



# HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER NO. 1

**15th SEPTEMBER 2015**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for the new school year. A warm welcome too, for all our new starters; Nursery and Reception, plus the families who have joined us with children in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Last, but not least, welcome to new staff: Mr Murphy, Deputy Headteacher, Mr Harris, Year 2 teacher and Miss Reid, Year 6 teacher. You may well have already seen them out in the playground at the beginning and end of the day.

Do please use playground opportunities to speak with teachers, if it is appropriate, if you have any questions or messages to pass on. Otherwise, let me remind you that you can call into the office if you would like to speak with a member of staff. Mrs Lehane and Mrs Higgins will be happy to help if they can or will be able to arrange for a teacher, myself or Mr Murphy to speak with you if you prefer. You can also write in, e-mail or telephone of course or use the 'contact us' message board on our website.

I have already received several letters requesting or notifying us of holiday and absences during the term. Each request for authorised absence is considered individually in line with the school's Attendance Policy. The policy states that 4 weeks notice should be given! A copy of this can be found on our website or is available on request from the office.

And so on with the autumn term. The children started very calmly last week and have already got back into the swing of things in school, which is not always easy after such a long holiday! Thank you for sending them in with all the correct uniform, shoes and PE kit items and for ensuring they make it to school to line up at 8.50 am each morning. A good start to the year.

*Peter Hicks*

### Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Quest Club starts (Christian lunchtime club for children in Years 4-6)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery Open Afternoon, 2.00 pm-5.00 pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	'Wear Something Orange' and bring £1 (see back page)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Fairtrade Tuck Shop (see page 2)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent/carer helper training, 2.30 pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Friends of Heron Hill Cheese and Wine and AGM Evening, 6.00 pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	FoHH nearly new uniform sale, 3.00 pm, weather permitting
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent consultation meetings (letter to follow)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Post-Residential Visit Assembly, 2.30 pm; family/friends welcome
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	FoHH Disco
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	School photographs (letter to follow)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Return to school

### Classes and Teachers 2015-2016

Headteacher	Mr Peter Hicks
Deputy Head	Mr Ian Murphy
Assistant Head	Mrs Michelle Wilkinson

#### Teachers

Nursery	Mrs Metcalfe
Reception	Mrs Foster and Mrs Knipe
Year 1	Mrs Hudson and Mrs Jones
Year 2	Miss Shore and Mr Harris
Year 3	Mrs Haddath and Miss Hildrew
Year 4	Mrs Curry and Mrs Lawson
Year 5	Mr McDougall, Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Dodd-Hemingway
Year 6	Mrs O'Neil and Miss Reid

#### Teaching Assistants

Mrs Ormrod, Mrs Greenhough, Mrs Robinson
Mrs Robinson and Mrs Pritchard
Mrs Smith, Mrs Chaplow and Mrs Gorst
Mrs Wilson and Mrs Turner
Mrs Scott
Mrs Broomby and Miss Powell
Mrs Quilliam, Mrs Warren, Mrs Pritchard
Mrs Jones

Mrs Cooling is Inclusion Manager and along with Mrs Dodd-Hemingway, Mrs Barber, Mrs Harper, Mrs Osborne and Mr Murphy, teaches in school to provide non-contact and PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time. Mrs Roberts is the Business Manager, with Mrs Lehane, Mrs Higgins and Mrs Butler providing additional clerical support. Lunch time supervision is provided by our marvellous team of Mid-day Supervisors.

## Requests for Leave of Absence

At Heron Hill we agree that missing school for any reason is likely to deprive a child of educational opportunities and hamper their progress at school. Although we acknowledge that parents may sometimes prefer to take holidays outside of school holidays, this has to be balanced against the effect on pupils' progress at school.

- Headteachers can only grant leave of absence for any reason if they are satisfied exceptional circumstances exist. The effect of this change means that the government expects it to be **extremely unusual** for leave of absence, including for holidays in term time, to be permitted by schools.
- If you do need to request leave of absence, please do so, in writing to the Headteacher, **at least four weeks** before the start of the proposed absence and include an explanation of why it is exceptional circumstances.
- Every request will be considered individually.
- Emergencies, funerals etc do not require four weeks notice.

## Friends of Heron Hill

The work of the parent-teachers' association, Friends of Heron Hill, is greatly appreciated by all at the school. The FoHH charity seriously needs fresh faces and ideas to join their steering committee. Please consider if you can help FoHH; the more people involved, the lighter the load, and the greater the certainty that your child can continue to enjoy the discos and the fairs. All are welcome ☺



All parents and carers are warmly invited to a cheese and wine evening, which is also the Annual General Meeting, on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 pm.

## Food Information

We would like to remind you that morning break snacks should only be fruit, vegetables or cheese for children in Years 3-6. Processed foods containing concentrated fruits which have a high sugar content are not acceptable. Younger children are provided with fresh fruit and vegetables via a government scheme.

Children up to 5 years old and those in families eligible for Free School Meals can be registered to receive a free carton of milk each day. Parents of children 5 years and older can register to buy milk for their child each day at a cost of approximately 22p a day. Contact the office for more information.



We have children in school with severe nut allergies, so please do not send your child into school with nuts or foods which contain nuts, including Nutella sandwiches.

## Fairtrade Tuckshop

The Tuckshop is for children in Reception to Year 6 and all the products on sale are Fairtrade certified; each item is sold at minimum cost and the small amount of profit made is used to support Ongoma School in Tanzania. Children can spend up to 60p on biscuits and snacks and can also buy a drink.



On Tuckshop day, please send your child to school with the correct money in an envelope, clearly labelled with their name and their tuckshop choice. A list of products available will be distributed later this term.

Tuckshops will take place on the last Thursday of most months. This term, they will be on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November.

## Relief Mid-Day Supervisors

We like to have a bank of relief Mid-Day Supervisors who can work on an as-needed basis to cover absence, but there are not many people in the bank at present. Please contact the office if you are interested. Hours of work are 1¼ hours over lunchtime Monday to Friday and the rate of pay is £7.8812 per hour.

## Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform for school:

- Boys: black or grey trousers, pale blue or white (polo) shirt, royal blue sweatshirt and sensible black school shoes, not trainers.
- Girls: black or grey trousers or skirt/pinafore (in summer, blue gingham dress), pale blue or white (polo) shirt, royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan and sensible black shoes, not fashion boots or trainers. Hair can be tied up with plain hairbands, but holiday hair-braiding should be removed before returning to school.
- Indoor PE Kit: plain white round-necked T-shirt, black or blue shorts (not lycra/cycling/tight or 'skorts'), plimsolls/pumps.
- Outdoor PE Kit: black or blue tracksuit, trainers.
- Jewellery: If possible, children should not wear earrings to school. If they are recent additions, earrings must be removed for PE lessons. Plain watches may be worn, but the school does not accept responsibility if these are lost at school. No other jewellery is allowed.



## PHOTO GALLERY



### Year 6 at Westmorland County Show

For the second year running, our Year 6s enjoyed a SUNNY County Show! Mr Murphy accompanied the visit and it is possible that other staff had over-praised the dancing sheep show; it left him a little underwhelmed. That aside, children and staff came back with very positive reports about their day at the Show, the only problem was they were not there long enough.

Many thanks to Mrs Knipe and Miss Powell for putting up the Heron Hill stand in the 'Learning for Life' tent at the Show. It displayed Heart Awareness materials produced during our family day in June.

### Sports Support

Heron Hill School has successfully bid for a coach to work with Year 3 for this academic year, providing free coaching support for the teachers. The Story Sports School Scheme is run by Story Homes who will be building new homes in the local area. Heron Hill was the only South Lakes school to successfully bid for a place and joins 9 other schools in Cumbria receiving this support. Declan Murray will be delivering the Year 3 coaching support. He will also provide a multi-skills after-school club for Year 2 children, which is not part of the scheme, therefore we request a payment of £1 per child per session for this.



### Year 3 Reading Partners

Year 3 pupils have started the year by sharing books and enjoying the adventure found in reading.

### Chair of Governors

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to welcome back all our pupils to the start of the new school year, and in particular welcome our new families across Nursery, Reception and in classes throughout the school. We also extend a warm welcome to our new deputy head, Mr Ian Murphy, Miss Helen Reid into Year 6 and Mr Matt Harris into Year 2.

The Governing Body has now reconstituted and all of us are looking forward to the new year and the challenges that lie ahead.

Look out for the new website; there will be a governor section where you can find out who we are and what our responsibilities are. Until then, if you wish to contact any governor please ask at the school office.

Morag Knight



## Voluntary Contributions

We continue the current system of asking for a £5.00 contribution per family per year. The children undertake a range of class activities such as baking, art/craft activities and photographs which all children benefit from but which result in considerable costs for the school. We are therefore asking for £5.00 per family towards these costs. Money should be sent into school by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September in a sealed envelope with your child(ren)'s name on. Please make cheques payable to 'Heron Hill Primary School'.

## Wet Lunchtime Equipment

Each classroom has a box of play equipment for wet lunchtimes. Inevitably, equipment becomes worn, broken or pieces are lost, so we are always grateful for fresh donations.

If you have any unwanted jigsaws, board games or construction kits in good condition, we would gratefully receive any contributions. Please bring them to the school office. Thank you.

## South Lakes Emergency Appeal for Syrian Refugee Children

A local lady has set up a group to collect donations to send to refugee camps on various Greek islands and the Hungarian border. They have already sent 15 25kg boxes. A local business has paid for shipping of a further 20 boxes. These are the items that can go in these boxes: tents, sleeping bags, blankets; baby clothing; winter footwear; sanitary items; nappies, nappy cream and cotton wool; baby food (not in glass pots!); toothpaste and toothbrushes (or adults and children); eye drops, nose drops and nasal spray; shower gel and shampoo; plastic cups and plastic spoons.

If each family donated one or two items each we would have a large collection to donate to this very worthwhile cause. A collection box is in the entrance hall.

If anyone would like to help further or more information about the group, South Lakes Emergency Appeal for Syrian Refugee Children, it is on Facebook. There has also been some information in the Westmorland Gazette. Thank you for your generosity!

## 'Wear Something Orange': Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Please send your child into school on Friday in their usual school uniform, but with an additional orange-coloured item (eg socks, laces, t-shirt, hair accessory etc) and a £1.00 donation.

This is for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy awareness. More information about this condition can be found at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Muscular-dystrophy/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

## No Cycling or Scooting on the Playgrounds

Please do not let your children ride their bikes or scooters when they are on the playground. The playground is too crowded and there have been several collisions.



## Pupil Premium/Free School Meals

You may be aware that the government is currently allocating additional funding to schools in the form of 'The Pupil Premium'. One of the criteria used to calculate this additional funding is the number of pupils at a school who receive Free School Meals (FSMs). In common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend Heron Hill fail to claim FSMs, even though they are entitled to them. As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs, all parents and carers are requested to make a claim if you believe you may be entitled to claim FSMs but have not already done so. Even if you do not want your child to receive a free meal we would still encourage you to register for FSMs so that our school receives as much funding as possible.

**Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) for all Reception and Years 1 and 2 pupils – although all pupils in these age groups are now receiving a free school meal under the Government's new initiative, it is important that parent/carers in these year groups still apply for FSMs in order for the school to receive the very essential funding.**

If you are eligible for and claim FSMs, your child will be allocated funding for chargeable school activities. The full costs for the following will be paid by the school: day visits, workshops, residential visits, one chargeable after-school club per term, school individual music lessons (50% of the costs), uniform voucher to purchase school sweatshirts/cardigans and book or gym bag.

Where appropriate, the school will also provide access to additional support for your child's learning and/or well-being.

In order to claim FSMs a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- An Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you do not receive Working Tax Credit, and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

If you think you are eligible to apply for FSMs for your child, or if you are not sure, contact Cumbria County Council on 01228 226105/221548 where a member of their team will be able to advise you. You can also apply online at <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/fsm.asp> or alternatively, application forms are available from the school office. Please contact Mrs Roberts, Business Manager, if you require any further information.