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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 9

7th APRIL 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

Although it seems a long time since last summer when Year 6 and Year 2 pupils took part in the SATs (statutory assessments), this month we received the official, validated results comparing Heron Hill to all schools nationally. I was very pleased to be able to report to the recent governing body meeting how well the children did in relation to the rest of the country and would like to share the headlines with you.

- Year 1: 'The proportion of children meeting the expected standard in Phonics was above the national average.'
- Year 2 Progress: The percentage of children making the expected standard and the percentage of children reaching a higher standard was in line with the national average for reading, writing and maths.
- Year 2 Attainment: Key Stage 1 results were above the national average for both the expected and higher standards in all 3 subjects.
- Year 6: The percentage of children attaining the expected standard in reading, writing and maths was above the national average and the average 'scale score' was in line with the national average (writing is not included in this figure nationally). The progress the children made from Key Stage 1 to the end of Key Stage 2 was 'significantly above the national average' for reading, writing and maths.

I think you will agree that these are very pleasing results and testament to all the effort the children put into their learning at Heron Hill. It also demonstrates how hard all the teaching staff work to help the children achieve these scores when the government is continually cutting budgets for schools whilst insisting on ever higher standards.

Peter Hicks

Dates for your Diary

Friday 7 th April	Last day of spring term, school closes at 2.00 pm
Monday 24 th April	Return to school
Monday 24 th April	Year 1/Year 2 Family Learning Literacy Course begins, 9.00 am
Wednesday 26 th April	Class Photographs
Monday 1 st May	School closed - May Day
Tuesday 2 nd May	Library Service Advice Drop-In Session for parents, from 1.15 pm
Thursday 4 th May	Heron Hill team at hockey final
Monday 8 th May	SATs week: please ensure your Year 6 is at school this week. Year 2 children need to be in school every day during May
Friday 12 th May	Year 1J (Mrs Jones') Class Assembly, 10.00 am. Family and friends welcome.
Wednesday 24 th May	Heron Hill choir taking part in 'The Big Sing' at the Brewery Arts Centre
Friday 26 th May	Sponsored Walk, afternoon
Friday 26 th May	End of half term, school closes at 3.15 pm

Keep your Child Safe Online – NSPCC Guidance for Parents

The NSPCC has recently produced useful guidance for parents offering simple advice about keeping children safe online and where to go for extra help and support. Here are some surprising figures:

- 90% of children 5-15 years old are online
- 40% of 5-15 year olds have their own tablet (15% of 3-4 year olds)
- 76% 12-15 year olds have a social networking profile (23% 8-11 year olds)

To find out more about the most popular social networks, sites and apps that children are using, visit 'Net Aware' – the NSPCC and O2's guide for parents. It covers over 50 of the apps and sites most commonly used by young people and has links to information that will help you and your child, including how to remove content on different apps and sites, block people and report abuse.

Useful web addresses:

o2.co.uk/nspcc

thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

net-aware.org.uk

saferinternet.org

nspcc.org.uk/shareaware

internetmatters.org



Over £2000 has been raised for Heron Hill via School Angel! Heron Hill has used £900 from School Angel to buy a new projector for the Hall. This will make a huge difference to everyone in assemblies and productions.

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



EASTER EGG COMPETITION ENTRIES



Eggsceptionally Eggstraordinary Eggsamples of Creativity!

Nursery/Reception

Year 1/Year 2

Year 3/Year 4

Year 5/Year 6



Ellie Dickinson



Holly-Marie Hutt



Lexi Grundy



Isabel Matthews



Zeplyn Almond-Marples



Max Bigland



Abbie Ireland



Willow Brooks



Maisey Wilson



Amber Richardson



**Joint: Roxanne Garrity/
Ollie Almond-Marples**



Kai Almond-Marples



And the next project is....

This Easter holiday, please get busy and plant your sunflower and pumpkin seeds. We will have tallest sunflower and most impressive pumpkin competitions in the autumn term. A pumpkin growing tip - when your pumpkin plants produce flowers, you have to help to pollinate them, do not rely on insects to do it for you. Google the instructions.

BBC 2 '500 Words 2017' Competition

WELL DONE!! to Elizabeth Hodgson in Year 6 who has made it through the first round of this story-writing competition for children. The BBC received 131,798 entries and only 5,000 go to the Reading Agency for the second round of judging. She will hear in May if she has got through to the final 50. This is the second year that Elizabeth has done well in this competition, she is a published author in the making.

Pollinator Project

If you are wondering what the strange pieces of fence are on the canal footpath...the 'fenced' areas will become wildflower meadows to attract pollinators all along the canal.

We have been asked by the Council to look after one area and will be planting some of the plants, then collecting data over 3 years to see if more insects are attracted to the area.



Comic Relief Day

Here are some of the best jokes contributed by pupils and staff on Red Nose Day:



What do you call a donkey with 3 legs? Wonky! *Evan Wilkins (Reception)*



What did the policeman say to the snowman? Freeze! *Finlay Dixon (Year 2)*



A policeman stops a van full of penguins. "What are you doing with all those penguins? I think you should take them to the zoo!" The next day the policeman sees the man and the penguins again. "I thought I told you to take them to the zoo?" Man: "I did. They loved it! Today we're going to the cinema!" *Hannah Dyer (Year 4)*



A boy asked his teacher to go to the toilet. She said "First say your alphabet." He said it but he forgot his p. "Where's your p?" "Half way down my legs, Miss." *Georgia France (Year 5)*



What's the difference between a kangaroo and a kangeroot? One is an Australian animal and the other is a Geordie stuck in a lift! *(Mrs Pritchard)*



Gardening Club members have designed and helped to install a beautiful arch for the quiet garden. We give thanks to Mr Thorp for helping to build the arch and to BSK for donating the wood.



Nursery took a turn around the town in an old double decker bus, along with their specially printed tickets.



The Big Pedal 2017 Statistics

- 10 days of cycling and scooting in all weathers
- 2,236 journeys logged by Heron Hill
- Y3JH pupils made the most bike/scooter journeys (176)
- Y2H pupils and supporters made the most bike/scooter journeys (242): star parents!
- 49.46% of our pupils took part
- Finished in 104th position in the country (out of 963 large primary schools), 6th in the North West, 2nd in Cumbria
- 1 visit from our MP, Tim Farron
- £190 donated to our chosen charities.
- 1,063,474 journeys by all schools taking part.



Ever since the aliens arrived in Reception, no one's underpants have been safe!



Mathlete of the Year 2017

With an incredible 155,752 points, Harry Sharpe in Year 4 is our winner - well done!

After 2 terms of talking about it, the after-school Pony Club at last rode and looked after REAL ponies!



Cross Country Event at Windermere - 15th March

Heron Hill runners produced some excellent results at the cross country event at Elleray, where 380 children from 26 schools took part.

- In the under 10 girls' race, Alice Chapman came 10th and Georgia France 37th out of 103 runners.
- In the under 10 boys' race, Louis Bigland came 1st (and by a very long way; he overtook the hare leading the race too!), Alfie Addison 6th, Corey Goodyear 50th and Leon Robinson 54th out of 138 runners. These boys won 2nd place in the team medals.
- In the under 11 girls' race, Sarah Smith was 3rd out of 78 runners and in the under 11 boys' race, Oliver Smith was 5th and Luke Lofthouse 15th out of 61 runners.



National Cross Country Championships, Leicester - 25th March

As a result of earlier cross country trials, 3 of our pupils made it through to the national championships. In closely fought races, Louis Bigland came 7th out of 236 in the Year 5 boys' race and was the fastest boy from Cumbria, Oliver Smith came 109th out of 249 in the Year 6 boys' race and Sarah Smith came 11th out of 240 in the Year 6 girls' race.

Well done to all our runners, Heron Hill School is proud of you!

Lunch Shop: New Menus

The lunch menus have been updated for the summer term to reflect the warmer season and will include a baguette option on most days. A paper copy of the menu was sent home with your child earlier this week and the information will also be on the school website if you wish to see the meal options at any time. If you would like your child to have school meals but have not yet used Lunch Shop, do not hesitate to ask Mrs Higgins in the office for help and advice.

Collections

Comic Relief: £314 plus £400 red nose sales.

Year 5 Enterprise: £720.76 profit.

And the superhero donations too!
Thank you for your generosity and support.

Advance Notice: Book Advice

On Tuesday 2nd May, a representative from the Library Service will be in school to advertise the Summer Reading Challenge and will host a drop-in session for parents who have questions about selecting good books for their budding readers.

The Learning Zone on Heron Hill School's Website

We are able to see how many visits our website pages get and we are delighted that the most popular page is the Learning Zone, with over 350 visits in one month alone.

If you have not visited the Learning Zone page on our website, why not have a look? It has lots of links to useful educational websites.

Community Paediatric Audiology Department

Are you worried about your child's hearing? Permanent childhood hearing loss is actually quite rare: around one to two babies in every 1000 born are born with hearing loss in one or both ears. Most babies have their hearing tested shortly after birth. However, temporary hearing problems are very common in childhood and many factors can contribute, including coughs, colds and ear infections.

What can you do if you are worried? You can speak to your GP, Health Visitor or School Nurse, who can arrange an appointment at the Audiology department, or you can contact the department yourself on this number: 01539 718157. Your child will be given an appointment for a simple hearing test and check of their ears.

Governor Insight - Jacqui Cottam, Vice-Chair of Governors

As you will have seen in the last newsletter, Mr Vermeulen's term of office comes to an end in May. He has been a valuable member of the governing body for 4 years, making an important contribution to the school, and will be especially missed for his common sense and literally 'hands on approach' to the duties of the Premises and Environment Committee! On behalf of all at Heron Hill, I thank him for his help, commitment and enthusiasm. Mr Vermeulen's departure will leave the governing body with a parent governor vacancy from May and we will be sending out information regarding the vacancy after the Easter holiday.

Even in my short time as a school governor, the role of a governor has changed and evolved, mirroring the constantly challenging and changing face of education. Our school governors work as part of a team of professionals to deliver a shared vision for a successful school ensuring, with the school leadership, that our school helps every child to achieve their potential. Being a school governor is a demanding yet rewarding role. The governing body needs to have a wide skill set and individual governors are expected to understand complex data and work within a team to contribute to the school development plan. Governors give their time, experience and importantly a different perspective to the challenges the school faces. They are accountable and responsible for the school over the long term and, along with our staff, ensure the school provides the highest standards of education for our children. They also take pride in the school and celebrate staff and pupil successes.

I feel lucky to be part of a great team of governors at Heron Hill and I enjoy the challenge of the role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, Mrs Lehane in the office, who is also Clerk to Governors, will be happy to put you in contact with either myself or one of the other governors, who will be only too glad to answer any questions about the role.