



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The final week of summer term 1 is here and it really feels like this half term has flown by! School has been a busy and productive place and it has been great to hear so many success stories from staff about their pupils and achievements this term. On Friday, we will be celebrating in our usual way with a celebration assembly where we will be giving out certificates galore!

This Friday sees the departure of Mrs Lehane to the wonderful pastures known as retirement. After decades of hard work, commitment and care for our school (and all who are part of it) we wish her the very best for a long, happy, healthy retirement. She may be retiring but will always be a piece of our Heron Hill jigsaw puzzle and we will always be grateful for her contributions, costumes and comedy!

I wish all members of our school community a restful May half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back into school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for our final half-term of this academic year.

**Mrs. Middleton**

## PARENT SURVEY FEEDBACK

We are grateful to everyone who completed our most recent parent survey which was available throughout March and shared via QR code on this newsletter and in person at parent consultation evenings. We are always keen to hear what you think we are doing well and what we could do to be even better. In total, we received 42 responses and a summary of what you said has been included below.

- **100%** of parents/carers either agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at our school and enjoys being part of Heron Hill.
- **100%** of parents/carers either agree or strongly agree that leaders (including the headteacher) are approachable and helpful, and that their ideas, opinions or concerns are listened to and valued.
- **93%** of parents/carers either agree or strongly agree that school communicates well with parents and carers.

Most common choices for 3 areas of strength at Heron Hill:	Most popular areas for suggested improvement:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our staff</li> <li>2. Sense of belonging and school values</li> <li>3. Our school grounds</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enrichment opportunities</li> <li>2. Community involvement</li> </ol>

Our average star rating (out of 5 stars):

# 4.67

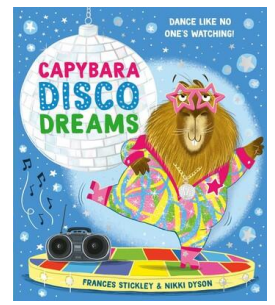
Average Rating



## ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

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

This week's high-quality picture book focused on a confident capybara called Colin. Colin is a dancing capybara who loves to spread joy to other animals via different forms of dancing. Throughout the story, the joy he spread inspired other animals to try dancing and performing too. We used this story to focus in our **RESPECT** value and think about how we are all unique, have different interests and are all welcome here at Heron Hill.



## ATTENDANCE

**Our attendance table for last week is shown below. This shows the total number of missed days for each class last week. Please continue to ask for 'request for leave' forms at the office if you are planning any term-time absence. This includes things like weddings, dance exams, medical appointments and sporting competitions, as well as family holidays.**

Registration Class	Days missed for class last week:
Reception – Lattrigg	5
Reception – Mellbreak	3
Y1 Angletarn	11.5
Y1 Whinlatter	5.5
Y2 Outerside	4
Y2 Yewbarrow	4
Y3 Kentmere	7.5
Y3 Glaramara	1
Y4 Thornthwaite	4.5
Y4 Blencathra	0
Y5 Fairfield	1
Y5 Catstycam	4.5
Y6 Helvellyn	3
Y6 Scafell	0

Congratulations to Blencathra class and Scafell class who both had 100% attendance last week!



## 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.



Class:	Pupil:
<b>R Mellbreak</b>	Samuel F
<b>R Lattrigg</b>	Charlotte W
<b>Y1 Angletarn</b>	Oliver T
<b>Y1 Whinlatter</b>	Milo SP
<b>Y2 Outerside</b>	Regan A
<b>Y2 Yewbarrow</b>	Kole T
<b>Y3 Kentmere</b>	Lucas S
<b>Y3 Glaramara</b>	Leo A
<b>Y4 Thornthwaite</b>	Bobby N
<b>Y4 Blencathra</b>	Harriet O'K
<b>Y5 Fairfield</b>	Noah H
<b>Y5 Catstycam</b>	Elijah C
<b>Y6 Helvellyn</b>	N/A SATs week
<b>Y6 Scafell</b>	N/A SATs week



## 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](mailto: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.*



Ava W (Y2) took part in her first gymnastics competition for Kendal Gymnastics at the weekend taking home bronze and silver medals in her bar and floor routines. Amazing Ava!

Matylda B (Y5) took part in a gymnastics competition in Penrith and won a silver medal on beam and a 4<sup>th</sup> place for her floor routine. This was her first competition away from home and she did brilliantly. Well done Matylda!



## OPAL PROJECT UPDATE

We are beginning to create our first two outdoor areas for lunchtime play via the OPAL project which is really exciting! These will launch in the first few weeks back after half term.

As we begin to create our large-scale mud kitchen area, we would be grateful of any donations our school community may be able to provide to support play in this area. Please see the poster opposite for details of what we need. This has also been posted on Class Dojo for easy reference.

A black OPAL donation box is just inside the main school gates for easy drop off.



We are currently resourcing and constructing a large-scale MUD KITCHEN for lunchtime play.

We would be grateful for any donations of:

**Pots**  
**Pans**  
**Baking tins**  
**Mixing bowls (plastic or metal)**  
**Kitchen utensils (plastic or wood)**



Please bring these to school and pop them into the OPAL donation box just inside the main school gates.  
**THANK YOU!**



# Local news, events and initiatives:

National Trust

From 23 May

Pokémon TRAINING CARD GAME MEGA EVOLUTION TRAIL

Unleash your ENERGY

Get active and power up your imagination this May half term on the Pokémon TCG Mega Evolution Trail at National Trust Sizergh. Pick up a FREE trail sheet from the Welcome Desk, follow the signs to the Wild Play Trail. Find out more at [nationaltrust.org.uk/sizergh](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/sizergh)

© National Trust 2026. Registered charity no. 205846. © National Trust Images/Annapurna Mellor. Pokémon in partnership with National Trust, celebrating the Pokémon TCG Mega Evolution Series. © 2026 Pokémon / Nintendo / Creatures / GAME FREAK.

The National Trust is running a Pokémon TCG Mega Evolution Trail at Sizergh, offering families the chance to enjoy the outdoors while taking part in a fun, themed trail around the gardens. It's a great, low-cost way to encourage children to get outside and be active during the holidays.

Kendal Sea Cadets are a charity that empowers young people through adventure, personal development, and hands-on learning. We currently have spaces for young people aged 9-11 in our Junior Sea Cadet Section. Sea Cadets offers a unique experience that blends adventure, challenge, and personal growth, all within a nautical-themed environment inspired by the traditions of the Royal Navy.



## ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR NEXT BIG ADVENTURE?

Are you looking for a new challenge and a chance to learn new skills? Are you between 9 - 12 and need help to get a head start on life?

If you said yes, Kendal Junior Sea Cadets could be for you.

### Our Offer:

- \* Develop your communication, teamwork and leadership skills
- \* Learn practical skills like first aid, navigation, water safety and STEM.
- \* Discover your potential and unlock future career opportunities
- \* Create lifelong memories through camps, competitions and outdoor adventures
- \* Make friends for life

### GET IN TOUCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

T: 01539 733 440

E: [admin@kendalseacadets.co.uk](mailto:admin@kendalseacadets.co.uk)

[f /KendalSeaCadets.1](https://www.facebook.com/KendalSeaCadets.1)  
[sea-cadets.org/kendal](http://sea-cadets.org/kendal)



SEA CADETS  
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?!