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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

17th JANUARY 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the New Year (Christmas already seems a long time ago). Luckily, the weather continues to be kind to us while our new boilers are being fitted and perhaps we will make it through another winter without snow. Just a reminder in case we do receive severe weather at some point, that information will be put on our website if school is affected at all. It is extremely unlikely that school would have to be closed, but announcements will be made on Radio Cumbria, The Bay and Lakeland Radio before normal school hours any day there is severe weather. In addition to this we would send a ParentMail PMX message to everyone who has registered with this facility.

Road safety: this is always an important subject. Hopefully you will have seen up to 200 of our children sporting their flashing red lights on their way to and from school. We are very grateful to Gary Woodhouse from local firm Whitby and Co for equipping each Key Stage 2 child with a 'Helmet Marker' and a 'Slapit' to make sure they are more visible in the gloomy weather. Key Stage 2 children were chosen, because the younger children should all be supervised by an adult anyway. We are also arranging for a road safety trainer to come into school to give a presentation to the children about staying safe on the roads.

Finally, if your child rides a bike to school, please insist they wear their helmet (with new light attached); we have noticed that several children have been keeping their books safe by keeping their helmet in their bags, instead of protecting their heads.

Peter Hicks

Maths is FUN!!

To help you to support your child's enjoyment of maths, we would like to remind you that there are dozens of maths games on the Heron Hill website as well as links to excellent maths sites that have video clips, games, tasks and tutorials around all areas of maths for all age groups. The way we teach calculation at Heron Hill is also on the website under General Information/School Policies/Maths Calculations Method.

At the maths information meeting last week, Year 5 children Jude Webster, Skye Jones, Kai Almond-Marples, Eve Atkinson, Finlay Elwood and Daisy Blezard were excellent support, explaining and demonstrating games that help children to learn their times tables at home.

Looking ahead, the next parent maths meeting will be on Tuesday 13th June at 2.30 pm. It will be on calculation methods and is aimed at parents of Year 3-6 children, though anyone is very welcome to attend. More information will be sent home nearer the time.

FoHH Disco: Friday 27th January

It is time to remind your children of your best dance moves so they can own the dance floor at the Heron Hill Disco.

6.15 pm-7.00 pm Nursery to Year 3 children

7.15 pm-8.00 pm Year 3 to Year 6 children

See the collection letter, sent separately, for more details.

Help Needed

Could you help at the Infant disco? If you are going to be at the disco anyway, please could you volunteer to help to run a stall/sell sweets etc? Contact the school office if you can help; there is a big shortage of helpers for the Infant disco and up to the newsletter publication date, there are not enough to make sure the disco can be held safely.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

At the start of this term we distributed a letter and leaflet with information 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.



Photograph Gallery



Year 2 Great Fire of London

Our Year 2 pupils and staff enjoyed dressing up in 1666 clothes and using their best dramatic skills to act out the terror and action of the day. This year, the Fire Brigade visited and shared their knowledge of fire-fighting skills, then and now.



Be Safe, Be Seen

As reported in the Westmorland Gazette last week, Heron Hill pupils have benefited from the generosity of Whitby and Co, a local wholesaler of outdoor and other equipment. The company has donated lights for helmets and wrists, which will help to increase the visibility of our pupils during these dark winter days and nights. The company donated enough so that all our Year 3-6 pupils were able to get 2 different lights each.

In this photograph, Year 6 pupils model the donated items.



One Minute Maths

Year 1 pupils have defied winter weather and undertaken outdoor research on how many activities can be repeated in one minute.

**Cross Country District Trials
Sedbergh Preparatory School, Casterton
Wednesday 11th January 2017**



Year 3/Year 4 Girls' Team



Year 3/Year 4 Boys' Team



Year 5 Boys' Team



Year 5 Girls' Team



Year 6 Boys' Team



Year 6 Girls' Team



Medal Winners!

- Louis Bigland
(1st in Year 5 race)
- Jamie Noreci
(2nd in Year 3 & 4 race)
- Sarah Smith
(3rd in Year 6 race)

Heron Hill Primary School entered 29 children into the cross country races. Each race steadily got muddier and more slippery, resulting in many children losing their shoes on the way around.

Years 3 and 4 – Elissa (14th), Grace, Annie, Jessica and Abbie ran in the first race and excelled with how they committed themselves to the race. This race was followed by the boys' with Jamie and Alfie placing 2nd and 5th; Leon, Corey, Will and Jameson completing the race in good time too.

Year 5 – Alice, Georgia, Hannah, Eve and Jessica also showed determination as the weather conditions deteriorated with a cold wind biting as they ran! Then there was a fantastic battle of the boys, proving you should always run for the line as Louis fought off all competition to win by one second! Reece, Finlay, Jenson and Jude finished close behind.

Year 6 – Sarah ran a fantastic race to come 3rd, followed later by Maddy who worked hard to get round an increasingly tough course. Oliver led our boys home in 7th place, with Luke close behind. Lennon, Danny and Joey finishing off the day with excellent runs.

Six children (Elissa, Jamie, Alfie, Louis, Sarah and Oliver) have now been selected to run in the District Finals on Wednesday 1st February due to their incredible achievements in this race.

Despite the mud and cold, all the teams cheered each other on and celebrated their successes with great sportsmanship.

Janette Foster

Year 5 and Year 6 'Go Orange' Day

On Friday 27th January, Year 5 and Year 6 children are being encouraged to wear something orange; the more orange they are, the bigger chance they have of getting a prize. This is to help to raise awareness of muscular dystrophy and related conditions.

There will also be a cake sale, where **all** pupils and parents will be able to purchase small cakes for 50p each. This cake sale will take place in the Infant playground (if dry) or in the entrance hall from 3.00 pm. The money raised will be donated to Muscular Dystrophy UK.



Collection of Data re Nationality

The Department for Education has asked all schools to collect information about pupils' place of birth and nationality. We have written to some parents directly about this but if we have not written to you and your child was not born in the United Kingdom and/or if they have a passport other than a British passport, please could you inform the office by the end of this week. There is no legal obligation to comply. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19 th January	Years 5 and 6 to Kirkbie Kendal School - National Youth Jazz Orchestra
Monday 23 rd January	Year 5 'Real Adventure' Parents' Meeting, 5.30 pm
Friday 27 th January	Years 5 and 6 'Go Orange' Day (see information on front page)
Friday 27 th January	Friends of Heron Hill Disco, 6.15 pm - Nursery-Year 3, 7.15 pm - Year 3-Year 6
Wednesday 1 st February	Year 5 Stardome Visit
Wednesday 1 st February	Nursery Open Afternoon, 2.00 pm-5.00 pm, for September 2017 admissions
Thursday 2 nd February	Year 3 and Year 4 Music Ensemble Visit
Friday 3 rd February	'Pinocchio' Pantomime for Nursery-Year 2 pupils
Friday 10 th February	Year 2L (Mrs Ladds) assembly, 10.00 am. All family and friends welcome
Thursday 16 th February	Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm
Friday 17 th February	End of half term, 3.15 pm
Monday 27 th February	Return to school
Tuesday 28 th February	Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.30 pm
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Thursday 9 th March	Fairtrade Big Brew Event, more details to follow
Friday 10 th March	Y1K (Mrs Knipe) class assembly, 10.00 am. All family and friends welcome
Thursday 16 th March	Year 2 Visit to Leighton Moss
Friday 24 th March	Bags2School collection - please save old/unwanted clothes, shoes, soft toys etc to raise funds for the school.
Friday 24 th March	Comic Relief/Red Nose Day
Friday 24 th March	Friends of Heron Hill Disco
Thursday 30 th March	'Travelling by Tuba' performances at Heron Hill

World Book Day: Advance Notice

We would like to encourage pupils to dress up as a book character for World Book Day, which this year is on Thursday 2nd March. More information will be sent out later, but in the meantime, get your thinking caps on: which character would your child like to be?

Nursery



At the start of the spring term, 5 new children joined Heron Hill Nursery; we celebrate with them this landmark moment in their lives. We are sure they will enjoy their new world of fun and exploration.

There will be a Nursery Open Afternoon on Wednesday 1st February, between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm, which is for September 2017 starters. All children who will turn 3 before September and their parents/carers are warmly invited. Application packs, containing information about Heron Hill School and the on-line application process, will be available at the Nursery on the day, or can be collected from the school office now. Paper application forms are also available from the school office.



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 £8.0377 per hour plus a supplement to increase the rate to the 'UK Living Wage' rate of £8.25 per hour.

Thinking about booking your summer holiday on-line? Many major airlines and tour operators support School Angel and the school significantly benefits if you have used the School Angel site as the way to your booking. The total amount on our School Angel page has gone up £200 in the last month, thank you for remembering to click on the angel wings!



Help to raise funds for Heron Hill School simply by going into major brand websites via our page on School Angel: <http://www.schoolangel.org.uk/heron-hill-primary-school-kendal.html>