



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been lovely to welcome our pupils back into school this week after the two-week Easter break. Our week began with our whole-school assembly which was a lovely opportunity for me to check in with them all and share a story. I was so impressed to see the 'Heron Hill Way' on full display throughout the assembly – your children are marvellous! From next week, our brilliant prefects will be supporting in our weekly assembly and role-modelling expectations by taking over the staff chairs on each side of the hall. I am confident they will rise to this responsibility as they have with all others given to them this year.

Our OPAL play project is about to begin and we had a positive first meeting with the working party and OPAL representative yesterday. This aims to maximise our school grounds and play opportunities for pupils and with the amazing grounds we have, there is so much potential! I will continue to update you via this newsletter so please keep your eyes peeled for more information.

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

There are no presentation praise awards this week due to our 2-week Easter break. These awards will return next week; we look forward to celebrating successes then,



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.)

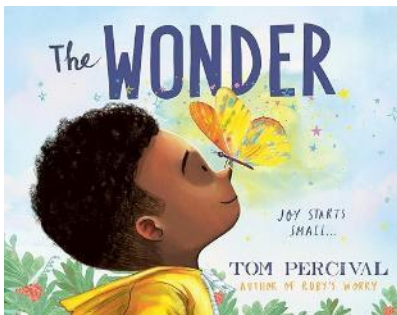


To do this, we need some plastic-backed picnic blankets. If you (or anyone you know) have any old ones that you no longer use or need (and would happily donate them to school) please send them into school for my attention. Thank you, Mrs M.

ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Focused on our school values:

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



We launched the summer term with a beautiful picture book called 'The Wonder' by Tom Percival. The story focuses on the wonders around us in our world which can easily be forgotten when we are too busy or too worked up to notice. This linked brilliantly to both our school values of RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY, and our Eco Schools status. We discussed examples of natural wonder that we had seen during the Easter holidays and had a good think about what we can do to play our part in looking after our world.

**Reminder:
This Friday!**

Break the Rules 2026

Friday 17th April

50p per rule

Break up to 5 rules

Bring cash on the day or use the QR code to donate online

Juice instead of water

Bring a teddy

Wear nail varnish

Own clothes / dress up / PJs

Crazy hair

Move seats in class

Sweets or chocolate for snack

Bring a magazine instead of a book



ATTENDANCE

Our attendance table for last week is shown below. This shows the attendance percentages for each class for this academic year so far. The minimal national expectation is 96%

Registration Class	% attendance for class this year:
Reception – Latrigg	96.7
Reception – Mellbreak	98.0
Y1 Angletarn	96.7
Y1 Whinlatter	97.4
Y2 Outerside	96.8
Y2 Yewbarrow	97.1
Y3 Kentmere	97.7
Y3 Glaramara	96.7
Y4 Thornthwaite	97.4
Y4 Blencathra	96.8
Y5 Fairfield	97.4
Y5 Catstycam	96.1
Y6 Helvellyn	96.3
Y6 Scafell	97.4

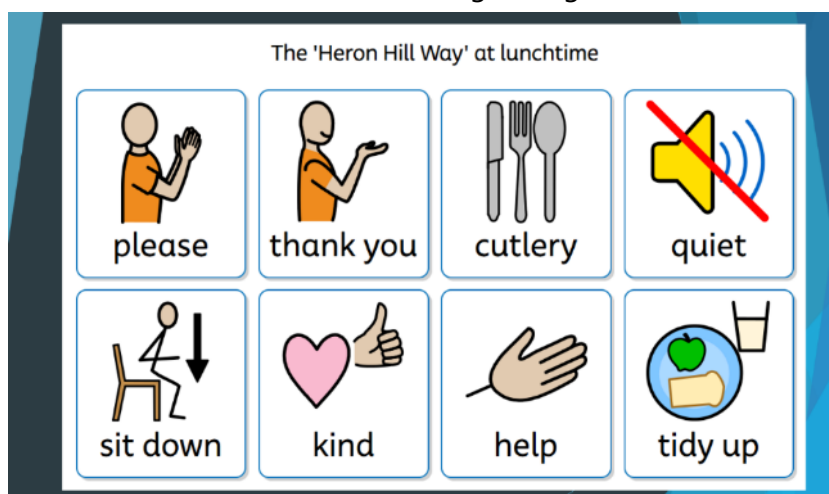
All of our classes are currently above the national target of 96%. This is brilliant news! But... it could easily be impacted by both illness and term-time holidays during the remaining weeks of term. We will continue to monitor attendance closely and share weekly updates with you.



THE HERON HILL WAY AT LUNCHTIME

After introducing this new approach in the final week of last term, we were pleased to see that most of our children had remembered our new lunchtime expectations after the Easter break. All year groups are eating in our school dinner hall between 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm, whether they are eating packed lunches or hot school dinners. Year groups are called in on rotation and all year groups have a minimum 20-minute time slot available for eating.

We have noticed some lunchboxes are filled with high sugar products and want to remind parents that healthy lunchboxes are expected. Full-size chocolate bars and sweets are not permitted in school. No products containing nuts are permitted either (including pesto). Please ensure your child's lunchbox contains appropriate food to fuel them for their learning during the afternoon.





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.



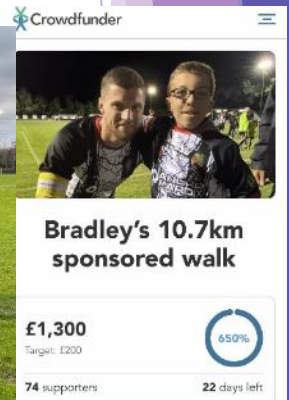
Isla B (Y6) played in the Cumbria school county championship at Seascale Golf Club over the Easter holidays, representing Heron Hill School. It was tough, windy conditions but she was very pleased to come in first place in the under 16 girls category with a net score of 73 over 18 holes. WOW! Well done Isla!



Before Easter Molly and Bradley P each achieved a new distance badge for swimming. They are both working so hard on their swimming skills! Awards achieved were 100m for Molly and 600m for Bradley. Well done you two!



Vihandu M (Y1) has been awarded a certificate for the successful completion of his 1st year with Stagecoach Performing Arts. Vihandu did a lovely performance of "Bella No Buzz" with his team. Well done Vihandu - you superstar!



Bradley P (Y6) is also undertaking a challenge to support his beloved Kendal Town FC; walking 10.7km in one go to mark their 107th anniversary and quest for a new roof! It's been so successful the team invited Bradley down to a training session which he loved! Fundraising currently stands at £1,300! Donations can be made here: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bradleys-107km-sponsored-walk>



Noah H (Y6) competed in the Northern Irish Open Judo Championships for the first time and took another medal, this time a bronze, beating the eventual winner on the way to the podium. Well done Noah, on another international success!



Local news, events and initiatives



SOUTH LAKES SHREDDERS



Interested in improving your bike skills or just trying something new? Join us at South Lakes Shredders bike skills evenings. We have rollers, ramps, jumps, see-saws and balance beams for you to come and try out.

Parents can take part too or just come along to encourage your kids, join the WhatsApp group to stay up to date on the sessions.

Where: Staveley Playing Field (next to the park)
When: Tuesday & Thursday 18:00 - 19:30/20:00 (weather dependant)
What do I need: A bike in good working order & a helmet

St John's Hospice

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** and **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 1157030

A PERSONAL CHALLENGE FOR MRS M:

Inspired by the stories of several people close to me I'm taking on the Lake District Mighty Hike in June to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, because no one should have to face cancer alone. I'll be hiking the equivalent of a half marathon along the paths and fells of Ullswater. I know first-hand that Macmillan do amazing things for families living with cancer. I'd like to do something amazing for them to enable them to continue their awesome work.

I've never attempted anything like this before but decided to channel what I say to pupils at school in my assemblies, **"Feel the fear and do it anyway!"** Several parents have found out about this mission and asked me to share the fundraising link via my weekly newsletter. There is no pressure to donate as I understand how recent bill rises are affecting families. If however you would like to donate, please follow this link:

https://mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/Midders-for-Macmillan?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL&utm_medium=FR&utm_source=dssb-EM&utm_content=MPC

