



Heron Hill Primary School

Whole-school
newsletter -
Week beginning
16th June 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I was lucky to spend the past weekend having quality time with my parents who had made the journey from the Midlands to see me. It reminded me (no matter our age) of the importance of parents, the power of their approval and the feeling of unconditional love they provide. As an ex-Nursery teacher, my mum was particularly excited to be walked around school on Monday morning after hearing so much about Heron Hill School since I started here in September. She agreed that it is a special place to be and was wowed by the warm welcome and excellent learning behaviours of all pupils across school. A proud moment indeed!

I am disappointed to be missing my first Heron Hill School 'Enterprise Fair' this afternoon after hearing so much about it from our passionate Y5 pupils over the past few weeks. Unfortunately, I am spending the day in Penrith on a headteacher conference which has been in the diary since September. I look forward to hearing all about their successful sales and outcomes when I return to school tomorrow.

Our sports days are in full swing with only one cancellation so far due to the uncertain weather we've been getting. Thank you to everyone who has come along to support the children in this important annual event. The weather forecast for tomorrow looks particularly good so please ensure Y3 and Y4 pupils are prepared for the heat, and if you are coming along to spectate, remember to prepare yourselves too; suncream, sun hats and plenty of H2O will be needed!

Mrs Middleton

GOVERNING BODY UPDATE

Last week's full Governing Body meeting was the final meeting for Kathryn Ritchie who has led as Chair of Governors for the past few years and been a committed Governor for almost four. Kathryn has made such a difference to our pupil experience and has supported staff and parents with care, professionalism and her child-centred approach. We will miss her contributions greatly and thank her for all she has done in this voluntary role.

Our Y6 prefects presented Kathryn with a leaving gift and a beautiful bouquet of flowers in the Heron Hill colours at the end of Friday's meeting. These were both gratefully received. Kathryn has sent the following message to share with you all which can be read below. I am sure you all join me in thanking her for her dedicated service to our school and in wishing her a very happy retirement too.



"It was an emotional day as I relinquished my role as Chair of Governors at Heron Hill School following a career of nearly 50 years in education. It has been an absolute privilege to work with such lovely children and a talented staff team at the school, even though there have been a few challenging issues to deal with along the way. I'm delighted to say the school is now ready to fly.

The Heron Hill community is fortunate to have a highly dedicated and skilled staff team led by our new Headteacher Lucy Middleton who has shown us exactly what visionary and courageous leadership looks like. It's good to know I leave the school in the capable hands of Edward Vittery. Edward will do a great job in leading a Governing Body that is determined to get the best for your children.

Here's to a successful and simply brilliant future for the Heron Hill community. I shall miss you all."



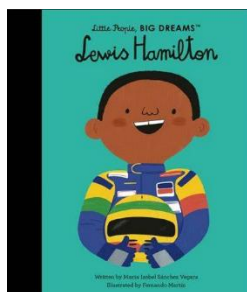
HANDWRITING AND PRESENTATION PRAISE

We continue to celebrate achievements, progress and effort in all things presentation during our weekly headteacher assemblies. This week, the following children have been praised for their super efforts. Well done! 😊

ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK....

Focused on our school values:

RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY – RELATIONSHIPS – RESILIENCE.



We talked specifically about 'The Heron Hill Way' our school jigsaw puzzle and how patience is important.

We read the story of Lewis Hamilton from the Little People Big Dreams series and were inspired by how committed he was to pursuing his dream of becoming a racing car driver.



ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

You will soon receive information about the annual parent survey led by our Governing body. This is a really valuable insight into parental ratings, thoughts, ideas and feedback about their child's experience at our school. We want to receive as many responses as possible so please do take a moment to complete yours. All feedback is welcome and will be used to both celebrate our successes and plan ways forward to ensure school is the best experience it can possibly be.

Class:	Pupil:
Rec- Mellbreak	Molly P
Rec- Lattrigg	Erin S
Y1 Angletarn	Ayla W
Y1 Whinlatter	Isobel F
Y2 Outerside	Ollie F
Y2 Yewbarrow	Austin B
Y3 Kentmere	Darcie W
Y3 Glaramara	Elise L
Y4 Thornthwaite	Jarvis B
Y4 Blencathra	Aila H-B
Y5 Fairfield	Flynn F
Y5 Catstycam	Chase P
Y6 Helvellyn	Olivia E (sketch)
Y6 Scafell	Joen J (sketch)



TOURS OF SCHOOL FOR PROSPECTIVE PUPILS

In recent weeks we have received several requests from parents in Kendal to tour our school and see what Heron Hill School can offer their child. This is fantastic news for our school and something we are always keen to accommodate.

If you know someone who is looking for a primary place for their child in any year group, please encourage them to contact our friendly school office team.

LOST UNIFORM

We have dozens of sweatshirts and cardigans that have been left in school, all unnamed. If your child has lost any uniform items, please pop in to see your child's teacher to reclaim them.

We highly recommend naming all school items so that they can be returned to their rightful owner.

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.

The table shows the number of school days missed in each class for the first week of this half term.

Registration Class	Class - Number of days missed
Reception - Latrigg	5.5
Reception - Mellbreak	9
Y1 Angletarn	6
Y1 Whinlatter	17
Y2 Outerside	0
Y2 Yewbarrow	11
Y3 Kentmere	3
Y3 Glaramara	5
Y4 Thornthwaite	6.5
Y4 Blencathra	10
Y5 Fairfield	2.5
Y5 Catstycam	0
Y6 Helvellyn	1.5
Y6 Scafell	8

A huge well done to Outerside and Catstycam classes; they were here every day last week with a 100% attendance score. AMAZING!



TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

As the time of year approaches when families begin to plan or book holidays for next year, please be reminded of the Westmorland and Furness expectations/procedures for absence during term time. You can find it in full here: [WAFIC ATTENDANCE](#)

At Heron Hill School we continue to receive a high number of requests for term-time leave for family holidays and, in line with policy, this cannot be authorised.

So far, 39 referrals have been made to the Local Authority for Heron Hill School term-time absences. In total, over 1300 fines have been issued across Westmorland and Furness this year. Fines escalate to a larger value in year two of absences and by year three increase significantly.

Please avoid booking any term-time holidays. To support with this, I have included key term dates for next academic year in this newsletter. It is worth highlighting that there are two additional INSET days next year: a Friday in October and another in May. These both provide an excellent opportunity for a long weekend break that will not incur any fines or lead to any missed schooling for your child.



THANK YOU TO B&Q

Mrs Wilkinson would like to extend huge thanks once again to B&Q Kendal for the donation of many dahlia tubers and anemone and harlequin bulbs (and to one of our governors for procuring them for us). The gardening club are very busy having fun planting them.

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.

Our HH skiing brothers, George and Harry, had an excellent weekend at the English Championship Freestyle Competition. This event had a huge start list with 110 entries. The boys were brave and stylish, George (Y5) got a bronze and Harry (Y4) came 6th in the under 13 category . A huge well done to them both – we are so proud of you!



Year 2's Wattsfield Boys won the Ambleside tournament this weekend, battling the weather and some great teams along the way. Well done to Hudson, Kayra, Carter, Alfie and Samuel!



Thank you to all of our sticker helpers who supported our annual 'Walk to School Week'. We were so grateful to all our helpers and so pleased to see significantly more families walking/scooting/biking to school last week. Keep it up!

OPERA IMMERSION EXPERIENCE FOR Y5

Joe Davies from Cumbria Opera Group led Y5 this afternoon in a fun-filled musical workshop where they created songs with him, all about Music! They took the names of orchestral instruments, composers, etc to make up new music (i.e. they created music about music!). They engaged really well and had a great time.

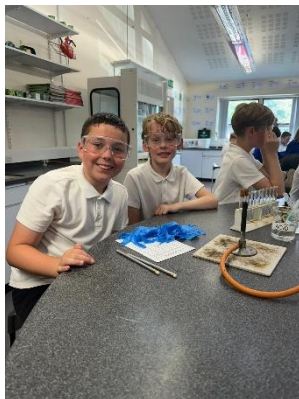


QUEEN KATHERINE SCHOOL VISIT

Our Y5 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to The Queen Katherine School last week. They had a brilliant time in the science labs and all earned their Bunsen burner licenses.

We love working in close partnership with the secondary schools in Kendal and know that this early exposure to secondary school experiences helps our pupils to make informed choices about where they'd like to go at the end of their time at Heron Hill.

A brilliant day was had by all and as always, our Heron Hill values were on display throughout the day; Y5 did an excellent job as ambassadors of our school. Well done!



BRASS INSTRUMENT TUITION

A specialist brass teacher comes into school each week offering 1:1 brass instrument tuition. Several of his Y6 pupils will be leaving at the end of this year which creates openings for new pupils. In a special assembly last Friday, pupils were treated to a showcase performance. Please contact Mrs Roberts in the school office if you would like to register your child for this opportunity.



Y4 RE LESSON VISITORS

Y4 had some special visitors in their RE lesson this week. They were Christians from the United Reformed Church, Salvation Army, St Marks in Natland and the Methodist Church. The children prepared some fantastic and challenging questions and we had a fascinating afternoon hearing about their faith, their work for their church and how they live their lives. The visitors were really impressed with the questions they asked and commented on our school value of 'RESPECT' being evident throughout. Well done Y4!



SUMMER TERM DATES

Below are most of the main dates currently in the calendar until the end of term. As we did last term, we will update these via the weekly newsletter and highlight any changes in **YELLOW** so that they are easy for you to track.



Date	Event
Wed 18 th June	Year 5 Enterprise Fair, 2.30 pm-4.00 pm. Please come and support our Year 5 entrepreneurs. No choir today.
Thursday 19 th June	Josh Casson, lunchtime and after-school clubs leader, is back – golf, cricket, basketball, rounders, football are back on.
Thursday 19 th June	Year 6 Helvellyn day visit
Thursday 19 th June	Year 3 and Year 4 sports day: 9.30 am Year 3 track races, Year 4 team events. 1.15 pm – Year 4 track races, Year 3 team events.
Monday 23 rd June	Year 6 parents workshop 'Year 7 and Beyond', 9.15 am-11.15 am
Thursday 26 th June	Reception New Starters' Evening – Parents Information Meeting, 5.30 pm
Friday 27 th June	Reception day visit
Friday 27 th June	Four of our Eco-Councillors at the Youth Climate Summit
Monday 30 th June	Year 6 induction days at KKS, QKS and QES
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 5 and Year 6 sports day, all day (reserve date Tuesday 8 th July, all day) 9.30 am – Year 6 track races, Year 5 team events; 1.15 pm – Year 5 track races, Year 6 team events
Thursday 3 rd July	Moving up morning – transition morning with new teacher
Friday 4 th July	Friends of Heron Hill Summer Fair. Volunteer here: https://volunteersignup.org/7AKCL
Wednesday 9 th July	Year 5 visit in the afternoon, early lunch
Wednesday 9 th July	Year 6 production, 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm
Thursday 10 th July	Year 5 visit, morning
Friday 11 th July	Reports to parents
Friday 11 th July	Year 3 Adventure!
Tuesday 15 th July Thursday 17 th July	Optional Parent Consultation Meetings, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm. Telephone or email the school office if you wish to book in to discuss your child's report. Ten-minute appointments.
Friday 18 th July	End of term, 3.15 pm

CRISPY PEOPLE

We love sunny days but we have to take more care when we are outside. Please make sure your child brings a sun hat to school, that you apply sun cream before school and that they have their water bottle with them.



For Year 3/Year 4 sports day tomorrow (and if the Year 5/Year 6 sports day is on a sunny day) this is particularly important. Also, please make sure parents and other family members watching the sports seek shade and cover up.

- RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY - RELATIONSHIPS - RESILIENCE -

School Transitions Group 2025

BARNARD'S Changing children's lives. Changing lives.

Kendal West Family Hub
23rd July 1-2pm for 4 Weeks

Ulverston Family Hub
22nd July 1-2pm for 4 weeks

- Reduce anxiety and increase confidence about secondary school
- Promote emotional wellbeing and resilience
- Develop emotional regulation and coping strategies
- Strengthen social skills and friendships

REFER TO US

SCAN ME

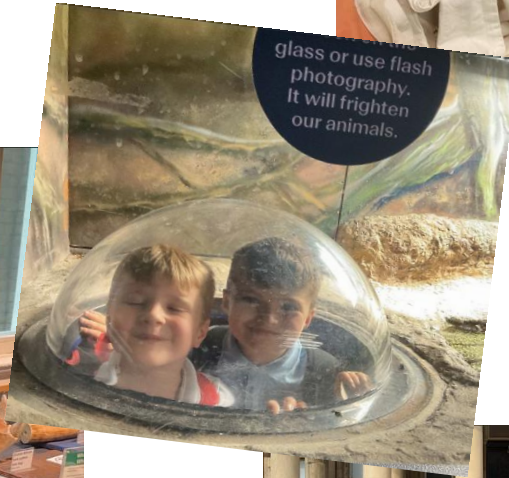
To find out more join us for an interactive information workshop on Tuesday 1st July

For Professionals: 12-1pm
For Parents: 4-5pm

To book a place please email pmhw.mytime@barnardos.org.uk

YEAR 3 LIVERPOOL VISIT

Last Friday, Year 3 enjoyed a fun-filled and exciting trip to the Liverpool World Museum. The children were fascinated by the amazing exhibits and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the mummification workshop. Although some thought pulling the brain out through the nose was a little gross, it certainly captured their interest! All our pupils behaved fantastically and made us very proud.



NEW TERM DATES 2025-2027

Recent alterations are shown in red font

Summer Term 2025

Last Day of School Year Friday 18th July 2025, 3.15 pm

2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025

INSET DAY (school closed)

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

First Day of School Year

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

NEW INSET DAY (school closed)

Friday 24th October 2025

October Half-Term

School closes – Thursday 23rd October 2025, 3.15 pm

School opens – Monday 3rd November 2025

Christmas Holiday, last day of term

Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

INSET DAY (school closed)

Tuesday 6th January 2026

First Day of Spring Term

Wednesday 7th January 2026

February Half-Term

School closes – Friday 13th February 2026, 3.15 pm

School opens – Monday 23rd February 2026

Easter Holiday, last day of term

Friday 27th March 2026, 3.15 pm

Summer Term 2026

First Day of Summer Term

Monday 13th April 2026

NEW INSET DAY (school closed)

Friday 1st May 2026

May Day (school closed)

Monday 4th May 2026

Whitsun Half-Term

School closes – Friday 22nd May 2026, 3.15 pm

School opens – Monday 1st June 2026

Last Day of School Year

Friday 17th July 2026, 3.15 pm

2026-2027 These dates are subject to change

Autumn Term 2026

INSET DAY (school closed)

Tuesday 1st September 2026

NEW INSET DAY (school closed)

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

First Day of School Year

Thursday 3rd September 2026

October Half-Term

School closes – Friday 23rd October 2026, 3.15 pm

School opens – Monday 2nd November 2026

Christmas Holiday, last day of term

Friday 18th December 2026, 3.15 pm

Spring Term 2027

INSET DAY (school closed)

Monday 4th January 2027

First Day of Spring Term

Tuesday 5th January 2027

February Half-Term

School closes – Friday 12th February 2027, 3.15 pm

School opens – Monday 22nd February 2027

Easter Holiday, last day of term

Thursday 25th March 2027, 3.15 pm

Summer Term 2027

First Day of Summer Term

Monday 12th April 2027

NEW INSET DAY (school closed)

Friday 30th April 2027

May Day (school closed)

Monday 3rd May 2027

Whitsun Half-Term

School closes – Friday 28th May 2027, 3.15 pm

School opens – Monday 7th June 2027

Last Day of School Year

Friday 16th July 2027, 3.15 pm