after-school clubs for the students. Furthermore, lunchtime clubs offer the opportunity for children to socialise whilst practicing skills such as reading, creativity, critical thinking and gardening.

Good links with the wider community enable many children to participate in activities with other local schools and organisations.

Peripatetic music teachers and sports coaches are used in school to give students a range of opportunities to extend their learning. In addition, we have a thriving school choir in Key Stage 2 who love to perform at school events throughout the calendar year.

“Extra curricular activities are a highlight. There is a wide variety of learning and experiences offered to all.”

Parent feedback survey, July 2024



Educational Visits:

We recognise that visitors into school can further enhance pupil's' understanding of topics taught and that trips are often the highlight of a primary school experience for pupils. Across school, from Early Years to Y6, teachers carefully consider enrichment visits for pupils. Furthermore, residential trips are planned for pupils in Y4, Y5 and Y6 annually. These foster increased independence and encourage collaboration.



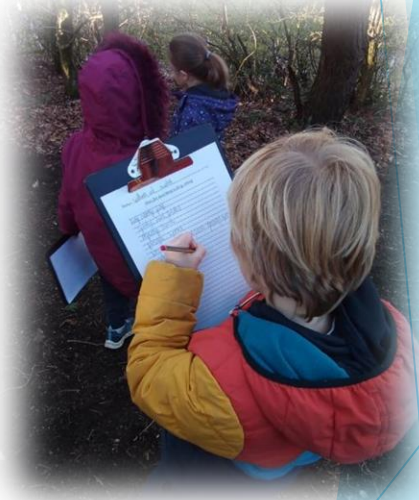
Our school grounds:

Set in over 6 acres of mature parkland to the south of Kendal town centre, the school buildings have been developed to provide a rich and stimulating learning environment. We are blessed with magnificent school grounds and ensure these are used as much as possible.,

We have spacious classrooms, reading areas and learning support rooms. We also have additional spaces for music, drama and a fully-equipped computer suite.

Outside, in addition to our extensive playing fields, we have a polytunnel, fire pit, canopy areas and an outdoor classroom.

We also have shady woods, a quiet garden and our very own allotment plots.



“Heron Hill is a lovely setting, surrounded by lots of green space. These are utilized well.”

*Parent feedback survey,
July 2024*

“My top 3 things: Respectable, helping children reach potential, keeping parents well informed.”

Parent feedback survey, March 2025

Leadership:

The school is led by an experienced senior leadership team comprising of the Headteacher, Deputy Head, Assistant Head, Special Educational Needs Leader (SENDCo), Early Years Lead, Key Stage 1 Lead and Business Manager.

We also have a full-time Pastoral Learning Mentor who is on hand to provide additional pastoral support to any children experiencing social, emotional or mental health needs.



Lunchtimes:

Our on-site kitchen provides freshly prepared hot and cold meals for the school. Each day we offer a choice of lunch options that provide a nutritionally balanced menu made from locally sourced and quality ingredients. Lunch choices can be ordered in advance using our convenient online ordering system.

Wraparound Care:

We know that many parents work and require wraparound care for their children during the week. Heron Hill Primary have our own wraparound care provision called Happy Herons. This is not only open during term time but also during most school holidays, meaning your child can be cared for in a familiar environment with familiar adults throughout the year. *Please see the additional information sheet included in this prospectus back for more details. Full details about costs and places are also available on the school website.*



“There is an excellent provision of before/after school care and holiday club. This is such a benefit for working parents.”

Parent feedback survey, July 2024



The Primary School Journey:

Most children begin their time at Heron Hill in our Nursery. Set in a separate building on our site, the Nursery offers provision for children from 3 to 4 years of age. Parents can choose full day, morning or afternoon sessions to suit their needs. Nursery staff liaise closely with parents to settle children into new routines and ensure they have a happy start to their school experience.



We offer a flexible induction into Reception designed around the child's particular needs and work closely with parents and carers to ensure children receive a smooth and comfortable induction or transition into school. Our bright and spacious Reception department admits up to 60 children each year.

Most children who attend our Nursery will join the Reception classes which are spread out over two indoor and one outdoor classroom. The children continue with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum until they join Key Stage 1 in Year 1.



Our experienced staff work closely with children as they transfer from one school year to the next throughout their time at Heron Hill. This supports them in becoming familiar with their new teacher and classroom.

As the children reach Y6, we work very closely with the local secondary schools to make the transition to Y7 a smooth one.

“School has a friendly atmosphere and great outdoor space. My child is really happy here.”

*Parent feedback survey,
July 2024*



“There is always someone on hand and available to speak to about my child. My child is supported well in school by caring staff.”

*Parent feedback survey, July
2024*

Safeguarding:

Our number one priority is the safeguarding of our pupils. In an ever-changing and challenging world, we believe that teaching our children how to keep themselves safe and to know where to go for support and help is a vital part of education.

Health and Welfare:

A healthy lifestyle is encouraged for all members of the school community.

Learning takes place outdoors whenever possible, come rain or shine. Whether it is Reception children going on a bear hunt in our woods, or children planting, tending and cooking vegetables from our own allotment plot.

Active playtimes are always encouraged in our extensive outdoor areas. Children enjoy a variety of play environments and a wide selection of playtime equipment.

We challenge and inspire children, parents, staff and governors to make healthy lifestyles choices as part of their daily life through initiatives such as walk, ride or scoot to school



Opportunities to get involved with the school and community:

Our school has plenty of opportunities for young people to step into leadership. From our School council to Eco councillors to Prefects, we encourage children to get involved and play an active role in shaping life at our school.

Parents and carers are invited to join the 'Friends of Heron Hill'. This parent-teacher association lead fundraising efforts, give practical support to school and organize fantastic community events throughout the year.

"It's just a lovely place to be. Feels like there are lots of great initiatives for kids and families to get involved with and a very engaged headteacher."

Parent feedback survey, November 2024

"Welcoming, friendly, safe."

Parent feedback survey, July 2024

"I love the weekly newsletter! It is so helpful for keep on top of dates and things going on via helpful reminders etc. A brilliant addition!"

Parent feedback survey, November 2024



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