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 @heronhillschool

HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

9th FEBRUARY 2018



It is official: Heron Hill School is a GOOD school!

Ofsted Inspection 9th January 2018. See the Inspection Letter on our website for the details.

Dear Parents and Carers

We are halfway through the spring term already! Which means the weather should begin to get better, drier and warmer. Until it does, I would like to share a few points with you.

On the news and in many minds, schools seem to close at the slightest hint of bad weather. Since taking over as Headteacher of Heron Hill, we have never closed and our intention is to never close due to poor weather! My feelings are that most of our children live within walking distance and should be in school if at all possible. Parents need their children to be in school and certainly do not need to take time off work themselves. We have enough staff who live reasonably close to school to be able to make it here in all but the most atrocious of conditions.

Snow is the most common reason for schools to close; if it is forecast, we monitor the news closely and risk assess the school site early in the morning - staff are usually here from 7.00 am, clearing paths and spreading salt/grit. We will only close in the most exceptional of circumstances and then would let you know through the following channels:

- Our school website homepage
- Messages on BBC Radio Cumbria and Lakeland Radio/Smooth
- PMX text and e-mail

And so, in the event of extreme weather, before telephoning the school to ask, please check our website from 7.30 am. It is most likely we will be open. Enjoy the half term break.

Peter Hicks

Dates for your Diary

Friday 9 th February	Half-term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 19 th February	Return to school
Tuesday 20 th February	Nursery parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-4.50 pm
Tuesday 20 th February	Reception-Year 6 parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm
Thursday 1 st March	National Offer Day for secondary school places
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day (Family Morning)
Thursday 1 st March	Nursery parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-4.50 pm
Thursday 1 st March	Reception-Year 6 parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.30 pm
Thursday 8 th March	Bags2School collection (save old clothes, shoes, bags etc)
Thursday 8 th March	Fairtrade Big Brew, 3.15 pm-4.15 pm
Friday 9 th March	Year 2 Assembly, 10.00 am. All family and friends of Year 2 welcome.
Friday 16 th March	Friends of Heron Hill Disco
Wednesday 21 st March	Sports for Champions: visit from a Commonwealth Games medallist
Thursday 22 nd March	Year 5 Enterprise Fair, 2.30 pm-4.00 pm (more details inside)
Friday 23 rd March	Nursery applications (for September 2018) closing date
Friday 23 rd March	Sports Relief Day
Thursday 29 th March	End of term, 2.00 pm

Maths and a Meal

We were delighted that over 226 parents and pupils attended the 'Maths and a Meal' event on 1st February. Many parents reported that it helped them realise how crucial it is to help their children at home with securing recall of number facts, eg the National Curriculum states that pupils must be 'secure with all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4 – that means having instant mental recall of them.

Have a look under 'Learning Zone' and 'Parents' tabs on the Heron Hill website for links to great maths websites and number games that you can use for practising mental recall skills at home. Also under the 'Parents' tab, you will find our Calculation Methods document which shows clearly how we teach written addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations.

At 'Maths and a Meal', our children demonstrated key calculation methods and parents had the opportunity to play a wide range of fun maths games to help secure number recall. We talked about our growth mind-set approach to teaching maths and how important it is to communicate positive messages about maths to children: 'Everyone can do maths' and 'If you do not understand it, it is really just that you can't do it...yet'.

We are very grateful to Friends of Heron Hill for funding the evening, to Mr Austen for providing the bread rolls and to Miss Simpson and Mrs Hartley for all their hard work.



Year 1 Science

New temporary class members Rab Bit and Tor Toise explained in detail to Year 1 pupils what really happened in the hare and the tortoise story: the tortoise was powered by Shell and the hare gave up hop. Never give up hop.



Year 5 are having the best of times, in Space, in Music and in War

As part of their science curriculum, Year 5 pupils have been learning about space, which has included using Oreo biscuits and virtual reality headsets. This generally went well: 'We ate the spare Oreo biscuits that were not planets or phases of the moon.' 'We saw the Milky Way and it felt like we were walking on the moon. We saw the craters!' 'It was awesome, I learned lots.'



Earlier this term, our Year 5 pupils, led by Kendal College students, experienced being evacuated as if they were in World War 2 times. They are also having whole class brass lessons this term! They will finish the half term in the Stardome, an inflatable planetarium. A big thank you to FoHH who have kindly funded the cost of the Stardome.



Year 5 Enterprise Project

Year 5 pupils will each be loaned a magical £5 note at the beginning of the next half term. They will work in groups of 2-5 to make and sell items, to try to generate as much profit as they can, some of which will be donated to chosen charities. Some of it will also be used to create a 'space walk' around the school grounds, so please support Year 5 on **Thursday 22nd March** at their Enterprise Fair. A separate letter is to follow with the details.

We made the most of the snow...



Feet First Funny Hat Friday



Book Reviews by Two of our Upper Junior Reading Champions

Skellig by David Almond

You will love this book if you like 'The Savage', also by David Almond. I would give this book 5 stars because it is a moving story with lots of twists and turns and also lots of cliff hangers. I would only recommend this book to children aged 9-10+ because it has some quite sad and scary parts in it. Skellig is a book which takes quite a long time to get into the more adventurous parts, but it has some amazing descriptions in it that form a clear picture inside your head.

Reviewed by Alice, Year 6

Clockwork by Philip Pullman

I would say that Clockwork is a real thriller, it had me on the edge of my seat the whole time! And yet it builds up in the most interesting way. It's a real cliff hanger of a story. It took a little while to gain my intrigue, but I'm glad that I stuck to it and now think it is a super book. I would recommend the book for ages 8+, otherwise everyone should read it!

Reviewed by Lucy, Year 5



Reminder: If your child is going to be absent...

There have been public cases in the past where schools have not chased up the reasons as to why children are absent from school. It has then transpired that there have been tragic circumstances around these absences, eg illness of a parent and a child unable to seek help. We will do everything we can to prevent such situations occurring as I am sure you would agree that your child's safety is paramount to us all.

If your child is not going to be in school please call the office on 01539 721276 or e-mail admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk to report their absence. Please do this before 9.00 am on the first day of absence (please note we have changed this from 9.30 am) and continue to call in each morning until your child returns to school.

Following our morning register check, if we have not heard from you by 9.15 am, we will start to call the contact numbers that you have provided, in order to gain an explanation for the absence. If we still have not been able to ascertain where your child is, in line with national guidance we will then inform the Attendance Officer, who will make a home visit. However, if we still have not been able to get a response, then we will report it to the police and your child will then be classed as a 'missing child'.

Information from Public Health England re Measles

There is an increase in measles in Liverpool and Leeds and some countries across Europe, affecting young unimmunised children. Measles is highly infectious. It can cause serious illness and can sometimes be fatal. Vaccination with 2 doses of MMR is the safest way to protect children and young people.

The first MMR vaccine is given to toddlers at the age of 13 months and the second vaccine at around 3 years and 4 months before your child goes to school. MMR can be given to older children, teenagers and young adults if they missed their injections when they were younger. **Contact your GP practice if your child needs an MMR vaccine.** The vaccine is free. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact the GP practice to ask.

Measles is not just a little kid's problem. Teenagers, young adults and anyone who has missed their MMR vaccination can get measles. The first signs of measles are fever, cough, runny nose and red sore eyes. After a few days, a spotty rash will appear. It starts on the face and neck before spreading to the rest of the body.

If you think your child has measles:

- Ring your GP practice for advice
- Please do not turn up to the surgery, walk-in centre or to accident and emergency without calling ahead. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that if your child has got measles they will not pass it on to others.
- Keep people with symptoms of measles away from others to avoid spreading measles, and stay away from school, nursery or work for 5 days after the onset of rash.

If you would like more information, see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

There have been a few cases of scarlet fever in the infant end of the school. Look out for the symptoms: high temperature, sore throat, whitish coating in throat/on tonsils, swollen glands.

Sports Reports

Year 6 Sports Hall Athletics at the Leisure Centre, 18th January

Our team took part in a range of 'field' and 'track' events indoors. They put in a lot of effort to jump long and high, chest push a ball and run relay races using a turning board at each end of the hall. Many of these were new events to some of the team and we tried hard despite it becoming the event with the most injuries ever!



Handball Festival at the Lakes School, 19th January

A team of 9 very excited Year 5s attended this event. Our participants were all divided up into teams with other schools which was a little unnerving but they pitched in and tried their best in this new sport. They had a lot of fun and learned how to score goals with their new team mates. Mrs Foster was very proud of all who took part.



Year 4 Sports Hall Athletics at the Leisure Centre, 1st February

Fourteen enthusiastic Year 4 children took part in a range of 'field' and 'track' events. They all tried hard and worked well in the team relay races, managing not to drop the baton too many times. No injuries from this athletics afternoon!



Cross Country County Finals, 8th February

In just about the worst conditions ever, 8 competitors braved the weather and mud to run brilliantly around the cross country course at Sedbergh School, Casterton. They produced amazing results with an outstanding performance from Louis Bigland who is now County Champion after coming first in the Y6 Boys race. Joining him at the National Cross Country event at Leicester in March will be Alfie Addison who was 7th in Y5 Boys race. Elissa Kinley was a comfortable 6th in the Y4 Girls race. Well done to Leon Robinson, Corey Goodyear, Grace Airey, Olivia Heaward and Reece Kinley who all ran their best races, when Mrs Foster and their parents struggled to even walk up the hill!



O-bee-tuary

It is with much sadness the Bee Team reports that our hive of bees died 2 weeks ago. Our winter inspections had been going well, with the bees tightly clustered and with plenty of 'stores' (honey) to see them through until spring. Fin in Year 4 and I made the discovery and asked our local bee inspector, Dr Piggott, to look at the hive to explain what had happened. Some hives of bees do not survive the winter and, on average, beekeepers lose 1 out of 5 hives. It is likely our cluster of bees was not large enough to keep warm, which resulted in them not being able to feed. Dr Piggott assures us there was nothing we could have done, it was just very bad luck. The bees had suffered with varroa mites last summer, which we had under control, but sadly they had not had time to build up numbers before the Queen stopped laying for the winter.



We have very kindly been offered 2 hives of bees from our 'beekeeping buddies' which will arrive in the next week or so and the Bee Team are all looking forward to their arrival.

Jacqui Cottam

Safer Internet Day 2018

On Tuesday 6th February, Heron Hill pupils joined children around the world in the global initiative to raise internet safety awareness.

We have heard of 2 apps that are seemingly child-friendly but are anything but: 'Roblox' and 'Call Blaze and the Monster Mach'. Please check what your child has on their internet-connected device and who they are in contact with through it.



Cool Milk

We have a lot of undrunk milk left at the end of each week. Please check with your child to see if they are drinking their milk and consider cancelling your order if they are not.

Boxes of Hope Cumbria

Over this half term holiday, please buy an extra bar of soap, toothbrush and face cloth and send them in to Heron Hill when we return to school.



World Book Day: Thursday 1st March

We invite pupils and staff to dress up as book characters or to represent non-fiction books, to celebrate World Book Day. We will be having a family morning that day so siblings in Reception-Year 6 will be in the same class for the first half of the day. A letter with more information has been sent out.

School Angel

At least £250 was raised during January! Thank you! Use [School Angel](#) when you shop on-line... and help Heron Hill.

Term dates up to July 2020 have been agreed by Kendal Headteachers. A paper copy is being distributed.