



HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 10

22nd APRIL 2016



Dear Parents and Carers

I Can!

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we are announcing a brand new initiative aimed at improving independence in our children, called "I can!"

Research shows that a lack of independence in children can become a barrier to learning at school. With this initiative we aim to encourage, reward and celebrate children's independence in order for it to become second nature to them – further enhancing the children's learning skills.

The basic premise of "I can!" is that children receive a coloured matchstick every time they show some independence. The colour of the matchstick given to the child will relate to their house colour. These will be collected in class and the accumulation will be celebrated. At any given point during the week (decided by each class teacher), a child who has demonstrated a high level of independence during the week will dispense their class's sticks on the display in the school lobby. The main focal point of the display will be our *rainbow of independence*. The colours of the rainbow will gradually be built as a collage of matchsticks neatly stuck to the display. As the term progresses we will be able to watch the independence of our children grow on the display. During our half-termly celebration assembly we will announce which house has accumulated the most 'I can!' sticks.

During a launch assembly next week, and follow up lessons, children will list actions that they feel would show independence. It is envisaged that this list will range from picking a coat up off the cloakroom floor without being asked, to insightful learning reflection at the end of a lesson.

These rewards will be given out at school by staff and our hope is that children will also show greater independence at home. Please encourage this by celebrating it with your child and informing their class teacher about it.

Peter Hicks

The next Fairtrade Tuck Shop is on Thursday 28th April

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



Please support our fundraising efforts when shopping on line by accessing big brand sites via School Angel.

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

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 27 th April	Class Photographs. Children remove their shoes for this photograph, so it is not a good day for your child to wear their favourite old, holey socks
Thursday 28 th April	Fairtrade Tuck Shop. Please send correct change in a named envelope
Monday 2 nd May	May Day, school closed
Monday 9 th May	SATs week begins, ALL children are expected to be in school for the whole week, if well.
Wednesday 11 th May	Reception visit to Brockhole
Monday 16 th May	Walk to School Week begins: cycle, scoot or walk to earn a sticker. Volunteer sticker givers needed. Please contact the office if you can help for one or more mornings.
Thurs 19 th /Fri 20 th May	Year 4 Bikeability
Friday 20 th May	Y1H (Mrs Hudson) Class Assembly, 10.00 am. All family and friends welcome.
Thursday 26 th May	Year 3 visit to Vindolanda
Thursday 26 th May	Reception Sports Afternoon, 1.15 pm
Friday 27 th May	Sponsored Walk, 1.30 pm for Years 3-6, 1.45 pm for Nursery to Year 2.
Friday 27 th May	End of half term, 3.15 pm
Monday 6 th June	Return to school. New school meals ordering service, Lunchshop, begins
Tuesday 7 th June	Years 3-6 Sports Day, 9.30 am onwards
Friday 10 th June	Nursery Sports Day (morning and afternoon)
Wednesday 15 th June	Years 1 and 2 Sports Day, afternoon

The Wolf's Story

Mr Murphy's reading of 'The Wolf's Story' has inspired Year 3 pupils to act out the story and to improve their writing skills. Thinking about how the 'Little Red Riding Hood' story could be seen from the wolf's perspective, the pupils have written letters as if they were from the wolf to a Mr Wolfgang, complaining about the troublesome behaviour of a little girl in a red cloak. Examples of their letters are on display in the Year 3 corridor.



Year 1 Transport Visit



Year 1 enjoyed beautiful weather on their day visit to Bowness, Windermere, Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway and the Lakeland Motor Museum.

Art in the style of Andy Galsworthy

Year 2 pupils have been looking at the work of the artist Andy Galsworthy and have been inspired to make their own works of art.





Cumbria Tag-Rugby County Finals Wednesday 20th April

A squad of 10 children travelled north to Cockermouth to represent the school in the County Tag-Rugby finals. With ideal conditions, the squad played some fantastic flowing rugby in the pool stage to beat Clifton, Dearham – in a very close and hard fought encounter – and Holy Family School. Unfortunately 2 further schools in the pool pulled out of the event. However, with 3 wins out of 3, Heron Hill had qualified for the quarter final and a meeting with a highly fancied team from Austen Friars St. Monica's from Carlisle. In another very close game, the score at full time was 6 each and a period of extra time had to be played with a sudden death 'golden try' rule! The team stayed composed and used the ball and their support play to get the first try and progress to the semi-final.

In the semi-final, Heron Hill met up with pool rivals Dearham again. Again, a tight, tough game was very well contested but unfortunately for Heron Hill, Dearham had found another gear and scraped home by a single try.

In 2 previous trips to these finals, Heron Hill has never progressed beyond the pool stage, so to make the semi-finals was a real achievement for a very talented and very supportive group. Several adults from other schools also commented on how polite and sportsmanlike the children were during the competition. The squad represented the school extremely well and should be very proud of their achievements all round!

Keith McDougall

Lunch Shop

We are in the process of reviewing our school meals provision and we would like to inform parents of the new online meals management system to be introduced later this term.

'Lunch Shop' is an innovative online ordering and payment system allowing parents to choose their children's school meals online. Using Lunch Shop means parents will not have to remember to bring cash or cheques into school to pay for meals, instead you can make secure online payments at a convenient time using your phone, tablet device or PC, and top-up funds whenever you need to. Parents and children can go online in advance and choose meals together.

We will be offering parents the opportunity to attend a short demonstration next month before the launch of 'Lunch Shop' on Monday 6th June – more details to follow.

Sponsored Skip Donations

Thank you to everyone who sponsored our pupils during the skipping week in March. We raised over £1100, which is a great result.

We are distributing the money as follows:

- British Heart Foundation: £567.00 (50% of Sponsored Skip)
- Sports Relief - £869.35 (50% of Sponsored Skip plus mufti day collection, £302.35)



Are you interested in performing/acting? Here is an opportunity for you....

Kendal Yarns Festival Pre-Season Event

Join us on Thursday 5th May at 7.00 pm, at the Salvation Army Hall, Gillinggate, for an informal evening to meet people and find out how you can be involved. Children are welcome.

The Kendal Yarns Festival of New Plays will be performing plays in town centre yards and venues this July. The Festival will be led by a team of professional theatre directors, working alongside volunteer actors, performers and crew.

For more information e-mail

kendalyarns@kendalcommunitytheatre.com

Twitter: [@KendalTheatre](https://twitter.com/KendalTheatre) Facebook: [Kendal Community Theatre](https://www.facebook.com/KendalCommunityTheatre)

Governor Insight

Last term I was helping with the Year 4 swimming lessons. It was a wonderful experience seeing the improvements that these students made as the term progressed. Many of them overcame the fears and difficulties they had at the start of the term and accomplished things they never previously dreamed they could do.

One comment from a student made me think about how we sometimes deal with difficulties. When told they would be swimming 50 metres, this child looked at me and declared that it would be impossible. He was convinced there was just no way that he could do it. Still, he gave it a go, and to his delight found that he could do it. He was extremely pleased with himself as in his eyes he had conquered the "impossible".

This reminded me of the importance of trying new things, and refusing to give up when tasks seem daunting. Unless we try, we never know what we are capable of, and after we have tried we frequently find we are able to do more than we thought.

Ian Vermeulen



School Council News: Tim Farron's Visit on 15th April

Tim Farron is the MP (Member of Parliament) for our area Westmorland and Lonsdale. He is the Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. Hannah and Olivia invited him to come into school on behalf of the School Council to talk about the Houses of Parliament and the work of an MP.

Interesting facts

- MPs are voted for in their constituencies like school council members are voted for in classes.
- An MP's job is to help people in their constituency.
- There are about 650 MPs in parliament.
- There are 2 houses- the House of Lords and the House of Commons. MPs sit in the House of Commons.
- MPs do not have their own seats in the House of Commons. If you want a seat for the day you have to go early and put a ticket on the back of the seat.
- MPs have a pass card to get through security quickly.
- The Speaker is in charge of debates and acts like a football referee. People who misbehave can be sent out!
- When MPs are voting on a motion they have 8 minutes to leave the room, vote and come back in or they will be locked out.
- MPs say 'I' if they agree with something or 'no' if they do not.
- Debates can last a long time. One recent one about sending planes to Syria lasted 13 hours and the speaker did not have time to go to the toilet!
- Tim Farron talks to David Cameron who is the Prime Minister and has met the Queen.



We are considering changing our name to 'School Parliament' or 'Pupil Parliament'.

Jessica Hartley and Connor Chislett

Requests for Leave of Absence/Holidays in Term Time

At Heron Hill we believe that missing school for any reason is likely to deprive a child of educational opportunities and hamper their progress at school. Although we acknowledge that parents may sometimes prefer to take holidays outside of school holidays this has to be balanced against the effect on pupils' progress at school.

Since September 2013, Headteachers can only grant leave of absence if they are satisfied exceptional circumstances exist. The government expects it to be extremely unusual for leave of absence, including for holidays in term time, to be permitted by schools.

If you do need to request leave of absence please do so in writing to the Headteacher at least four weeks before the start of the proposed absence. Every request will be considered individually, the circumstances of your request will be considered and you will be informed of the outcome in due course. We may request further information to support your application.