



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The festive season is in full swing at Heron Hill and it has been wonderful to hear of all the exciting things happening in school this week.

Unfortunately for me, I've had to miss several things this week due to being off school unwell with severe ear and sinus infections, leading to complete hearing loss. Being at home in bed instead of celebrating in church and school with your children has been disappointing to say the least! I hope to be back in school and fully embracing all the festivities soon.

I've heard wonderful things about performances so far and would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff in school who work so hard to make Christmas a special time for pupils and their families. Well done team!

Mrs Middleton, HT



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. 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.

HANDWRITING & PRESENTATION PRAISE

Each week we celebrate how practice makes progress in pupil work, handwriting and presentation. A child from each class is chosen and their names shared here on our newsletter. Well done to this week's superstars! Their work is proudly on display in our school hall.



Class:	Pupil:
Y1 Angletarn	Esme H-B
Y1 Whinlatter	Millie L
Y2 Outerside	Seb H
Y2 Yewbarrow	Ava W
Y3 Kentmere	Samuel R
Y3 Glaramara	Frankie B
Y4 Thornthwaite	Esme D
Y4 Blencathra	Lawson S
Y5 Fairfield	Luca S
Y5 Catstycam	Olivia L
Y6 Helvellyn	Ella C
Y6 Scafell	Arlo M

Homework

HOMWORK SURVEY

Last week's newsletter included the launch of a parent/carer survey focusing on homework. So far we have received 28 responses - thank you to those who have completed this. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete and asks for your opinions on homework resources, time taken to do it, the impact on family life and asks for ideas of any change you may wish to see in the future. There is still a full week left to respond; the survey will close on Wednesday 17th December at 12.00 midday. Thank you!

<https://forms.office.com/e/1Tjk5RS7aw>

YEAR 2 RECREATE THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

On Monday, Y2 pupils had a brilliant History lesson that truly enabled the team to bring learning to life! Thanks to our local fire service, they were able to learn all about modern firefighting techniques and compare these to those at the time of the Great Fire of London. Y2 pupils had worked so hard at home to create Tudor buildings which were used on the playground to recreate street layouts of London in 1666. One of these was then ignited allowing the children to watch how quickly and easily the fire spread. Pupils had the most amazing morning and were full of enthusiasm for their history topic. Thanks to parents at home for supporting the house project, to the Y2 team for arranging the activity and to the fire service for their time and support with this. Children learn best when their learning is memorable and I don't think they'll be forgetting this activity for quite some time! Well done Team 2!



YEAR 4 VISIT KIRKBYE KENDAL FOR FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Also on Monday, Y4 turned their hands to baking when they visited the Design & Technology department of Kirkbye Kendal School. Tasked with making their own individual loaf of soda bread from scratch, the children had such a brilliant time. They showed our school values of respect and responsibility throughout the experience - even doing their own washing up! Many of them have said they would like to make the bread again, possibly for loved ones over Christmas. This is a fantastic idea! Y4 staff have shared the recipe on Class Dojo so that you can support them in doing this. We'd like to extend our thanks to the KKS team for giving us their time and facilities to enable this to happen. Well done Team 4!



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

So far, EYFS and KS1 have enjoyed their performances in the Parish Church, with Y3-Y6 looking forward to theirs this Friday.

It is always magical to spend time in our beautiful local church and we are grateful to the team at Kendal Parish Church for the warm welcome we always receive.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to the parent/carer volunteers who have supported us to get the children to the church and also everyone who came to be part of the audience for the performances.



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.



Sisters, Chrissy P (Y6) & Cathy P (Y4), received their LAMDA certificates with distinction, at Stagecoach. They had to perform poems in front of an examiner explaining the meaning and how they felt. Well done girls!

Exciting news for Everlyn C (Y3) as she came 'runner up' in the Hackney and Leigh annual gingerbread competition. Your creation looks delicious! Well done Everlyn!



THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS JUMPER AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH DAY

Pupils are invited to wear their own clothes and a Christmas jumper tomorrow, Thursday. Staff will wear their Christmas jumpers to raise money for Save the Children, but we do not ask for donations for pupils' 'mufti day'.

This is also Christmas Lunch day, over 200 are signed up for this special school lunch, we look forward to having a slap-up meal.



ClassDojo



SPRING TERM CALENDAR DATES

To support our busy families we shared our calendar dates for the whole school year in July and again at the start of the new academic year. This document can also be found on our school website.

In the next few days, the spring calendar dates and events will also be added onto our Class Dojo platform. This means that you'll be able to see upcoming events quickly and easily at the click of a button.

We do hope this new approach is supporting family members to keep organised and on top of the things happening in school.

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	1
Reception - Mellbreak	1
Y1 Angletarn	7.5
Y1 Whinlatter	6.5
Y2 Outerside	13.5
Y2 Yewbarrow	7
Y3 Kentmere	5
Y3 Glaramara	4
Y4 Thornthwaite	2
Y4 Blencathra	12
Y5 Fairfield	6
Y5 Catstycam	7.5
Y6 Helvellyn	7.5
Y6 Scafell	5



SEND DROP-IN SESSIONS

The next SEND Local Offer drop-in session is on Monday 12th January 2026 at Kendal West Family Hub, Kendal Green, LA9 5PP, 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

This is an opportunity for parents and carers to speak to different teams and service providers. It is an informal way to ask questions and find out more about what support is available to you and your family, within your local area.

NO NUTS IN SCHOOL

Please remember, we are a NO NUTS school.



We have several children in school with life-threatening nut and peanut allergies. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY!

The final day of school this term (Friday 19th December) is 'party day' for all year groups. This means that children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform (festive/party outfits are encouraged).

Each class will have time for party games, party snacks, outdoor play and other fun Christmas activities. The day will also begin with us coming together for our celebration assembly and we'll also hear the final chapter of 'The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch' story.

More information on party food requirements will follow via Class Dojo. School then breaks up for the Christmas holiday at 3.15 pm on this day and will reopen to all pupils on Tuesday 6th January 2026.



PARKING ISSUES RUMBLE ON

Unfortunately we continue to see inconsiderate and dangerous parking outside of school and in neighbouring streets too.

On a weekly basis, we receive calls, emails and sometimes even video footage from residents regarding this. Sadly, this is a widespread local and nationwide problem; regularly spoken about in community forums online e.g. Facebook.

For the safety of all our school community, please park sensibly and safely if you are driving to school.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.