



Heron Hill Primary School

Whole-school newsletter -
Week beginning
23rd March 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Greetings from the Y5 residential in York where our pupils are having an amazing time, showcasing our school values in all they do and making me one very proud Headteacher! This week has been busy for all year groups but particularly Y4 and Y5 who have been enjoying enrichment visits via the Kendal College Adventure Days and the York residential. These trips wouldn't be possible without the support of parents, carers and staff. Thank you to all of the Heron Hill team for going above and beyond with their time this week to ensure our pupils make memories during their primary chapter.

With the Easter break on the horizon, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a wonderful, restful, hopefully sunny, Easter break. The team and I will look forward to welcoming your children back into school on Monday 13th April.

Mrs Middleton

NURSERY 2026

We still have a small number of places in our September 2026 Nursery class, if your child turns 3 before 31st August 2026 and you would like a place, please contact Mrs Harte in the school Office.



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.

ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK

Focused on our school values:

**RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY
– RELATIONSHIPS – RESILIENCE.**



With Mrs Middleton in York this week, Mr Corrie took over leading our whole-school assembly. He focused on Easter and traditions, thinking about how and why Easter is celebrated. We looked at the Easter story and traditions from around the world.

On Friday, we will have another assembly – Celebration Assembly! Mrs M and Mrs W are looking forward to hosting another lively, celebratory assembly so remind your child to bring their dancing feet! Please take the time to celebrate their achievements if they bring home one of our Heron Hill awards.

Class:	Pupil:
R Mellbreak	Jorgie K
R Latrigg	Max J
Y1 Angletarn	Aiden D
Y1 Whinlatter	Vihandu M
Y2 Outerside	Isaac H
Y2 Yewbarrow	Brodie W
Y3 Kentmere	Isla H
Y3 Glaramara	Roza M
Y4 Thornthwaite	Feddy N
Y4 Blencathra	Jack T
Y5 Fairfield	Noah H
Y5 Catstycam	Rue M
Y6 Helvellyn	Emily G
Y6 Scafell	Ethan J

ATTENDANCE

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	6
Reception - Mellbreak	0
Y1 Angletarn	5.5
Y1 Whinlatter	3.5
Y2 Outerside	9
Y2 Yewbarrow	2.5
Y3 Kentmere	0
Y3 Glaramara	6.5
Y4 Thornthwaite	0.5
Y4 Blencathra	4
Y5 Fairfield	0
Y5 Catstycam	7
Y6 Helvellyn	1
Y6 Scafell	0

We had 4 classes with 100% attendance last week - the best week of the year so far! Well done to Mellbreak, Kentmere, Fairfield and Scafell classes!



We are beginning to receive a number of term-time holiday request forms for the remaining months of this academic year. Whilst it is **essential that school are notified of any planned absence** so that school resource/time is not wasted on unnecessary home visits for absence, please note that **we cannot authorise any term-time leave for family holidays**.

All requests will be processed as **unauthorised absence** and fines can be issued by the Local Authority as a result. You can read more about this here: [School attendance | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

PICNIC BLANKETS WANTED

As the summer term approaches, we would love to be able to offer the children chance to eat outside in good weather or take books, drawing etc. outside during lunchtime. (Our reading tents will return soon too.)



To do this, we need some plastic-backed picnic blankets. If you (or anyone you know) have any old ones that you no longer use or need (and would happily donate them to school) please send them into school for my attention. Thank you, Mrs M.



EASTER EGG COMPETITION ENTRIES

We have been blown away by the number of entries into this year's Easter egg decorating competition. There are so many amazing, unique creations on display; it truly is magnificent! Below are some photographs for you to enjoy. Judges have been looking at them all in great detail today and winners will be announced in assembly on Friday. Please don't forget to pick up your creation if you wish to display it at home or reuse any parts. Any items left on Friday will be thrown into the bin to avoid any pongy corridors after the Easter break!



MIDDAY SUPERVISOR THANKS

Roxana and Atlanta will leave our midday supervisor team at the end of this week. They have both been an asset to the team and we wish them all the best with their new endeavours. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment during your time at Heron Hill.



MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

If your child has an inhaler or other medication in school it will be sent home on Friday. Please clean it (if appropriate), check expiry dates and replenish if necessary, then make sure it is sent back to school on Monday 13th April. **We cannot accept children back into school without their medication, thank you for your understanding with this.**



CLASS DOJO ISLANDS

Class Dojo was introduced in the autumn term as a quick and easy way to communicate between home and school. On the whole, it has been an excellent addition to our communication channels and has enabled parents to have direct contact with staff at the click of a button.



A parent approached me recently to raise concerns about 'Dojo Islands' and shared how their child has been using this from their account. This part of the platform emulates a gaming approach and **is NOT used or promoted in school by staff.**



A world for big imaginations

Dojo Islands is a playful world built for kids ages 3-12 where they can express themselves, build friendships, and have fun in a safe, positive environment.

Let's play



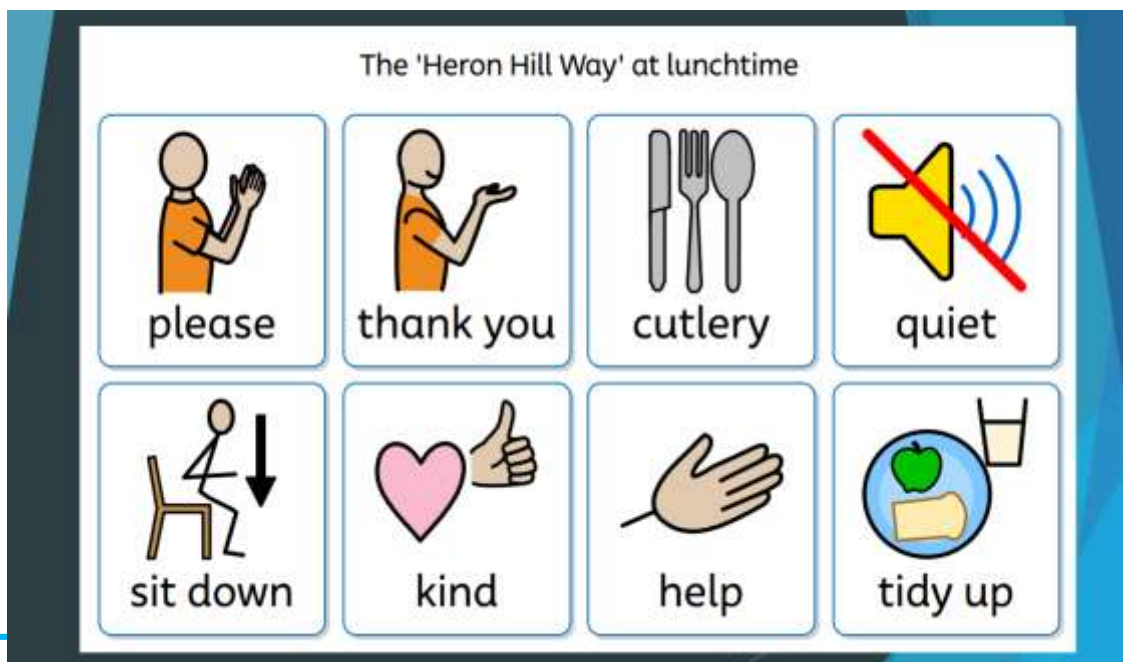
Dojo Islands is an add-on feature that cannot be removed by school so it is parent/carer choice whether you allow your child to access this. In the interests of being well-informed, you can find more information here: [Dojo Islands | ClassDojo](#)

I'd like to thank the parent for coming forward and sharing concerns so that I am able to reach out to all parents and clarify school's position on this. As always, my door is open and I am keen to hear from any parent about anything they feel the need to raise. Thank you.

THE HERON HILL WAY AT LUNCHTIME

Recently, Mrs Middleton, Mrs Wilkinson and Mr Corrie sampled pupils from across the school asking questions about key things such as safeguarding, lunchtimes and belonging. Lunchtimes came up in many conversations with children commenting on how loud and overwhelming the hall can be and how uncertain packed lunches in KS2 can be due to weather restraints for picnicking and a lack of enough seating outside.

As a result, we have launched 'The Heron Hill Way' for lunchtime this week which aims to make the lunch hall a usable space for all year groups and lunch options but keeps things calm and purposeful. We've shared the guidance below with children for lunch hall behaviours and have been so impressed by the changes seen so far.





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.



Noah H (Y6) proudly represented Heron Hill in a national school's judo competition and did brilliantly. Along with several members of his Judo Academy, he was featured in the Westmorland Gazette recently. You can read all about it here: [Kirkby Lonsdale pupil wins gold at schools judo finals | The Westmorland Gazette](#)



Aubree M (Y4) and Ronan S (Y5) have been working exceptionally hard in their Saturday ski lessons at Kendal Snowsports Club. In their final lesson of the season last Saturday they were awarded their Ski Proficiency Awards! Well done Aubree and Ronan!



Taylor J (Y2) took part in Kendal Snowsports Club annual race day and won silver in under 8s individual slalom and ski cross. We are super proud. Well done Taylor!



On Sunday, Evie F (Y5) took part in her dance school's annual 'Choreography Competition' and was proudly awarded 1st place. The event gave students the opportunity to create their own routines and perform them on stage in front of an audience. It took real courage and confidence, and Evie danced beautifully. Well done Evie!

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

There are so many talented children in our school we need 2 pages of newsletter space this week!!



Brody M (Y4) completed his 200m badge last weekend during his swimming lesson. What a brilliant achievement! He plans to work towards his 800m next. Good luck with this new goal Brody!

In their recent swimming lessons, Vihandu M (Y1) and Rachael M (Y1) both received a medal and award for completing 5m in swimming. Diniru M (Y5) also received an award and medal for 10m! Super swimming - well done!



On Sunday it was Kendal Snowsports club annual race day, Mia GY (Y5) brought home two bronze medals in the U12 girls category! Well done Mia!



Erin S (Y5) competed this weekend for Kendal Swim Club in the Diddy League. Kendal Team came 1st after the weekend and are now 2nd on the leaderboard! Erin won her 25m butterfly and came 2nd in her 50m backstroke individual races. Well done Kendal, well done Erin!!



George E (Y6) and Harry E (Y5) continue to pursue their skiing dreams and passion and have enjoyed several successes recently. At the Kendal Ski Club Annual race day, George secured gold in ski cross and bronze in slalom. Harry secured silver in ski cross, silver in slalom and silver in head-to-head team slalom. In the North west schools ski race at Pendle. George came 4th and Harry 7th. In the Pendle Winter League slalom ski race George's team won gold and a further bronze for the overall winter season. Harry's Team were awarded silver for the overall winter season. Awesome achievements - well done George and Harry!



St John's Hospice

40th Anniversary

OUR 10TH DASH!

KENDAL COLOUR DASH

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026

Paint the town every colour of the rainbow on this 5km fun run for your local hospice!

Join today at sjhospice.org.uk/colouredash

Kindly sponsored by

Castle Green

herdy

Kendal Colour Dash 2026

Get ready to get colourful!

Every starter receives a t-shirt that will be a work of art by the end of the dash!

Every finisher will also receive a Colour Dash medal!

Every dasher will receive a bottle of water to stay hydrated.

How your sponsorship money supports St John's Hospice

Your entry fee covers the cost of your Kendal Colour Dash place. We rely on you to raise money through sponsorship to help us care for patients and families, at the Hospice and across our communities. When you buy your tickets, your fundraising page will be created for you!

Celebrate 40 years with us!

2026 marks St John's Hospice's 40th anniversary! Raise £100 or more and get an exclusive pin badge!

St John's Hospice believes that on the journey towards the end of life, people should receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. In 2025 we cared for **205 patients from Kendal and the South Lakes** in their own homes, and **55 Cumbrian** patients on our ward. Every penny you raise in sponsorship for the Kendal Colour Dash helps us to support more patients when they need us most.

Ready to start fundraising to support the work of St John's?
Sign up for fun now:
sjhospice.org.uk/colouredash

St John's Hospice North Lancashire and South Lakes is a charitable organisation registered in England with charity number 1137030

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Local news, events and initiatives

Free Easter Taster Sessions

Saturday 4 April & Saturday 11 April

Kendal Tennis Club

All coaches fully insured, DBS checked & LTA qualified

Primary School Reception	9-10am
Primary School Years 1 & 2	10-11am & 11-12pm
Primary School Years 3 & 4	12-1pm & 1-2pm
Primary School Years 5 & 6	2-3pm & 3-4pm

For further information and to secure a place: Please email jawright@twschools.com detailing:

- i. Child's name
- ii. Child's school and school year
- iii. An emergency telephone contact
- iv. Any relevant medical information

All places must be reserved in advance by email. A return email will confirm safe receipt and booking.

Coaching delivered by James Wright
LTA Licensed (LTA, PTR, PGCE, MBA)

Call: 078 5500 1858
Email: jawright@twschools.com
Web: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/kendalltc