



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The first term of this academic year draws to a close this Friday and what a term it has been! We are so proud of the learning, memory-making and fun we've had throughout the autumn term. Staff and pupils have been working hard to cover a wide range of curriculum content and will move onto new spring topics when we return in January. These were shared with you on the year group welcome letters in September but can also be found on our school website if you have misplaced them. (You'll find them in the relevant year group tabs in the 'parent and pupil home learning' section.)

We've really enjoyed counting down to Christmas again this year: from inflatable costumes on gate duty, to the wonderful Christmas services, to our whole-school Christmasaurus story; I hope your children have enjoyed it all. With party day and celebration assembly still to go, the end of this week promises to be fun too.

We look forward to welcoming **all pupils back into school on Tuesday 6th January 2026** - please remember we no longer have a staff training day on this date and will open straight away to pupils for the spring term.

All that is left for me to say is to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Thank you for your ongoing support; it is a pleasure to serve our school community as Headteacher.

Mrs Middleton, HT

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.

CALENDAR DATES FOR SPRING



The calendar dates for spring term have now been added onto our Class Dojo calendar feed. This can easily be accessed from any device on the Class Dojo app.

As we have now been using this platform for some time and parents are sharing positive feedback about this direct communication with staff, we have reviewed classes to ensure all parents are able to see what we are sharing.

The following classes have **100% sign up**; meaning that at least one parent is connected to each child in the class: **Angletarn, Whinlatter, Outerside, Glaramara, Thornthwaite and Fairfield**....WELL DONE!

If you are not yet connected, please let our school office team know and they can reshare connection links/QR codes with you.

Class:	Pupil:
Y1 Angletarn	Hugo H
Y1 Whinlatter	Erin S
Y2 Outerside	Seren R
Y2 Yewbarrow	Erin J
Y3 Kentmere	Dylan G
Y3 Glaramara	William S
Y4 Thornthwaite	Hugo C
Y4 Blencathra	Freya H
Y5 Fairfield	Kaden H
Y5 Catstycam	Evie F
Y6 Helvellyn	Flynn O'D
Y6 Scafell	Freya J

PREFECT THANKS

This term's Y6 Prefects are preparing to hand over their duties to a new set of 4 Prefects for the spring term. Before they do though, they'll be hosting a very special guest, Mr Tim Farron MP, who is visiting school on Friday to celebrate Maisie H in Y3 who won his Christmas card competition.

Mr Corrie and I would like to say a HUGE thank you to **Finley, Holly, Isla and Max** who have been brilliant Prefects this term. They have shared some fantastic ideas for how to make our school great, decided on how our house point system would work and have been excellent role models to their peers.

Being a Prefect has been a privilege and an extremely fun time for us all. There are many reasons you may want to be a Prefect such as: having hot chocolate on Fridays; helping with jobs around school; and having the responsibility of being a Prefect. You may show visitors around school because you have great trust from all the staff (especially Mr Corrie). We have had wonderful experiences in our time of being Prefects and wish the incoming spring term Prefects all the best.



Mr Corrie said: "The autumn term Prefects have been a credit to our school and have carried out their duties with maturity, respect and an excellent attitude. They should be very proud to have been a Prefect and I want to say a massive thank you to the four of them."



Y5/Y6 HOME ALONE AND MOBILE PHONE PERMISSIONS

We have had several parents contact us this week to express that they wish to allow their child in Y5/6 to begin walking home alone after Christmas.



We are also aware some children may receive phones for Christmas. As a result, both consent forms have been reopened to allow any parents who need to complete them to do so.



Both forms will close on Monday 5th January to allow for the updated consent information to be shared with class teachers on the first day back.

Home alone permission:

<https://forms.office.com/e/CtJt9cQWL5>

Mobile phone permission::

<https://forms.office.com/e/PHZQ5ZbpaN>

HOUSE POINT CHAMPIONS FOR AUTUMNS

Excitement is building as we prepare to share the newly updated house point totals for the autumn term. Be sure to ask your child if their house are the winners after Friday's celebration assembly!





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.



Matylida B (Y5) won a gold medal and a trophy in her gymnastics competition last Sunday. She had the highest overall score for vault, bars, beam and floor routine in her age group. She did a fantastic job!
Well done Matylida!



Isaac E (Y1) is continuing to work so hard in his karate classes. Last week, he achieved his green tag.
Well done Isaac!

It was fantastic to read this feedback about our KS2 pupils on Facebook last week.



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South Lakes Police · Follow
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What a wonderful start to the Christmas season! 🎄 PCSO Hayley had the pleasure of walking the Key Stage 2 pupils from Heron Hill Primary School to their Christmas service at Kendal Parish Church this morning. The children were incredibly well-behaved and spread festive cheer throughout the walk! Thank you to the drivers who waited very patiently for Hayley to get the children across the busy roads. Inside the beautiful church, we were treated to a truly heartwarming performance. The children sang carols in four different languages as they reflected on Christmas traditions from around the world. The sound of their voices was absolutely beautiful and filled the church with joy. According to Hayley, her heart "melted like a block of butter in a microwave" – it was that special! moments like these remind us what the festive season is all about. Well done to all the amazing pupils and staff at Heron Hill Primary!
#Kendal #ChristmasService #CommunityPolicing #HeronHillPrimary #KendalParishChurch #ChristmasSpirit

George E (Y6) and Harry E (Y5) continue to work hard in their skiing. This time they were ski racing in the winter league series at Pendle. Harry's team got a silver medal in the U10 category whilst George's team got a bronze in the U13. Great job boys!



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	11
Reception - Mellbreak	2
Y1 Angletarn	17
Y1 Whinlatter	12
Y2 Outerside	5.5
Y2 Yewbarrow	5
Y3 Kentmere	5
Y3 Glaramara	7
Y4 Thornthwaite	2.5
Y4 Blencathra	3
Y5 Fairfield	3
Y5 Catstycam	10
Y6 Helvellyn	13.5
Y6 Scafell	3.5

Every class saw some absence from school last week with winter colds and tummy bugs causing some attendance issues. We hope everyone will rest up over Christmas and that we see some '0' scores again in the new year!



YP **YOUTH PRESENCE**
Registered charity number 1191305

Christmas Family Fun
POP UP

Monday 22nd December
10.30am - 4.00pm

Tuesday 23rd December
10.30am - 3.00pm

Elephant Yard, Kendal

Children under 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times

Donations welcome for the work of Youth Presence



HOMEWORK SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our parent/carer homework survey. We have received a total of 58 responses from parents across the age range of our school. The results of this survey will now be collated and summarised to be shared with you after the Christmas break. Teachers and pupils will also be surveyed after Christmas before any decisions on homework moving forward are decided.



ROBLOX SAFETY CONCERNS

This week's newsletter includes some useful parent information about this popular online gaming platform.

An important part of our safeguarding duty at school is to educate and support all members of our school community to make positive choices that enable children to stay safe in all areas of life. You may already be aware that in recent weeks, Roblox has featured heavily in the UK and international press. ITV News commissioned a special investigation into the platform which can be found on their website and uncovered several matters of serious safeguarding concern. In America, there are also hundreds of live civil lawsuits against the Roblox corporation relating to child endangerment and harmful content.

What your child accesses online is your choice as parents and carers but we know that keeping up with the latest trends, apps and games can be difficult in such a quick-moving technological world. From January, we will regularly feature supportive information for parents in our weekly newsletter. We hope this will support you to feel more informed and ensure clear boundaries for safe technology use in your family.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ONLINE PLAY RISKS**
Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.
- ANONYMOUS PLAYERS**
The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.
- MATURE CONTENT**
Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.
- RISK OF ADDICTION**
Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.
- IN-GAME SPENDING**
The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.
- SCAMS**
Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- MONITOR THE CONTENT**
While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.
- PLAY TOGETHER**
Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.
- TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS**
Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.
- TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS**
Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.