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 @heronhillschool

**HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER NO. 1**  
**15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**



**IT IS TORCHLIGHT NIGHT TONIGHT!!**



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to all our new starters and new families and welcome back to everyone else. Despite the rain, we have had a great start to the new school year.

We try to organise as many interesting and exciting (as well as educational) opportunities as we can for our children and there is evidence in this newsletter of this taking place already this term. Please note the list of planned or proposed visits on the back page. This afternoon the children have met the (real) Pied Piper who will be joining us in the Torchlight Night parade tonight. He has come all the way from Hamelin in Germany to be with us.

Over the summer break, lots of work has been carried out, including new decoration and new carpets in Year 3 to match the new teachers; welcome to Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Corbett and also to Miss Dollard in Year 2. Outside you may have noticed the new fences around some of our garden areas. I was proud to show our grounds to the Britain in Bloom judges during the holiday, as part of Kendal's entry.

We have now completed our all-weather pathway all around the perimeter of the field to allow access in sun and rain, although we do need some dry weather before the mile a day run begins again. On that note, look out for Lucas Baldwin, one of our Year 2 pupils on Border TV next week. He was one of our regular mile-a-day runners last year. He completed 100 miles and has raised £1,200 for Alzheimer's Research UK in the process. Well done Lucas.

*Peter Hicks*

**A Welcome from our New Chair of Governors, Mrs Jacqui Cottam**



Hello everyone, welcome back to school, and a special welcome to all our new families! As many of you know I have been a governor in school for a few years now, it is a role I really enjoy and it was a huge pleasure and privilege to have been elected as the new Chair of Governors for the school at the end of last term, when Mrs Knight, after 12 years as a governor in Heron Hill, sadly stepped down.

Heron Hill is a very special school to be involved in. We have wonderful staff who make the school such a warm and friendly place for children to learn and grow, and every day I spend in school I learn something new! I never cease to be amazed by the children, their enthusiasm and curiosity is infectious.

As you may know, I love bees!! I was very excited when our hive of bees arrived in May and although the weather has been against them, they have worked hard, producing enough honey for all our children to taste this term and hopefully sell at the Christmas Fair. With Mrs Gorst, I will be running our Bee Club, where the children will learn all about beekeeping and making lots of exciting 'bee related' things. Our previous Year 1 children have made a super bee display in the entrance hall, so please have a look next time you are in school.

Please say hello if you see me in school or in the playground, it is one of the best parts of the 'job' chatting with families, and their children! Until then have a wonderful first half term, it is sure to be a busy one!

**Dates for your Diary**

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Lunchtime and after-school clubs and activities begin
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Kirkbie Kendal School open evening for Year 6 pupils, 5.45 pm-8.00 pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Queen Katherine School open evening for Year 6 pupils, 5.15 pm to 8.15 pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 Cyclewise training begins
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	BAE Systems STEM Roadshow for Year 3-Year 6 pupils
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Y3C swimming lessons begin
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4W swimming lessons begin
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Closing date for January Nursery applications
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Friends of Heron Hill AGM, 6.00 pm. All parents/carers welcome
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1-Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings, 3.30 pm-6.30 pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Friends of Heron Hill Disco, 6.15 pm Infants, 7.15 pm Juniors
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Family and individual photographs
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1-Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Assembly, 2.30 pm. Family and friends welcome.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm



## Classes and Teachers 2017-2018

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



	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
Nursery	Mrs Metcalfe	Mrs Ormrod, Mrs Greenhough, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Bennett
Reception	Mrs Foster and Mrs Barber	Mrs Robinson, Mr Westwell, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Gorst
Year 1	Mrs Jones and Mrs Knipe	Mrs Smith, Mrs Dyer
Year 2	Miss Dollard and Mrs Hudson	Mrs Turner, Mrs Broomby
Year 3	Mrs Corbett and Mrs Gibbs	Mrs Scott, Miss Powell
Year 4	Mrs Patrick and Miss Watson	Mrs Wilson
Year 5	Mrs Lawson and Mrs Wilkinson	Mrs Quilliam
Year 6	Mrs Hunter and Mrs Ladds	Mrs Jones, Mrs Gorst

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

## School to Home Communication

We try to distribute paper copies of letters via your child on Tuesdays and Fridays, so please check bookbags on these days. Sometimes, we do have to send a late letter out, which may come to you on any day, but we will try to avoid this if possible and will send the letter by ParentMail as well so that you can look out for it. Please sign up for ParentMail if you have not already done so, as most school communication is sent via ParentMail.

## 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 23p 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.



## Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Today we have distributed to each child, a leaflet about Pupil Premium funding which is for children of parents who receive Income Support, Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit and other benefits, as listed in the leaflet. If you are in receipt of any of these benefits and have not claimed Free School Meals, you are missing out on the following for your child: free milk, uniform and bookbag, subsidised music lessons and fully paid-for after-school activities and class visits, including residential visits. Even if you are in receipt of benefits for a very short period of time, these 'perks' continue for the next 6 years so it is worth applying for free school meals as soon as you receive benefits. Contact the office for more details if Pupil Premium applies to you.

## Voluntary Contributions

We would be grateful if you could make a £5.00 contribution per family for the year. This will help to cover the cost of the wide range of class activities we provide, such as baking, art, craft and gardening, which benefit all the children. Please send your contribution into school by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September in a sealed envelope with your child(ren)'s name on. Please make cheques payable to 'Heron Hill Primary School'.

## Pumpkins and Sunflowers

We hope your sunflowers and pumpkins have had a great summer. Have you got the winning flower and/or vegetable?

### Sunflower Competition

The closing date for the sunflower competition will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. To enter, submit a photograph of your child/children beside their sunflower and the final measurement to the office by then. Prizes will be awarded at the celebration assembly in October.

### Pumpkin Competition

The closing date for the pumpkin competition will be Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Pumpkins need to be brought into school along with a progress photo in situ with the child. Prizes will be awarded at the celebration assembly.

# Welcome to Heron Hill!



We are delighted to welcome the Class of 2017 into our Reception (above) and Nursery (21 of our 37 Nursery children, below). Reception pupils have settled really quickly and are already doing full days. Our Nursery now offers 30 hours to eligible families, hot meals and flexible arrangements. There are only a few places left for January admissions, so please contact the school if you know of someone hoping for a place in the Nursery later this year.



Year 6 were fabulous (Mrs Hunter says) and had a lovely day at the Westmorland County Show yesterday...



Year 1 pupils are perfecting their cutting out skills.



Year 4 pupils look after our pollinator area on the canal path.



Year 5 pupils are enjoying learning about growth and development.

## Term Dates

Term dates for 2017-2019 are being distributed today and are also on our website.

## 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 4 weeks notice.

## Stopping in the Layby

Please do not park and leave your car in the dropping off layby outside school, as this causes severe congestion. The layby is only for dropping off your child/ren and if you need to come into school, please park safely elsewhere.

We had a near miss recently, when a child opened a passenger door to exit a car in the layby and knocked over a child who was cycling past the car on the pavement. Fortunately the cyclist only had a slight injury on this occasion. Please help your child to be sure it is safe to open their car door.

## Proposed Visits, Activities and Costings for 2017-2018

This chart is an indicator of contributions we will ask you to make during the year:

Year	Visit/Event	Date	Cost	Total
Nursery	Christmas Gift	December	£5.00	£20.50
	Pantomime	January	£4.50	
	Summer Visit	Summer term	£11.00	
Reception	Zoolab	Autumn term	£4.50	£23.00
	Pantomime	January	£4.50	
	Brockhole	Summer term	£11.00	
	Swimming	Summer term	£3.00	
Year 1	'The Snow Dragon' at the Brewery	December	£6.00	£27.00
	Pantomime	January	£4.50	
	Haverthwaite	Summer term	£16.50	
Year 2	Pantomime	January	£4.50	£18.50
	Leighton Moss	Spring term	£11.00	
	BeeBot Workshop	Spring term	£2.00	
	Owl Visit	Summer term	£1.00	
Year 3	Trip to Keswick Museum, Castle Rigg & Pencil Museum (tbc)	Autumn term	£12.50	£36.50
	Craft Workshop	Spring/Summer term	£2.50	
	Vindolanda	Summer term	£15.00	
	History Workshop	Autumn term	£6.50	
Year 4	Recorders	September	£7.80	£17.80 (+£60.00 residential visit)
	River Walk Residential	Spring term	£60.00	
	Preston Visit	Autumn term	£10.00	
Year 5	Ration Come Dine with Me	October	£1.00	£22.00 (+£125.00 residential visit)
	Say Two Theatre	Autumn term	£4.00	
	Manchester Residential	29 <sup>th</sup> November-1 <sup>st</sup> December	£125.00 (paid)	
	Skipton Castle	Summer term	£15.00	
Year 6	County Show	14 <sup>th</sup> September	£5.00 (paid)	£20.00 (+£220.00 residential visit)
	Ingleton Residential	October	£220.00 (paid)	
	Say Two Theatre	Autumn term	£4.00	
	Electricity Workshops	March	£5.00	
	Viking Workshop	June	£6.00	

### Possible Optional Costs

Voluntary Contribution - £5.00 per family  
Maths Toolkits (Rec-Year 3) - £4.00  
Christmas Cards (parents' choice)  
Individual Photographs (parents' choice)  
Class Photographs (parents' choice)  
Fair Trade Big Brew Coffee Afternoon  
Enterprise Projects in Years 4 and 5

### Donations

Harvest Collection  
Shoe Box Appeal  
Sponsored Swim (Juniors)  
Children in Need - £1.00  
Comic Relief/Sport Relief - £1.00  
Talent Show/New Beginnings - £1.00  
Collections at Christmas/Lower Junior and Upper Junior Performances  
Collections at Parish Church Carol Services

### Friends of Heron Hill (parents' choice)

Christmas Fair/Raffle  
Sponsored Walk  
Summer Fair/Raffle  
Class Calendar  
Discos

