



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It is fantastic to be back in school after the long summer break and to have seen the new school year get off to such a positive start. Each Wednesday, I'll be writing to our school community via this whole-school newsletter to share all of the great things happening in school, key messages and other important information. The aim is to streamline school communication into one main letter each week because - as a busy working mum myself - I know how overwhelming multiple school communications can feel.

Last night we hosted our 'Meet the Team' event and were thrilled to see a large turnout. This evening provided a chance to meet face-to-face with your child's new teacher, to hear more about the year ahead, to explore the books they'll be studying in Literacy and to sample our new autumn dinner menu. We do hope you found this useful.

Thank you for your continued support, **Mrs. Middleton, Proud Headteacher of Heron Hill Primary**

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who completed the annual parent survey shared by our Governing Body. Every response has been read and heard; these will be used to inform next steps in the third year of our journey together. Below are some summary statistics from the 73 responses to the survey:



- **97% of parents strongly agree or agree that their child feels safe at our school.**
- **92% of parents strongly agree or agree that their child is happy at school.**
- **95% of parents would recommend Heron Hill to another parent.**
- **100% of SEND parents strongly agree or agree that we give their child the support they need to succeed.**

PRESENTATION PRAISE

We will continue to celebrate one child per class in our weekly assembly for their efforts in presenting their work.



This can be for any subject across the curriculum and not only celebrates excellent handwriting/presentation but also celebrates small steps of success for children who are being resilient in this too.

I look forward to sharing the first set of award winners with you in next week's newsletter.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Before the holidays we encouraged our families to get involved in the local library's summer reading challenge. It has been fantastic to see a number of pupils bringing their certificates into school and to hear children talking about the books they have read over the summer. Once your child has completed 6 challenges, they should return their entry sheet to the library to exchange it for their completion certificate and medal. We will be celebrating all children with medals in assembly on Monday 28th September. Please ensure your child brings their medal along on this date. Thank you.

Y5/6 MOBILE PHONES AND HOME ALONE

Please note that both of the electronic forms for these permissions are now closed and the significant administrative work that sits behind these processes has been completed.

These are an important aspect of our safeguarding duty and are designed to keep everyone safe. The forms provide consent for **the autumn term only**.

In December, forms will re-open to allow parents/carers to provide permissions for the spring term. This is a slight change to procedures from last year and your cooperation is appreciated.

OPAL LAUNCHES AT HERON HILL

We heard lots of positive feedback at last night's 'Meet the Team' event about our new approach to play at lunchtime, OPAL. Many of you commented on how excited your child is about lunchtimes and how much they are enjoying playing with children of different ages too.

A significant amount of work has gone into this project with staff, governors and parent volunteers all committing their time and efforts into improving lunchtime provision. (If you would like to get involved, please contact Mr. Corrie who is our OPAL lead.)



Our OPAL areas will continue to grow over the next 18 months but are already having a huge impact on lunchtimes. In order for your child to be able to get fully involved whatever the weather, please remember to send in wellies and waterproofs to school. These are kept in school so they are readily available for play come rain or shine!

WHAT ARE YOU ENJOYING MOST ABOUT OPAL?

Here are just a few replies from pupils this week:

George Y4 "I like the hill and rolling but actually what I love is the art area! Because I'm a creative and like that sort of stuff!"

Wren and Freya Y5 "EVERYTHING!!!!!"

Airah Y2 "I love this boat! He's the captain!"

Riley Y3 "I love everything! Lunchtime is so much fun!"

Lincoln Y4 "My favourite thing is that we can play anywhere with anyone!"

Milo Y2 "My favourite is the colouring shed because I can make nice, bright things!"

Luca and Lucas Y6 "We love the cars and construction section."

Charlie Y5 "My favourite thing is the mud kitchen. You can create so many things!"



SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is always lovely to see the first day photos of children in their new uniform. We've noticed in school that lots of this isn't named - ***please write your child's name in each of their uniform items, including their school shoes!*** With OPAL at lunchtimes, children are regularly adding or removing layers and we don't want items getting lost.



We have a large amount of pre-loved uniform available in school. If you need an extra jumper, cardigan or PE kit, please consider looking in our pre-loved stock.

We have already gathered quite a lot of 'lost property' this term too. This is kept in the main school reception area so please do look here if your child has already misplaced an item of their uniform.



ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Our pupil community have many different talents and interests outside of school and we love to celebrate these on our weekly newsletter. Please continue to send any achievements, awards or proud moments 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.



Isobel and Kai F (Y3 and Y5) 'felt the fear and did it anyway' last weekend when they completed the Go Ape Course in Grizedale Forest. Mum joined them and was super proud of the resilience they showed! Well done!



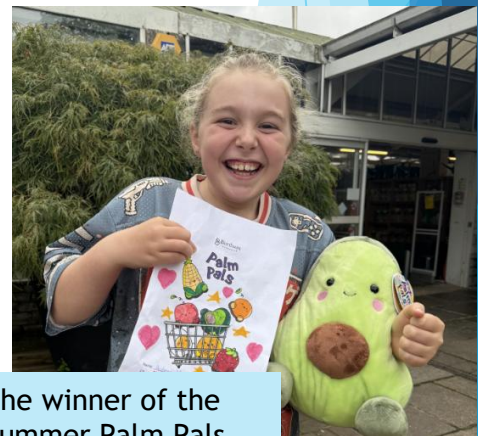
Harry E (Y6) has shown such commitment and resilience in his skiing over the past few years and all of his hard work has been rewarded! Last week, he was selected to join the Snowsports England Team for freestyle skiing. Check out his back flip in this photo! WOW!



Charlee-Rose K (Y6) got to the quarter finals in the Taekwondo Open in Manchester last weekend. We are so, so proud of her. There were around 500 spectators; just to fight in front of them is an achievement. Next stop for Charlee is the British National Championships in October at Manchester Velodrome. Congratulations Charlee!



Molly P (Y2) came home from year 1 with a small sunflower which became 3 times her size. She then harvested the seeds and shared them between the wild birds. Molly is a keen gardener, loves nature and has now achieved her green Blue Peter badge. Well done Molly!



Aubree M (Y5) was the winner of the Beetham Nurseries Summer Palm Pals competition. She was super excited to be chosen as the overall winner and receive a GIANT Palm Pal toy as her prize. Well done Aubree!