



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We are so excited to be in the planning stages of OPAL at Heron Hill. This approach will transform our lunchtime play provision and enable all children to engage in high quality, outdoor play EVERY DAY at our school. Last night, all staff stayed for some extended training to hear more about this approach and begin to plan for ways we can maximise our 6.5 acres and provide a wide range of outdoor adventurous, imaginative play. Mr Corrie as Assistant Head is leading on this project and I am so excited to see it develop over the next 2 years.

In terms of what you can do to support or get ready, all pupils will require a named set of waterproofs and wellies in school. These will be used daily as we will eventually be going outside whatever the weather! This doesn't have to be expensive and they will get muddy/messy so branded products are not necessary. We'll be adding waterproofs and wellies into our prospectus and website uniform list shortly. I will of course keep you updated on the project and planned implementation. With lunchtime equating to over 1.25 years of your child's total time in primary school, we are passionate about making this time count!

Mrs Middleton

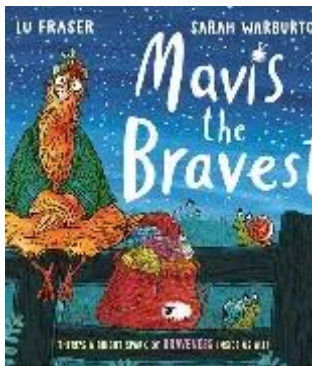
HANDWRITING & PRESENTATION PRAISE

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.**



This week's high-quality picture book focused on a courageous hen called Mavis. She went from a fearful hen who was too scared to sleep, to the hen who saved the day when someone tried to steal a sheep.

We used this story to focus on our **RESILIENCE** value and think about times when we need to be brave, try again or keep going.

Mavis The Bravest by Lu Fraser and Sarah Warburton was a big hit with our pupils and has been added to the assembly book shelf outside my office.

Class:	Pupil:
R Mellbreak	Daisy S
R Lattrigg	Heidi M
Y1 Angletarn	Robert C
Y1 Whinlatter	Elsie G
Y2 Outerside	Flynn L
Y2 Yewbarrow	Nell Z
Y3 Kentmere	Teo R
Y3 Glaramara	Amelia W
Y4 Thornthwaite	Lily N
Y4 Blencathra	Max N
Y5 Fairfield	Matylda B
Y5 Catstycam	Rue M
Y6 Helvellyn	George E
Y6 Scafell	Courtney C

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance table for last week is shown below. This shows the attendance percentages for each class for the first week of our summer term. National expectations are 96% and you will notice several of our classes fall beneath that this week. However, we also have reason to celebrate as 3 classes all had 100% attendance last week – WELL DONE!

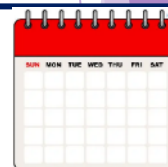
Registration Class	% attendance for class this year:
Reception – Latrigg	94.1
Reception – Mellbreak	100
Y1 Angletarn	98.5
Y1 Whinlatter	100
Y2 Outerside	99.7
Y2 Yewbarrow	99
Y3 Kentmere	95.5
Y3 Glaramara	98.2
Y4 Thornthwaite	100
Y4 Blencathra	96.5
Y5 Fairfield	97.2
Y5 Catstycam	99.7
Y6 Helvellyn	98.2
Y6 Scafell	95.5

Please ensure you inform school of any planned holidays during term-time. We are unable to authorise these but have a statutory duty to know where every pupil is in term-time. Not telling us leads to huge wastes of leadership time as we try to chase reasons for absence and even complete home visits. This is valuable time that should be spent in school making things great for children.



SWIM PANATHLON SUPERSTARS!

We are so proud of the 8 children who went to Kendal Leisure Centre last Thursday to represent Heron Hill in the swim panathlon event. Despite some wobbles and fears, they all swam brilliantly! They were an excellent example of our motto to 'feel the fear and do it anyway!'. Mrs Foster accompanied them and was so, so proud of all of their achievements. As a team, they achieved second place winning fantastic silver medals! Well done Alfie, Kaiden, Ozric, Cruz, Courtney, Riyana, Amelia and Raquel... you are superstars!!! Thank you to all of the staff and parent helpers who made this opportunity happen.



IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Parents were informed back in the autumn term that the INSET days in January and May were no longer going ahead this academic year.

School is therefore OPEN to all pupils on Friday 1st May as usual.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

A parent governor's term of office is coming to an end. If you are interested in taking on this important role, please look out for the letter on ScoPay about the nomination process.



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.



Erin S (Y5) competed for Kendal at an internal gala on Saturday. She got two 6th places and a 3rd place podium finish for her 50m Breaststroke in the 10 and under age category. Well done Erin!

Austin (Y3) took part in his first ever run this weekend, completing the Kendal Colour Dash with his dad! Well done Austin!



Brother and sister duo Izzy W (Y1) and Dylan W (Y4) also had so much fun completing the Kendal Colour Dash and raising money for a brilliant cause. Well done!



Rory M (Y2) took part in the Pendle Panthers Enduro mountain bike race in Gisburn Forest this weekend Well done Rory!

Evie G (Y6), Josie G (Y4), Evie F (Y5), Yana ND (Y2) and Wren ND (Y4) all joined the Kendal Colour Dash raising funds for St John's Hospice. St Johns provides palliative care for the community of North Lancashire, South Lakes and parts of North Yorkshire. Well done girls!



Jessica A (Y5) had successful swims at Kendal Amateur Swimming Club's Gala on Saturday. She won Gold in the Under 12s 100m Individual Medley, Silver in Under 11s 50m backstroke and also achieved two new personal best times. Well done Jess!



HERON HILL ECO-ENTHUSIASTS SPEAK OUT

Last week I received a letter from 3 girls in Year 4 who are part of our Eco-team and give up some of their free time to recycle products across school such as our plastic glue sticks.

They were alarmed by the amount of plastic waste being produced via the school fruit scheme and wanted to know if plastic wrappers for raisins could be replaced with cardboard.

I'm pleased to say that we forwarded their letter on to the School Fruit Scheme and received a reply committing to looking into this matter and trialing alternative packaging!

What a brilliant example of our school values **RESPECT** and **RESPONSIBILITY** this is. Well done Martha, Josie and Wren!



to see
head
teacher

Dear Mrs Middleton,
We are writing to say we should get raisins in a cardboard box
Not Plastic bags it is better for our eco-school
and it can get put in our compost bins to grow from the
peels.

We think this would help our environment
thrive, less plastic, less landfill.

We hope you take this into your hands
carefully.
from martha josie & wren!

BRADLEY'S FUNDRAISING QUEST IS COMPLETE

Bradley P (Y6) set himself a fundraising challenge a little while ago and has been busily fundraising to support his beloved local team Kendal Town FC. As he pledged, he completed his 10.7km walk on Sunday 19th April with his Mum and grandparents. He has now raised over £1,850 towards their new roof fundraiser and is extremely proud of this achievement. Well done Bradley – we are so proud of you!



KENDAL'S SCHOOL SKI RACE

I am sure you will all join me in wishing our ski teams the very best of luck for the annual school's ski race which is taking place at Kendal Snowsports Club tomorrow evening.

We have 3 teams competing:

The Flying Herons
The Heroic Herons
Highspeed Herons

There are 15 schools competing in total and I will be there to cheer them on! I look forward to sharing some photos and outcomes with you in next week's newsletter.



MARIGOLD MUFTI DAY – 6TH MAY 2026

In recent years, we have been extremely grateful to our families for donations of bedding plants to attract pollinators and enhance our school grounds throughout the summer months. Our Gardening Club children love the opportunity to plant and look after them, which helps to connect them to nature. Once again, we would be very grateful for donations of colourful bedding plants such as marigolds, pansies, calendula, geraniums, lobelia, begonias, sweetpeas, petunias, lavender, fuchsias, etc. Bags of compost are also very welcome. Children can wear mufti (non-uniform) for the day as a thank you. We are most grateful for your continued support.

Yours sincerely, Mrs M Wilkinson



Local Authority SEND Information

SEND

Westmorland and Furness
SEND Partnership

We are working to transform SEND and would like your views as a SEND parent or carer, to help shape our local plan in response to the National SEND Reform Consultation

This is your opportunity to be involved in the discussions, where your voice really matters.

Tuesday 28 April 2026 - 10am - 11am

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/341080884677429?p=7y2YmkMmUvlbDVEiV>

Meeting ID: 341 080 884 677 429 Passcode: ma9LK6Ky

Tuesday 28 April 2026 - 12pm - 1pm

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/362939489233758?p=5F56iLYbgO7iUcvy2Y>

Meeting ID: 362 939 489 233 758 Passcode: ho98U5Go

Tuesday 28 April 2026 - 7pm - 8pm

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/399878457795577?p=OP23VBmNrELKmqSWWy>

Meeting ID: 399 878 457 795 577 Passcode: So65fq2a

We will not be able to discuss individual circumstances during the session.

Joining instructions:

- Download the TEAMS app (free) to your laptop or phone
- Click on the live link above, if prompted add in the Meeting ID and passcode
- Sometimes the link takes you straight through, so press the 'Join Now' button.

Westmorland and Furness SEND Partnership are working with CONTACT associates to build the new strategic parent carer forum, this will provide ongoing opportunities for you to be involved in the strategic planning of SEND services. Please email SENDPartnership@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk for more information and to get involved.

contact

