



HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

23rd OCTOBER 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

The half term ends, the holiday begins, the clocks go back this weekend and we will return to school in November; the year is marching on. We have had a very busy start to the school year and no doubt the next half term, with a residential visit, Christmas productions and many other activities taking place, will be even busier, see the list below.

Have a good rest, a change of pace and encourage your children to take the time to design a poster (see the Active Travel competition information on page 3).

Peter Hicks

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2 nd November	Return to School
Tuesday 3 rd - Thursday 5 th November	Year 5 Residential Visit
Tuesday 3 rd November	Bring in Boxes of Hope Cumbria items
Wednesday 4 th November	Year 4 Recorder lessons begin!!
Friday 6 th November	Bring completed shoe boxes for Boxes of Hope Cumbria into school
Tuesday 10 th November	Year 5/Year 6 : Theatre Group here to perform 'Macbeth'
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Day
Monday 16 th November	Reception Open Day for September 2016 starters, 3.30 pm-5.30 pm
Wednesday 18 th November	Reception Open Day for September 2016 starters, 2.00 pm-5.00 pm
Tuesday 24 th November	'Family Group' Morning (see information on back page)
Wednesday 25 th November	Last Year 3AH Swimming Lesson
Thursday 26 th November	Last Year 4L Swimming Lesson
Thursday 26 th November	Fairtrade Tuck Shop
Friday 27 th November	Friends of Heron Hill Christmas Fair
Monday 7 th December	Afternoon Nursery and Reception Christmas Production, 2.15 pm
Tuesday 8 th December	Morning Nursery and Reception Christmas Production, 10.00 am
Tuesday 8 th December	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production Dress Rehearsal, 2.00 pm
Wednesday 9 th December	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production, 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm
Thursday 10 th December	Reception Christmas Party
Friday 11 th December	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party
Monday 14 th December	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15 th December	Nursery Parties
Tuesday 15 th December	Years 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16 th December	Parish Church Carol and Crib Services: 9.45 am Reception to Year 2 1.00 pm Nursery 2.00 pm Years 3-6
Thursday 17 th December	End of autumn term, 2.00 pm

Boxes of Hope Cumbria

Please send in donations for shoeboxes on Tuesday 3rd November; suitable items are listed in the leaflet distributed today. Or fill your own shoebox at home and bring it in to school by Friday 6th November. The shoeboxes will be going to new areas of Romania this year and the organisers are hoping to take out more than 10,000 boxes from Cumbria, in two visits.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

From Monday 2nd November, poppy sellers from Upper Juniors will be going around the classes in the afternoon and children will have a chance to buy a poppy with a minimum donation of a silver coin. There is a choice of stick on or the traditional pin-on poppy.

We also have a small selection of Royal British Legion crosses, wristbands, rubbers, pencils, stickers etc which can be purchased for £1 each from the office, on a first come, first served basis.





PHOTO GALLERY



Comic Art Festival

For the Comic Art Festival, Heron Hill School decorated the window of the Leisure Centre. Well done to our Year 4 Pupils for this bright, eye-catching and appropriate window display.



Stone Age Drama

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils enjoyed a fact-packed performance by Arty-Fact Theatre, all about the Stone Age.



Ration Come Dine with Me

As part of their research into life during World War 2, Year 5 pupils have recreated meals and cakes from recipes of the era. Thank you to Kirkbie Kendal School for giving us the use of their food technology room. The winners of the 'Ration Come Dine With Me' competition were Daisy Walton, Aimee Davis, Lennon Bell and Danny Ashurst, with a score of 82 out of 100 for their bacon, cheese and potato dumplings!



Twitter Feed @heronhillschool...see more photographs of Year 5's 'Ration Come Dine With Me'.



Some of our 'Jedi Councillors' at the Cool Council meeting (see back page).



Pumpkin Perfection

Well done to all those who brought in their home-grown pumpkins. The winning pumpkins were:
Biggest: Darcy Westwell
Unusually shaped: Dominic Sutton
Smallest: Lexi Stanley
The staff winning pumpkin (which is disguised as a marrow) was Mr Hicks!
Next year, we will start sooner in the year with good pumpkin seeds.

Mrs Curry

We wish Mrs Curry well as she begins her maternity leave just after the half term holiday.



School Meals

If your Year 3-6 child has school meals every day and you prefer to pay in advance, from November up to the end of December, school meals will cost £71.40.

Meals can be paid for on a daily, weekly, monthly or half-termly basis, but we do appreciate payment in advance or on the day, thank you.

Do Not Come to School too Early

There is a significant number of pupils coming to school very early in the morning.

Pupils should not arrive before 8.45 am as the playground is not supervised by school staff. If your child comes to school independently, please ensure they leave home at the correct time so that they do not have to wait in the playground for a long time before the whistle is blown.

Old Toys

Nursery needs some new toys. If you are considering throwing your toys, bikes, games, jigsaws, dressing up clothes, babies and pushchairs away, then please consider donating them.

We can only accept items that are in good working condition.

School Crossing Patrol

Do you know anyone who could be a School Crossing Patrol person? As you know, the position at the crossing point near to the SPAR shop has been vacant for some months now, and has been re-advertised a few times. Although it would be preferable if one person could do both the morning and afternoon shift, it is possible that the job could be split so that one person would just do mornings and another person just afternoons.

Further details about the job, hours and pay are available from Sophie at Orian Solutions, telephone 01228 404711.

Active Travel to School Poster Competition

Over the half term week, your child has the chance to design a poster to encourage everyone to walk, cycle, scoot, or travel in other active ways. A template will be sent home with your child today and the finished design should be sent into school on Monday 2nd November. The school will select the best three designs from Infants and Juniors to send to the national selectors. The finalists will receive a lovely art box.

Disease Chart

The governors of Heron Hill have requested that all parents are sent a copy of the 'Guidance on Infection Control' chart, produced by Public Health England. A paper copy will be sent home with your child today.

A colour copy of the chart is on the school website, at the bottom of the 'News' section. If your child is showing symptoms of an illness, please refer to this chart regarding the recommended minimum period they should be absent from school.

Parking

We have received telephone calls and letters from neighbours who live near the school who are being inconvenienced by inconsiderate parking in the surrounding roads. Please obey road markings, avoid parking across dropped kerbs and driveways and do not park on corners. There is plenty of room in the Leisure Centre car park and we encourage all parents to 'Park and Stride'.

Year 4 Playground Leaders

20 Year 4 children have been chosen by their peers to become Playground Leaders this year. This is a new initiative and they have had 5 weeks of 'training' with Laura Smith – our KCP PE co-ordinator. They spent time together learning new skills in being better equipped in knowing how to explain rules, being confident in front of larger groups, developing new games, encouraging other children to play fairly and using playground space carefully.

Jedi Council

All the Jedi Councillors attended a Cool Council training event at the Brewery last Monday afternoon, with some of the other primary schools in Kendal.

Senior students from The Queen Katherine School, led various activities to encourage all children to work more collaboratively, to speak in front of an audience with confidence, to share creative ideas and to put a presentation together.

All the children did extremely well and are now hoping to put these new skills into practise with our project this year – developing Somervell Woods. More details will follow but there will be plenty going on with this project over this year!

Bags2School

Friends of Heron Hill raise funds for the school in many ways, one of which is clothes recycling. They have arranged for a collection to take place on 22nd January. Collection bags will be distributed after Christmas, but please keep back clothes, shoes, belts, bags etc at home from now on.

Family Morning on Tuesday 24th November

All children at Heron Hill are put into one of four 'family groups' which are named after Kendal's bridges – Miller, Nether, Romney and Victoria. The children stay in this family group through their Heron Hill years and will be in the same family group as their brothers and/or sisters. Once a term we will have a family morning, when the children will work on a special topic with other children from their family group, who will be pupils from Reception to Year 6. Children are rewarded for good work or behaviour. Points will go towards their family group and at a half-termly assembly the family group with the most points is celebrated. Points from sports days and other activities also go towards the family group.

This term, the Family Morning will take place on Tuesday 24th November and will have a theme of 'Christmas Around the World'. The family groups will make displays which will decorate the school up to Christmas; please take the time to look around the school and admire their work when you come to the Christmas Fair.

Governor Insight

As a Governor, it is a great privilege for me to come into school two days a week and help out in Years 3 and 4. I have four children of my own, and as all parents know, life at home with children is always busy, full and if my house is anything to go by, chaotic! When I come into classes, looking from the outside on our children's world at school, I am constantly reminded how individual every child is.

Watching them grow, change, learn and mature has been a real lesson for me and reminded me that every child is on their own 'learning journey' through school. School is about so much more than teaching subjects, it is about helping shape our children to be kind, polite and the responsible adults of the future. I feel at Heron Hill we do that well.

Last week whilst in Year 3, I watched one little lad, completely independently, go over to another, who had tried really hard to improve his handwriting and tell him, "Wow, your writing is great now!" It was lovely to see the little boy almost grow taller with pride! As one of our Year 3 teachers said to the children a while ago, "Let's see if every day we can make our voices say something positive to someone." It was obviously a lesson well learnt, one that we could all try!

Jacqui Cottam

