



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Year 6 are the stars of the show this week as they tackle their SATs papers. We are over halfway through the papers now and have just one Maths paper left tomorrow morning. SATs are an important milestone for Year 6 but are only a small part of the jigsaw puzzle of their time in primary. We always emphasise the need to simply do their best. There are so many skills, attributes and qualities that children learn during their time here that are not tested by the questions. At Heron Hill, we believe in the importance of academic achievement and strive for the best for all of our pupils. We also believe heavily in valuing the 'whole child' for all they do and contribute – Y6 parents and carers, your children are magnificent and we are proud of them whatever happens on results day!

The administration of SATS is a huge task so I'd like to say a big thank you to all of our staff who are involved for their time and contributions to the process. Mr Stanger (one of our governors) has also been present all week to oversee administration for governors; his time is much appreciated.

I hope you are enjoying a positive week and look forward to catching up with you again next week for our final newsletter of this half term.

Mrs. Middleton

TOYS IN SCHOOL – DUCKS, DUCKS AND MORE DUCKS!



Some of our younger children are bringing colourful, tiny resin ducks into school. These items present a potential choking risk and must not be brought into school, or taken to breakfast or after-school club.

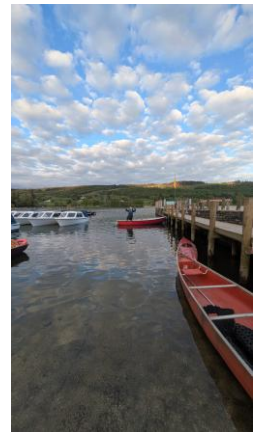
Toys (including these ducks) should always be left at home please as any loss or damage to them in school cannot be accounted for. We know how distressing it can be for children to lose their things which is why we always advocate for items being left at home, unless necessary for learning.

We thank parents in advance for your support with bag/pocket checks before drop-off and will remind the children in school to leave these items at home.

OPAL PROJECT UPDATE

Last week's newsletter included a brief overview of our new OPAL lunchtime project. It has been great to hear parents talking about this and the offers of resources have been much appreciated.

Last week, Mrs Altounyan and Miss Wilson went on an adventure to retrieve donated boats and kayaks from Lake Windemere! (We hope to upcycle and repurpose these for sand and water play.) Their dedication to improving play for all pupils is commendable! Here are some photos from their adventure:



If you have any connections via work or family members that could support school with this project, please see Mr Corrie or email him via admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk. The following materials would be particularly handy as we begin to map out plans: **old tyres, play sand, drainpipes, tarpaulin, ropes, plastic crates, plastic barrels, wheelie bins, wooden pallets.**

If you would like to find out more OPAL and what playtimes will look like here at Heron Hill, you can visit: [Our story - Outdoor Play and Learning](#)



ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

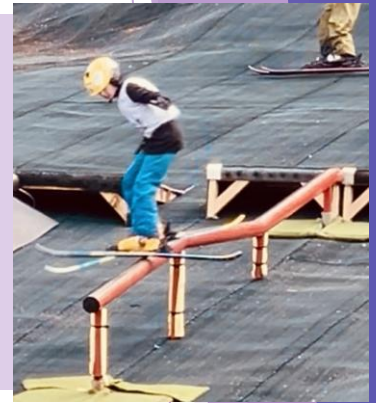
We'd love to continue celebrating any out-of-school achievements on our weekly newsletter and had so many things to celebrate last year!

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.



Last weekend, George and Harry E competed in 'K-Jam' the biggest freestyle ski competition in the UK. Hosted by Kendal Snowsports Club, it was a packed event with 85 competitors and lots of opportunities to win prizes. George came away with a bronze award. Well done boys - you have both enjoyed an amazing season of skiing and we are really proud of you!



Alfie, Oliver, Lucas and Theo played for their Kendal United team on the pitch at Wigan Athletic's stadium on Monday night, and came away with a 4-0 win!

Jessica A from Y5 Fairfield competed in Saturday's Kendal Swimming Club's club Gala. She came 1st place in the 50m Breaststroke for her age group, retaining the trophy for the 2nd year in a row.



Matylda B (Y5) received a trophy for gymnast of the month. She is very happy with her achievement. We are so proud of her!



Louie B (Y6) and Jake D (Y5) took part in Lancaster Mini Triathlon on Sunday 10th May. They had to Swim 74m, Bike 5k and Run 1k. They both achieved amazing times and finished with smiles on their faces. Well done boys!

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance table for last week is shown below. This shows the total number of missed days for each class last week. Well done to Catstycam class who had no absences last week and were all in school, on time, every day!

| Registration Class | Days missed for class last week: |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Reception – Latrigg | 3.5 |
| Reception – Mellbreak | 7 |
| Y1 Angletarn | 4 |
| Y1 Whinlatter | 11.5 |
| Y2 Outerside | 5 |
| Y2 Yewbarrow | 1 |
| Y3 Kentmere | 0.5 |
| Y3 Glaramara | 4.5 |
| Y4 Thornthwaite | 3 |
| Y4 Blencathra | 0.5 |
| Y5 Fairfield | 9.5 |
| Y5 Catstycam | 0 |
| Y6 Helvellyn | 5 |
| Y6 Scafell | 0.5 |

1 class with 100% attendance and 3 other classes with just 0.5 days missed last week. Well done to Catstycam, Kentmere, Blencathra and Scafell!



POLLINATOR WALK – THIS FRIDAY!



Friday is our annual pollinator fundraising walk and we can't wait to see you all dressed up and ready to pace around our beautiful school grounds.

All pupils brought home a letter last week outlining the event, the fundraising aims and the number of laps they are challenged to complete.

Pollinator-themed fancy dress is encouraged but not compulsory. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate footwear for the walking/running element of the day.

As explained on the letter, parents and carers are welcome to join their child for the walk.

Kendal Parents

SWAP SHOP & SOCIAL

Swap kids toys, games, puzzles, books & drinks
BYO drinks for a fun evening with friends



scan for tickets

Thurs 11th June
7 PM
FREE

The Eddington
Kendal





Mrs W's Pumpkin Challenge:



CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Did you attend our pumpkin walk last October with your family? If so, you will know this annual event is a real treat! We are always so impressed by the creativity on display with pumpkin carving and love to see so many families participating in this community event.

This year, we are hoping to elevate it further by encouraging home-grown pumpkins. One of our school values is RESPONSIBILITY so this is a great way to encourage your child to connect with nature and nurture their own pumpkin to grow well.

We have purchased seeds that are available to any family who wish to join in; just pop to the school office to collect seeds.

Below is a beginner's guide to pumpkin growing – we look forward to hearing about your growing adventures!

Mrs Wilkinson



GROWING PUMPKINS BEGINNER'S GUIDE

Popular Pumpkin Varieties:

- **For Carving:** 'Jack O'Lantern', 'Hundredweight', 'Racer F1'.
- **Giant pumpkins:** 'Atlantic Giant' and 'Big Max'.

Pumpkin Sowing and Planting:

- Plant your pumpkin seeds indoors in little 7.5cm pots. They will germinate within 7-14 days, then transplant them outdoors late May to early June when risk of frosts has passed. Sow seeds 12mm to 3cm deep and on their sides to prevent rotting. When planting out, place plants 1-1.5 metres apart to allow for trailing vines.
- **Soil and Light:** Plant in an area that gets full sun with rich, organic, well-drained soil.

Pumpkin Care and Cultivation:

- **Feeding:** Water regularly and feed every 14 days with a potash-rich fertilizer (such as Tomorite or Miracle Gro plant food) to encourage growth.
- **Support:** As the pumpkins grow, lift them onto a brick or wood to prevent rot and encourage ripening.
- **Harvesting:** Harvest in September-October before first frosts, leaving a 5cm stalk attached.

Friends of Heron Hill Pumpkin Walk:

- **Carve your pumpkin and bring it to school for our annual pumpkin walk event!**

And finally...

- Why not make a delicious pumpkin soup or even an American pumpkin pie?!