



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new families who have joined our school community in recent weeks. I am delighted that you have chosen us for your child's schooling and hope you are already beginning to feel part of our fantastic school community. We were also very pleased to welcome our new starters in Nursery last week, who have made a fantastic beginning to their school journey—welcome to the Heron Hill family!

My weekly newsletter is designed to keep families informed about what is happening in school, to share key information, and to celebrate the many successes and events taking place in our school. It comes out to parents each Wednesday and you are invited to contribute any items, photos or event promotions via email to admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

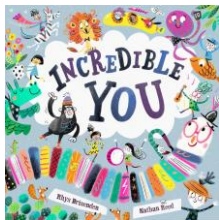
It has been wonderful to see all pupils return to school so positively, settling well into routines and learning with enthusiasm. We are very much looking forward to an exciting year ahead, full of opportunities, achievements, and memorable experiences for all children. As always, my door is open; if there is anything you need from me, want to talk to me about or bring to my attention, please do get in touch. It is an absolute pleasure to serve our school community as headteacher. **Mrs Middleton**

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.

ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Focused on our school values:
**RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY
– RELATIONSHIPS – RESILIENCE.**



We zoomed in on the **RESPECT** value this week as we learnt more about the importance of respecting ourselves, our talents and our uniqueness. We listened to the story 'Incredible Me' and explored how it feels to sometimes wish you were someone or something else. Our whole-school assembly now takes place on Monday mornings so that we begin our school week together and remind ourselves of 'The Heron Hill Way'. Reception are also now joining us each week so it is wonderful to begin the week with all of our children together.

Class:	Pupil:
R Mellbreak	Arthur A
R Latrigg	Finley G
Y1 Angletarn	Lucas S
Y1 Whinlatter	Millie L
Y2 Outerside	Kayley KC
Y2 Yewbarrow	Jake B
Y3 Kentmere	Millie P
Y3 Glaramara	Rupert K
Y4 Thornthwaite	Scarlett R
Y4 Blencathra	Evie G
Y5 Fairfield	Jessica A
Y5 Catstycam	Finlay B
Y6 Helvellyn	Lola I
Y6 Scafell	Thea B

TIM FARRON MP VISITS HERON HILL

On the final day of term in December, we had a very special guest in our celebration assembly. Mr. Tim Farron MP came along to join in the fun, presenting an award to Maisie H (Y3) for her winning Christmas card design. He also took some time afterwards to discuss young leadership with our Y6 prefects and current challenges in education with Mrs Middleton. It was great to welcome him into school and to hear of his work in Parliament too. We hope to invite Tim back into school soon!



ROCK KIDZ RETURN!



Last January our first-ever Rock Kidz visit was a HUGE success! Cam and Si taught us all some amazing songs about self-esteem and respect, and some rather cool rock moves too. They are returning in just 2 weeks' time for another workshop and it promises to be just as much fun as the last! Like last year, staff and pupils are invited to dress as rockstars and Mrs Wilkinson will be hosting a Times Tables Rockstars championship across the day with KS2 pupils all encouraged to take part.

At the end of the day, the Rock Kidz will be out on the playground for their 'meet and greet' where pupils can take pictures, ask questions and buy awesome Rock Kidz merchandise.

A £2.90 contribution has been requested from all pupils to cover the cost of this experience. This can be paid via SCOpay and is live now - thank you to all of the parents who have been prompt in paying already.

CENSUS DAY

Tomorrow is spring census day; an important day for our school funding. We warmly encourage all Reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils to have a hot school dinner on this day to make use of their 'Universal free school meal' entitlement. In times of challenging financial landscapes for schools this really makes a huge difference to our funding. Meals can be quickly and easily booked via your SCOpay app. Tomorrow is also a non-uniform day for those who wish to join in. As with all of our non-uniform/themed days, this is optional; we understand that some children prefer to wear their normal school uniform and this is fine.





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.



Jessica A (Year 5) took part in Kendal Amateur Swimming Club's final Gala of the year, winning 2nd place in the 25m Butterfly in her age group. Jessica also successfully completed her first competitive 200m Individual Medley. Keep working hard on your swimming Jess - you are doing brilliantly!



Josie G, Freya H and Evie F were delighted to all win a trophy at their recent Bronya Emily School of Dance awards evening. Josie won the Junior Tap award, Evie won the Junior Modern award and Freya won the Endeavour award! They also all got their certificates for achieving distinction in their Primary Tap exams. Three very happy and proud girls - well done!

Isla H (Y6), took part in the Kendal Gymnastics Club Championships at the weekend. She competed on all four pieces of apparatus and took the gold medal position overall. This sums up a fabulous season of gymnastics for Isla. Well done!



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.

The spring calendar dates and events have been 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	0.5
Reception - Mellbreak	0
Y1 Angletarn	7.5
Y1 Whinlatter	3
Y2 Outerside	0
Y2 Yewbarrow	5
Y3 Kentmere	5
Y3 Glaramara	0.5
Y4 Thornthwaite	6.5
Y4 Blencathra	2
Y5 Fairfield	1
Y5 Catstycam	3.5
Y6 Helvellyn	4
Y6 Scafell	0.5



ATTENDANCE LETTERS

Leaders in school regularly review pupil attendance and, in line with Westmorland and Furness Council's policy and expectations, send letters to parents about concerns.

Any child with an attendance percentage below 90% at any point in the school year, is classed as persistently absent. This is something school cannot ignore and must act on. Letters will shortly be sent to all pupils below 90% to raise parental awareness of their current attendance.

If your child has an attendance score below 85% a meeting in school will be required and some additional support may be sought.

Please note, this is not just a Heron Hill approach, it is a national one. Attendance at school is a statutory requirement in England so if you do receive a letter please read it carefully.

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH HOMEWORK

We know that many of the methods used in teaching nowadays do not match those that parents experienced themselves at school. This can cause frustrations or confusion when trying to help your children with homework.

Over the coming months, several parent workshops are planned to support parents in understanding current approaches to teaching subjects such as Phonics and Maths. Please keep an eye on the school calendar dates (on the website and Class Dojo) to find out more.

Next Friday from 2.15 pm Mrs Wilkinson is hosting a parent workshop in our main school hall, focusing on key number facts. This will be really useful to any parents of children in Y2-6. Please do sign up if you can - there is a link to do this on the SCOPay app.



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.

Please do not send any nut products into school for breaktime snacks or packed lunches.

Thank you.

INVEST IN PLAY SESSIONS

Heron Hill will be hosting the 'Invest in Play' parent programme, beginning this Friday at 9.00 am.

This programme 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.

It 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.

PARISH CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

I am excited to share with you that we made an incredible £322.39 for Stand by Me (Open Arms Academy) from our entry in the tree festival.

The results from the public vote were as follows.

1st – Friends of Castle Park School (winning by one vote)

2nd – Heron Hill Care Home

3rd – Connect Cafe

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our tree, our collection pot and the festival. We look forward to joining in the fun again next year.
Mrs Metcalfe


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CAULIFLOWER CARDS

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CAULIFLOWER CARDS FUNDRAISING BY FOHH

Thank you to everyone who ordered Christmas cards, gift tags or gifts from Cauliflower Cards last term. The grand total raised for school from the commission was £413.50. This will be added to the fundraising totals of FOHH for this academic year and the school is very grateful. Many of the enrichment and extra-curricular visits we do could not go ahead without their contributions. Thank you to all who supported in the admin of this particular project.

