



## HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER NO. 7

10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016



Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a great start to 2016 and everyone is working really hard. Despite the continual wet weather, the children have been happy and enthused by their lessons.

Across the school we have been focusing particularly on writing, specifically the way the children are taught to be better writers and how to improve their writing each time. We have done this by concentrating on what an excellent example of writing would look like, sharing this with the children and modelling how they might produce their own excellent work. The children have taken on the challenge in an amazing way and the quality of writing has risen across the whole school.

Please ask your child about their writing and tell them you have heard they are doing really well. They may tell you about 'excellent examples', 'rubrics', 'personal targets' and 'next steps'. Do ask them to explain it to you if you do not understand...the children do!

*Peter Hicks*

#### Dates for your Diary

Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Assembly (Miss Hildrew and Mrs Haddath), 2.30 pm. All families and friends welcome.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Return to school
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Thinking Day—wear your Guides/Brownies/Rainbows uniform
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Parent Consultation Meetings: please sign up
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Fairtrade Tuck Shop
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Meetings: please sign up
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4 (Mrs Dodd-Hemingway and Mrs Lawson) Assembly, 2.30 pm. Family and friends welcome.
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Heron Hill Choir performing in BBC 10 Pieces at Brewery Arts Centre, 6.00 pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day and Family Morning (see inside for further details)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Friends of Heron Hill Disco
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Follow up Spelling Information Meeting in the hall, 2.30 pm

School Meals: If your Y3-Y6 child has a school meal each day, the total cost for the half term up to Easter will be £50.40.

#### Responsible Use of Apps

At Heron Hill, we are fully committed to safeguarding and protecting our children online. As part of the e-safety curriculum, our pupils are explicitly taught how to work safely and responsibly with the Internet and other communication technologies and about being a responsible and courteous 'online citizen'. Unfortunately, there have recently been several incidents involving upper junior children passing mean comments via *Instagram*, *Whatsapp* and *Snapchat*. Although these incidents have happened outside of school, children have come into school very upset and teaching staff have therefore spent quite a lot of time tackling the aftermath of unkind, unpleasant comments that have been posted. We strongly recommend that children are closely supervised when using online technology and would respectfully like to inform parents that these are the legal age limits for each of these sites:

- The full interactive version of Snapchat is meant for people ages **13** or older, (in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)).
- Instagram requires everyone to be at least **13 years old** before they can create an account (in some jurisdictions, this age limit may be higher).
- Mobile messaging app WhatsApp requires members to be at least **16 years** of age.

  
**schoolangel**  
charity for schools

<http://www.schoolangel.org.uk/heron-hill-primary-school-kendal.html>

**Please**  
**Keep Off**  
**The Grass**  
Give our spring bulbs a chance.



### January 2016 Nursery Intake

Our new starters have had a great beginning to school life and have settled into the Nursery well.



### The Adventures of Felicity

Year 3 children have written fabulous stories about Felicity the Nissan Figaro, a classic car owned by one of our governors, Jacqui Cottam. The stories have been bound into a book which has been taken to Kenya by another governor, Andy Blackman. He supports the Open Arms Orphanage and Village which is building a school. He is visiting the charity with a group which includes *another* of our governors, Mike Howse, as well as Mrs Swords and Mrs Evans, former Heron Hill teachers. The stories and a photograph are also going to feature in the Figaro Owners Club magazine later this year.



### Harry's Homework

Well done Harry, for your well-made Millennium Falcon cake.

## Year 4 in Liverpool: 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2016



## WOW (Walk to School) Badge Competition

Once a year, 11 children have a chance to see their design printed onto thousands of badges which are handed out at the end of each half term to every child who has taken part in Walk (or Cycle) Once a Week. The theme for next year's badges is 'My Neighbourhood' and your child is invited to draw a picture about this subject and enter the competition to pick the winning designs. The best designs are bold and clear without too much detail. We will distribute the badge template this week and your child has until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March to submit their entry. The school will select the best three designs to send to the national organisers and the winners will be notified in April.



## World Book Day Prizes

As announced in the last newsletter, we are inviting pupils and staff to dress up for World Book Day, which is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. For further details of the 50 books you can use as inspiration, please see Newsletter No 6, which is on the school website. It will also be a Family Morning, so brothers and sisters (in Reception to Year 6) will be in the same class for the morning. There will be book token prizes but in order to qualify, costumes must be home made. Winning categories are:

Individual: Reception (1 prize)  
Year 1/Year 2 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes)  
Year 3/Year 4 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes)  
Year 5/Year 6 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes)

Family (all siblings in Reception to Year 6 dressed to represent 1 book): (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes)

## Spelling Meeting for Parents

There was a fantastic turnout for our recent spelling workshop to raise the profile of spelling throughout the school. Mrs Haddath explained the importance of spelling and emphasised how the school wants to work in partnership with parents to ensure our children become successful spellers. The parents were shown spelling lists for different aged children, an activity booklet and some websites/apps. Everyone who attended has been asked to trial the activities and feed back at our follow-up meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm. A big thank you to all parents who came along and we look forward to finding out how you got on. We will then update our spelling packs and make them available to all parents.



## Scooters Gone Missing

From evidence received from school neighbours and our CCTV footage, we know that intruders have been on the school premises on several occasions and have been causing minor damage and leaving a mess behind them. We can tell from CCTV footage that they have taken 2 children's scooters from in front of the school offices and after riding around on them have taken them from the premises.

If your child's scooter has gone missing from school, please let us know as the police would like further details of the scooters.

## Plants from Space!

In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station (ISS) where they will spend several months in microgravity before returning to Earth in March 2016. The seeds have been sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Heron Hill Primary School will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which they will grow alongside seeds that have not been to space and measure the differences over seven weeks. The children will not know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

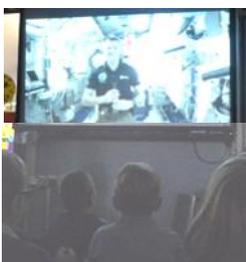


## The next Fairtrade Tuck Shop is on Thursday 25 February

Orange juice	60p
Apple juice	60p
Pineapple fruit pot	60p
Chocolate raisins	60p
Yoghurt raisins	60p
Chocolate buttons	50p
Flapjack 85g bar	50p
Chocolate wafers	30p
Ginger cookies	20p
Chocolate cookies	20p
Raisins	20p
Apricots	20p
Rice cake	15p

## Tim Peake Live Broadcast

Along with other schools around the country, one of our Year 4 classes watched a live broadcast by Tim Peake, International Space Station astronaut. He played zero gravity table tennis with balls of water and generally continued to enthuse a generation of young scientists.



## PE Questionnaire

We work very hard at our sport and PE at Heron Hill but understand there is always more to do. We are currently asking pupils for their thoughts on PE provision and we would also appreciate any feedback you can give us. A short form will be sent home for you to fill in, please return your answers by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

## CSAA Cross Country Finals, Sedbergh Prep School, Casterton, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

A group of 8 runners represented Heron Hill and the South Lakes District in the Cumbria Schools Cross Country finals, at the Casterton site of Sedbergh Prep School.

First to compete was Sarah Smith in the U10 girl's race. Sarah set off very focused and seemed determined to do as well as she had done in the district event. Sarah maintained her good form to finish one place better than last time, claiming a podium finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Next to race were Joel Howell and Oliver Smith, Sarah's twin. With similar determination, Oliver finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place, only 3 seconds off a medal position. Joel, in a very competitive field, finished strongly in 26<sup>th</sup> place.

As a result of their tremendous athletic efforts, Sarah and Oliver now have the opportunity to represent Cumbria in a national competition in March. This is the first time a national event has occurred at junior level and we might just have a couple of medal contenders!

In the U11 boys race, 5 Heron Hill pupils represented the South Lakes District. The conditions were a bit tougher, but Reece, Seth, Jamie, Max and Aaron all acquitted themselves very well and showed what a depth of talent there is at Heron Hill and in the district generally.

Well done to all of the runners and we hope to hear of great things from Sarah and Oliver in the national finals.

Keith McDougall

PS Well done to 2 of our Year 6 pupils, Aaron Stephens and Reece Irving, who have been selected for the Cumbria cricket team.



## Governor Insight

Heron Hill has been in my life in many guises over the years and I have worn a variety of 'hats' as a parent, volunteer, student and for the last ten years as a teaching assistant. Way back in 2002, when looking around for a Nursery place for my eldest child, I made my choice based upon the friendly, caring and supportive atmosphere I felt at Heron Hill. Another child and a transition from parent to member of staff and I still get that feeling. There's a great combination of dedication, encouragement, hard work and enjoyment that comes from pupils, staff, parents, carers, volunteers and governors alike which makes this such a great school.

As a teaching assistant, the best part of my job (probably any teacher's job) is watching children understand new things, gain confidence and develop a sense of independence and pride in themselves both academically and socially. On the other hand, being involved as a staff governor puts me in the privileged position of playing a part in how the school successfully develops and grows to make sure we give our pupils the encouraging, nurturing, supporting environment they deserve and need to flourish.

The last fourteen years have seen many changes both for me and the school and I am sure the next fourteen will too, but I have every confidence Heron Hill will continue to be a great school.

Kirsty Turner



## Parking and Inconsiderate Road Use

We have again received complaints about inconsiderate road use and near misses:

- Children are walking out into the road and are only narrowly being missed by vehicles. Please talk to your child about road safety, especially if they walk to school alone or with friends.
- Cars are being driven very fast along Hayfell Avenue.
- The dropping off bay is being used as a car park. Parents should not leave their car even for 'just a minute' when it is in the dropping off bay.
- Parking beside lawns on Archers Meadows and then walking over the lawns, when the ground is water logged, is damaging our neighbours' gardens. We have advised our neighbours to contact the police if their property is being damaged.

If you need to use the car for the school run, to avoid congestion around the school please park at the Leisure Centre and walk the short distance to school.

There is still a vacancy for a School Crossing Patrol at the Spar shop. If you or anyone you know is interested in providing a necessary community service in this position, please contact Orian on 01229 586912.

## Loan Sharks

Avoid kind-sounding people who approach you in the street or at the school gate and offer to help you out with a small loan. Cases have been reported in the Kendal area of this happening and when repayments falter, borrowers are threatened and put in a terrifying situation. If this has happened to you or to someone you know, you are advised by Trading Standards to 'shop them so they can stop them'. Report loan sharks anonymously on 0300 555 2222.

## Book and PE Bag Price Increase

From the start of next half term, book bags will cost £4.00 and PE bags will cost £3.50, due to increased prices from our suppliers.