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 @heronhillschool

HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 7

16th FEBRUARY 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and sharing in some of the great activities the children experience at school. This newsletter highlights some of the huge achievements many of the children have made in various sporting events, as well as in their studies, presentations and fundraising.

Over this half-term, we have been discussing and considering 'relationships', with each other in school, locally and globally. Many of the children have shown a keen interest in the current global stage and asked thoughtful and insightful questions about how relationships the UK has with Europe and the USA may change. Closer to home, the children have promised me they will try to spread a smile and some laughter whenever they can at school and at home, even if they are feeling challenged or frustrated with other people. I hope they will continue to do this during the break.

Do not forget the 100 Mile Challenge, which begins the first week back; do not worry if you cannot join in with the walk/run around the school grounds on the very first day, everyone can dip in as often as they are able.

Have a wonderful half-term break.

Peter Hicks

Dates for your Diary

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. '100 Mile Challenge' begins
Tuesday 28 th February	Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.30 pm
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day (see back page)
Thursday 9 th March	Fairtrade Big Brew Event (see back page)
Friday 10 th March	Y1K (Mrs Knipe) class assembly, 10.00 am. All family and friends welcome
Monday 13 th March	Red Noses go on sale - £1.00 each
Monday 20 th March	'Big Pedal' begins: 10 days of families cycling or scooting to and from school
Wednesday 22 nd March	Last Y3AH swimming lesson
Thursday 23 rd March	Last Y4P swimming lesson
Thursday 23 rd March	Year 5 Enterprise Event, 3.15 pm
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
Friday 31 st March	Dress as a Superhero to mark the last day of the 'Big Pedal'
Friday 31 st March	Y2H (Mrs Hudson) class assembly, 10.00 am. All family and friends welcome
Friday 7 th April	Last day of spring term, 2.00 pm

100 Mile Challenge - WE CAN DO THIS!

As you should know, we have invited pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors to join the '100 mile challenge', where as many of us as possible will walk, cycle, swim and run our way to 100 miles by the start of the summer holiday. We are initiating an optional 1 mile run around the school grounds at 8.20 am each school morning, which will start straight after the February half-term holiday. Your child can also record on the classroom chart all the miles they walk, cycle, scoot, swim and run out of school and at weekends, and on their journey to and from school each day (no over-exaggerations please). If you would like to join the morning run but have not signed up for it, sign-up forms are available from the school office. For more information, see Mr Murphy.

We will be joining the 'Big Pedal' along with many other schools in Cumbria, in mid-March. In the 'Big Pedal' we are all asked to ride bikes or scoot scooters to and from school for 10 days, and the school has the chance of winning a prize if we can record the most journeys over a 5 day period. On the last day of the Big Pedal, Friday 31st March, we can all dress up as superheroes (even if we have not ridden bikes or scooted), because reducing the number of car journeys made each day is a heroic thing to do.

We will also be joining in the national 'Walk to School Week' in May (more details later), so as you can see, there are going to be plenty of opportunities to help you to reach that 100 mile target by the time the summer holiday begins.



Photograph Gallery



Maths Cup Club



Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have been enjoying a 'Maths Cups Club' over the last 12 weeks. We have written multiplication facts on the outside of each plastic cup, with the answer inside the cup. We aim to build a tower of cups but can only add to the stack if we know the fact on the cup! The photos show how well Daisy, Kai, Finlay E and Jude know their times tables – they built a tower of 381 cups!



At the recent Parent Maths Meeting, we shared this great, fun way to help children to learn essential number facts – maybe you would like to try the idea at home?

Michelle Wilkinson

Earthquake! Volcano!!

Year 5 pupils have been learning about earthquakes and volcanoes and having heard that pupils in Japan carry out earthquake drills as regularly as we have fire drills, they decided to have their own practice. Here they are, sheltering under their desks. Year 5 will survive, come the next earthquake!



As we all know, volcanoes are made of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, so Year 5 pupils went out to the playground and made their own volcanoes. Thank goodness they did not have enough vinegar and soda to take out Kendal.



Year 5 and Year 6 'Go Orange' Day: Friday 27th January



Year 5 and 6 pupils responded magnificently to the appeal to support our 'Go Orange' Day, in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK. We had many bright orangely-dressed pupils in school (including one in a morph suit). At morning break they bought orange biscuits and paid to have their faces painted with orange paint.

The cake sale at the end of the day for all the school was a huge success; we could have sold 3 times as many cakes. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising day for Muscular Dystrophy UK, which raised £206 for the charity.



Muscular Dystrophy UK
Fighting muscle-wasting conditions

Year 4 Outdoor Adventure Day at Ghyll Head



Year 4 had an amazing experience at Ghyll Head Outdoor Centre. From learning how to put on a harness (which was harder than it looked) to balancing a cup of water around a ropes course (definitely harder than it looked!), they learned to work as a team and encourage each other so that everyone could succeed. Canoeing across Windermere and exploring the new lands on the other side was particularly exciting, as was using their newly acquired climbing skills to reach new heights!

District Cross Country Finals at Sedbergh Prep School, Casterton on 1st February



Well done to our finalists who performed really well in tough conditions. Elissa came 27th in the Year 3/ Year 4 girls' race, Jamie came 4th and Alfie came 13th in the Year 3/Year 4 boys' race, Louis (who was not well) did very well in the Year 5 boys' race, Oliver came 5th in the Year 6 boys' race and Sarah came 3rd in the Year 6 girls' race. Sarah, Oliver and Louis have been selected to run in the national finals in Leicester in March. We are very proud of all of the children who have represented Heron Hill in cross country this season and wish Louis, Sarah and Oliver well in the national finals.

Football Match against St Oswald's School

On 13th February, St Oswald's School, Burneside sent a team to Heron Hill for an after-school match. Heron Hill lost this game 3-1, but our team persevered and Ryan and Luke were unlucky to hit the post with their shots. Several of our team took their turn in goal, with Lennon in particular being a great goalkeeper.



Year 6 enjoyed watching 'The Amazing Adventures of Stan', performed at Windermere School.

Reception Requests...

If your child has grown out of their Disney character toys/dolls and Happy Land sets, our Reception classes would gratefully receive donations of these toys.



World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March

Pupils and staff are invited to dress as their favourite book character on World Book Day. Most of us dress up for the fun of it, but to add to the thrill of the day, we will be awarding prizes for the best costumes. To be in with a chance of winning a prize, your child's costume needs to be homemade. If your children are going to have a family theme and dress as characters from one book, please make sure they each tell their class teacher so your children can model their costumes together in the assembly. Your child can come to school in a bought costume but please help them to understand they will not be in with a chance of winning a prize.

We look forward to seeing characters from book pages being brought to life in Heron Hill School!



Fairtrade Big Brew - Thursday 9th March, 3.15 pm

Please come to our Big Brew event, in the school hall on Thursday 9th March, after school. There will be fairtrade drinks and cupcakes/traybakes (made by pupils using fairtrade ingredients) for sale. There will also be activities and information on the theme of 'Let it Grow'.

We will again have a 'FAIRTRADE BAKE OFF' COMPETITION. If you would like to enter, please make a cake using as many fairtrade ingredients as possible and if you wish to decorate it, please do so on the theme of 'Let it Grow'. Bring your cake in on the morning of the Big Brew, along with information about the ingredients and your child's name. Your cake will be photographed and judged. It will then be cut up and sold at the Big Brew.

New this year will be:

FAIRTRADE FRUIT POTS: These will cost 30p a pot and will be sold to children in Years 3-6 at morning playtime on the day of the Big Brew. Please remember to supply your child with the correct change.

FAIRTRADE LUNCH BOX COMPETITION: This will take place on the day of the Big Brew: children who want to take part should try to include as many Fairtrade items as possible in their lunch box. Stickers will be given to all who take part and there will be a small prize for those with the most variety.



Red Noses and Comic Relief

We have a good stock of noses which will be sold in school time to pupils at a cost of £1.00 per nose; nose sellers will visit each classroom from Monday 13th March and noses will also be available from the school office.

On Comic Relief Day - Friday 24th March - we will have a non-uniform/mufti day when pupils are invited to wear their own clothes (which, if possible, should include something red) and to make a donation of £1.00 to the charity.

Mathlete of the Year

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 children are invited to take part in a Athletics competition, that will run throughout next half term, from Monday 27th February until Friday 31st March. The winner, the Mathlete of the Year, will be announced at a special Celebration Assembly on Friday 7th April. There will be weekly winners (those with the most Athletics points from each year group) and an overall Mathlete of the Week. The child with the most Athletics points overall will be our Mathlete of the Year 2017 and receive a trophy and prize. There will also be spot prizes!

Governor Insight by Mike Howse

Sitting here on a wet and overcast winter morning it is a pleasure to think back to some of the events I attended at the end of the autumn term. I went to Reception's Nativity Play which was a joy. So many children were involved and I enjoyed the music, costumes and the old, old story of Christmas retold. What a lot of work went into this and what pleasure the audience and the children all had.

I also went to the carol singing in Elephant Yard. The children had walked there from Heron Hill to show their well-rehearsed musical prowess and sang with great gusto to a surprisingly large audience. There was a collection which went to charity. Passers-by stopped and listened despite the cold weather. Other primary schools in the Kendal also sang carols in their own slot, so the occasion had a real town-wide community feel to it.

Finally, I attended the Celebration Assembly on the last day of term. Mr Hicks and Mr Murphy are a great double act and the comic theme they had come up with was wonderful. I really did believe they could both travel instantaneously through space to different parts of the Lake District! Ant and Dec, you had better watch out! Always when I come to Heron Hill I am impressed by the focus and dedication of the staff which so contributes to the happiness and pleasure in the children's learning. Thank you all for such a successful and happy end to the autumn term.

And coming up....

Once you have made your child's World Book Day costume, baked the Fairtrade Bake Off cake, bought your fairtrade lunchbox items, found red clothing for Comic Relief Day, sourced a superhero costume for the Big Pedal finale and run your mile, please think about a design for the Easter Egg competition and find your sunflower and pumpkin seeds for our autumn competitions. More details to follow.