



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Excitement levels are high in school as we officially launched our countdown to Christmas on Monday! Christmas post boxes are now open for children to send Christmas cards to their friends and peers, the second Christmasaurus whole-school reading project has launched and children are busy learning songs and lines for their upcoming performances.

It is also a busy time academically as teachers ensure that all of the autumn term curriculum content has been covered and begin to assess children in preparation for our internal pupil progress meetings. Staff have really valued the face-to-face parent consultation meetings across the past two weeks and are grateful to everyone who has made a catch-up appointment if they missed the original dates.

Parent and carer partnership is such an integral part of life at Heron Hill; we really appreciate your ongoing support and feedback. This week's newsletter includes a link to a homework survey for parents. Please take a look at this section and follow the link to share your views.

I hope you all have a brilliant week!

Mrs Middleton, HT

ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Focused on our school values:

RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY – RELATIONSHIPS – RESILIENCE.



A whole-school assembly on Monday at 9.00 am saw Mrs Wilkinson and Mr Corrie launch this year's Christmasaurus reading project.

After the success of last year's story, we have dived straight into book two from the series: 'The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch'. We will be reading two chapters a day between now and Christmas.

The joy of everyone hearing the same story is the quality book talk that happens across school. Everyone is at the same point in the story so can make predictions on what might happen next, talk about favourite parts of the plot or favourite characters.

We hope you will enjoy hearing all about it at home!

HANDWRITING & PRESENTATION PRAISE

Each week we celebrate how practice makes progress in pupil work, handwriting and presentation. Well done to this week's superstars! Their work is proudly on display in our school hall.

Class:	Pupil:
Y1 Angletarn	N/A no awards this week due to Christmasaurus launch on Monday.
Y1 Whinlatter	
Y2 Outerside	
Y2 Yewbarrow	
Y3 Kentmere	Grace L
Y3 Glaramara	Hannah Z
Y4 Thornthwaite	Maya H
Y4 Blencathra	Wren N-D
Y5 Fairfield	Aila H-B
Y5 Catstycam	Joshua W
Y6 Helvellyn	James G
Y6 Scafell	Evie G



CHRISTMASAURUS ART COMPETITION

Last year, I launched a snowman colouring competition throughout December and winners were chosen from each phase to receive a little Christmas themed prize. This year, the challenge is a drawing and colouring competition! I would like children to draw a picture inspired by the Christmasaurus. This can be anything linked to the story and characters and should be posted into the entry box outside my office by Wednesday 17th December. Please ensure your child puts their name and year group on their picture so they can be considered for the prizes. I am always blown away by the talent on display at Heron Hill so look forward to seeing their creations.

SUPPORT AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Although often a magical time, Christmas can also be extremely stressful for families with rising costs of living. If there are any Heron Hill families who are struggling this Christmas you might be able to get some help with toys and supermarket vouchers through the Salvation Army. Please contact Mrs Little directly if you would like to explore this support. (This will be treated confidentially).



'INVEST IN PLAY' SESSIONS

Heron Hill School will be hosting the 'Invest in Play' parent programme from January 2026. This will be run by professionals from the Family Hub on a weekly basis for the spring term. Sessions will focus on a variety of topics including building your child's self-confidence and supporting them with their emotional regulation. It can also help children struggling with behavioural difficulties, ADHD and Autism. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents and be supported by professionals with hands-on, practical advice. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you are interested in attending or would like any more information then please speak to Mrs Little.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

This Friday sees the return of our annual Christmas Fair which is planned, resourced and run by the fantastic FOHH team and our staff team too. We are really looking forward to celebrating the festive season with a variety of stalls, games and refreshments. The fair begins afterschool at 3.30 pm on Friday. We hope to see lots of you there!

GOOD LUCK TO MISS PINDER

Next week, Miss Pinder will leave Heron Hill School to begin an exciting new job. Miss Pinder has fulfilled various roles during her time with us including wraparound care lead, PPA cover and 1:1 TA support for SEND children. We are grateful for all that she has done for the children of Heron Hill and wish her lots of luck for this new chapter.



HOMEWORK SURVEY

Our annual feedback surveys in July for both parents/carers and pupils included multiple comments about homework and the stresses this places on families. There have also been recent comments about online platforms for homework at our parent consultation meetings that I am keen to understand further.

Our school homework policy needs to reflect an approach that works for our families, is engaged with regularly and has a positive impact on children's learning. I am therefore keen to hear from more of you about your views on homework so that I can make some informed choices about this moving forward at Heron Hill. I therefore welcome as many of you as possible to answer this short survey to share your views: <https://forms.office.com/e/1Tjk5RS7aw> The survey will close on Wednesday 17th December at 12.00 noon. Thank you!



ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

We'd love to continue celebrating any out-of-school achievements on our weekly newsletter and had so many things to celebrate last year! 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 ScoPay and online.



Harriet P (Y1) has achieved her 100m swimming badge! What a phenomenal distance to swim at just 5 years of age. Well done Harriet!



Amelia S (Y4) received 'Star of the Week' in Razzamatazz, she was over the moon. Jazz hands Amelia!

Is your child due to start Reception in September 2026?

Heron Hill Primary School

Reception Open Events
More dates added

Thursday 4th Dec
9:15am

Friday 12th Dec
9:15am

Wednesday 7th January
1:30pm & 4:30 pm

Deadline for Reception applications (Sep 2026 start) is January 15th 2026
Come and see our fantastic EYFS provision & meet our wonderful staff team.

For further information, contact 01539 721276 or email admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk.

RECEPTION OPEN EVENTS

Our open events have been extremely popular this year so we have added more dates to meet demand. Please share the flyer opposite with any friends or family who are looking for Reception places in 2026. Thank you!

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 attendance table for last week is shown below. This shows the number of days missed in each class last week:

Registration Class	Class - Number of days missed
Reception – Latrigg	7.5
Reception - Mellbreak	4
Y1 Angletarn	2
Y1 Whinlatter	15.5
Y2 Outerside	9
Y2 Yewbarrow	5
Y3 Kentmere	4
Y3 Glaramara	7
Y4 Thornthwaite	2.5
Y4 Blencathra	11.5
Y5 Fairfield	3
Y5 Catstycam	12
Y6 Helvellyn	12
Y6 Scafell	10.5

Every class saw some absence from school last week with winter colds and tummy bugs causing some attendance issues. Fingers crossed for a better week for all this week!



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE MONEY!

We have lots of PE kit and pre-loved school uniform in stock in most sizes. Please ask at the office or email school at admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk if you would like any uniform items.

We have noticed a sharp increase in the number of designer, logo'd and local football/sports team PE kit in particular. These are not part of school uniform and can be a distraction for children.

Pre-loved, plain PE kit is available free of charge or for a small donation that goes towards the many visits and workshops that Friends of Heron Hill fund.

CHOIR PLANS TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY!

Our school choir are renowned for their talent and Christmas is the perfect time to showcase this in our community.

On Wednesday 17th December, they will be singing for local residents at Heron Hill Care Home and I am sure this will be a brilliant, festive occasion. Choir children are to wear their school uniforms as usual on this day (we often remove jumpers as the care home can be extremely warm!) but are also welcome to wear a Christmas accessory such as a Santa hat, antlers or a festive headband.

If you are a choir parent and able to support with walking the children to and from the care home, please let the school office know. We will return to school for a final choir session of 2025 (until 4.15 pm) which will be a Christmas-themed party.



Thank you for your support

To Heron Hill Primary School

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Your collection total £613.10

District total £30219.91



BURNSIDE AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY

JACK and the BEANSTALK



A PANTOMIME BY NICK LAWRENCE

the **Bryce** Burnside

Tickets
Adults £12.00
Under 16s £8.00

Concessions £10.00 (14th/15th Only)
Box Office: www.batsburnside.co.uk
Telephone: 07792 777213
Email: batsproductions000@gmail.com

Performance Dates

Friday 9th January 2026 7:30pm
Saturday 10th January 2026
2:00pm & 7:30pm
Sunday 11th January 2026 2:00pm
Wednesday 14th January 2026 7:30pm
Thursday 15th January 2026 7:30pm
Friday 16th January 2026 7:30pm
Saturday 17th January 2026
2:00pm & 7:30pm

with music from:

THE LION KING

E.T.

ALADDIN

FROZEN

Melvin Tay - Conductor

Matt Berry - Narrator

Westmorland
Orchestra

AROUND THE
WORLD
IN

80

MINUTES

A MUSICAL JOURNEY

WITH FAMILY FILM FAVOURITES

Sunday January 11th 2026 at 3pm

Kendal Leisure Centre



WestmorlandOrchestra.org.uk

Tickets £17.50, under 19s free

Local Events and Initiatives



Annual Charities

Christmas Tree Festival

at Kendal Parish Church



Opening times from 28th November

Fridays - 3.30pm - 5pm

Saturdays - 10am - 4pm • Sundays - 12pm - 4pm

LATE NIGHT OPENING Friday 19th - 3.30pm - 8pm

Christmas Week -

Mon 22nd, Tue 23rd & Wed 24th - 10am - 4pm

Entry £1.50, children free • Refreshments available during the festival
General church opening times • Daily 9am - 3pm

For further information:

www.kendalparishchurch.co.uk

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DATES

The last day of term is Friday 19th December at 3.15 pm. We return to school on **Tuesday 6th January.**

TERM DATES 2025-2027

Autumn Term 2025

Christmas Holiday, last day of term Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

First Day of Spring Term Tuesday 6th 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

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

Please note: the previously advertised INSET day in January and extra INSET day in May have been withdrawn.

2026-2027 (These dates are subject to change)

Autumn Term 2026

INSET DAY (school closed) Tuesday 1st September 2026

INSET DAY (school closed) Wednesday 2nd September 2026

First Day of School Year Thursday 3rd September 2026 (*this is different to the W&F date*)

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

First Day of Spring Term Monday 4th January 2027 (*this is different to the W&F date*)

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

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Please order your child's school Christmas Lunch by tomorrow (Thursday). Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 11th December but we need to know numbers this week (let's get those sprouts boiling! ☺).

Calendar dates showing all the other Christmas events are on the school website.



MAIN: Classic Turkey Christmas Dinner

VEGETARIAN: Quorn Chicken Christmas Dinner

All dinners are served with mash, roasties, sprouts, carrots and peas with gravy

JACKET POTATO: Served as normal with a choice of fillings

SANDWICH: Turkey Sandwich

Desserts...

Shortbread Stacking or Chocolate Brownie

