



## **MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

Despite the pouring rain, it was great to be back out on the gates this Monday, welcoming our families back into school for the start of the final half term of this academic year. It is always nice to see many smiling faces returning from a break; especially one as sunny and fulfilling as last week! I do hope you all managed to get some downtime and to make the most of the mini heatwave we experienced! Things in school are busy and we still have lots to cover, do and experience before the summer break can begin. Please remember to keep an eye on the Class Dojo calendar so that you know what is happening in school. On top of the day job, teachers are currently working hard on pupil's end of year reports. I'm pleased to inform you that our Heron Hill report format has had a makeover to improve and increase the information shared with parents; we are looking forward to sharing these with you in July.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Mrs. Middleton (proud HT)**

## **CONGRATULATIONS – A HALF-TERM WEDDING**



The lovely Miss Walker (Reception) got married over half term to her long-term boyfriend. Everyone in school was so happy for her on hearing this amazing news when we returned to work on Monday!

I am sure you will all join me in sending huge congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Hayton; we wish them a lifetime of love and happiness together.

## **A HERON HILL BABY IS ON THE WAY!**

This week is Miss Storey's final week in school before her maternity leave begins and she prepares for her first baby. Miss Storey has been part of the Heron Hill family for almost two years now and has had such a positive impact since joining us. We are all really excited for her as she heads into this motherhood chapter and can't wait to hear of the safe arrival of her little one.



For the duration of her maternity leave, her Reception class are going to be well looked after by Miss Richards. Miss Richards is a fantastic teacher (previously working in Y5) and we are so pleased that she was able to accept the maternity leave post in Reception. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming her back to Team HH and in wishing Miss Storey all the best for the adventure ahead.

## **NURTURE GROUP – AN EXCITING NEW PROVISION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026**

Behind the scenes, I've been working with Mrs. Jones on a new and exciting provision for school in September. You may be aware that the government have a huge focus on SEND and are keen to improve provision via their new 'white paper' proposals. We are slightly ahead of the curve on this as we have been planning to add a bespoke provision into our offer from September for several months now.

Working alongside Specialist Advisory Teachers and other professionals, we are planning to transform our Shearwater and Avocet rooms into a calm, bespoke learning environment for some of our pupils. These rooms will be well-equipped with a range of different resources to support regulation, sensory needs, independence and of course, learning. Led by Mrs Jones and two members of our TA team, this provision will provide daily core teaching (reading, writing and maths) for approximately 10 pupils. Although it is currently being referred to as 'Nurture Group', our plan is to allow the children to choose its name ahead of September. It is an extremely exciting project with the potential to have a significant, positive impact on our pupils. We are looking forward to discussing this in more detail with parents of identified children soon



### A SHOUT OUT TO B&Q KENDAL

We are very grateful to Tony and Martin from B&Q in Kendal for the donation of a range of plants, fruit and vegetables to use in our gardening clubs and to enhance our grounds. The gardeners are currently busy planting sweetpeas, peonies, dahlias, onions, strawberries, potatoes, chillies and tomatoes. Their donation really helps to connect the children to nature and builds their understanding of how plants grow. As you can see from the photos, the children are loving gardening! Mrs. Wilkinson



### **HANDWRITING & PRESENTATION PRAISE**

Due to last week being the half-term break, our presentation praise awards will return next week.



### MRS LEHANE'S FAREWELL

I have been overwhelmed by the affection, cards and gifts I received on my retirement, thank you so much to everyone who thought of me and contributed to the wave of appreciation that swept over me. I made a display in my house of the fabulous cards, banners and drawings given to me by the children, all the cards and best wishes from families, governors and staff and the individual gifts and flowers that I tried to keep track of but fear I failed to for some of them; please know I am so touched by and grateful for all I received. Year 5 used their IT lessons to create THE BEST and funniest video about my life at the school, it is so well done.

I am now a member of the National Trust, I have a garden centre voucher to spend and I will be on an electric bike in the near future; thank you for helping me towards all of these if you contributed to the secret fund.

I have loved the place, the people and the job all these 25+ years...and the chance to wear ridiculous outfits. It will take me a while to adjust to an unstructured life without term dates and my office gals, but I will try my best. I will continue to hold all at Heron Hill in my prayers and in my heart.

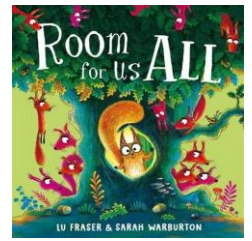


**Alison Lehane**

## ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

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

This week's high-quality picture book was called 'Room for us All' and focused on a squirrel called Pamela who was desperate to be accepted into the game with all the other squirrels. Despite her trying to fit in, they continued to leave her out until a kind beetle called Roger showed the squirrels what kindness looks like. We used this story to focus on our **RELATIONSHIPS** value.



## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY LETTERS

Every term, we are required to send out letters to the parents and carers of any child whose attendance is below 90% and therefore of concern. This is an important part of our statutory duty and a responsibility that cannot be ignored.

Letters will be coming out to any child who is **below 90%** or any child whose attendance marks suggest a **punctuality issue**.

If you have already received a letter this year and are receiving another, it will either acknowledge the improvement seen or emphasise the continued concern about your child's attendance.

All letters reflect the Local Authority expectations for school and head teachers. If you require support or a further conversation, please do not hesitate to contact school for an appointment.



## OPAL AREAS AND SNEAK PEEK

We are so grateful for the excitement building around our **OPAL project**. After requesting mud kitchen resources before half term, we are pleased to share some sneak peek pictures of our first OPAL areas that will be opening to pupils during lunchtime in the next week or so.

Our mud kitchen can be found in the quiet garden area of the KS1 playground. It provides plenty of space for large groups of children to play and was trialled by Happy Herons children during half term. It is safe to say, it was a huge hit! We are still welcoming any donations for this area so please do pop any items into our OPAL donation box on the playground. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Dan Middleton (one of our OPAL parent volunteers) for his hard work in creating these mud kitchen units.

For KS2, their first OPAL zone is our new reading shed. This offers a calm spot for mindfulness colouring and reading, and is well resourced thanks to our Usbourne Book Fair sale commission.

As more areas are developed, you may spot some 'in progress' signs around the grounds. These can currently be seen under the Y1 canopy - watch this space to see what is developed here soon!

FROM  
THIS...



TO THIS...





# Local news, events and initiatives:

Westmorland  
& Furness  
**Best Start** Family Hub

## Fathers' Focus Groups

As part of our efforts to develop our service to support the needs of fathers and children, we are running two online focus groups over Microsoft Teams.

If you are a father, or father-figure, and would be willing to share your experience and provide feedback on some of our new proposals and resources, please come along- your participation makes all the difference.

**Wednesday 10th June 12.30-13.00**  
Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/348908075622006?p=zJCXmSkNxUK4xnCyM8>  
Meeting ID: 348 908 075 622 006  
Passcode: if3Xf37h

**Wednesday 10th June 20.30-21.00**  
Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/320337463696783?p=UBP5mDVNcmg6FUBgU9>  
Meeting ID: 320 337 463 696 783  
Passcode: XL7Le7KG



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& Furness  
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