



## HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER NO. 12

17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016



Dear Parents and Carers

It is only a matter of weeks since our last newsletter, but so much has happened at Heron Hill; we do like to keep you informed. This edition tells you about Sports Days and sporting excellence, innovative systems to improve our service to you and the children and the positive power of pupil voice.

It was great to see so many parents at the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Sports Days and so many actually taking part in the Key Stage 1 parents' race - I think we need a bigger track!

Thank you for your continuing support as we head towards the end of the school year.

*Peter Hicks*

#### Lunch Shop

Lunch Shop, our new online meals management system, was introduced last week and we are very pleased with how smoothly it is operating. We initially experienced a few minor issues, which is to be expected with any new system, but these have now been addressed. We would like to thank all parents for assisting us in this new initiative and we hope you agree it has improved our school meal ordering service. We are checking the dinner registers daily alongside Lunch Shop but we will be phasing out this procedure soon so please remember to order your school meals before 9.30 am in the morning.

We are now considering further improvements to our school meals provision and we will be introducing a hot meal menu choice from September - 2 different hot meals daily plus jacket potatoes with various fillings; the proposed menu will include new hot meal choices alongside some of our current popular meals. The kitchen area will be remodelled by Cumbria County Council over the summer holidays and this will allow additional preparation and cooking areas.

We would also like to notify you of a price increase from the start of the autumn term. We have maintained the price of a school meal at £2.10 for the past 3 years although the actual cost of producing the meals has risen annually; therefore the cost of a school meal will rise to £2.20 from September.

#### Dates for your Diary

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	FoHH Mufti Day - pupils come in their own clothes and pay in chocolate or bottles
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Rescheduled Reception Sports Day, 1.00 pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 pupils going to Kirkbie Kendal School in September: Induction Day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 6 pupils going to The Queen Katherine School in September: Induction Day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	FoHH Nearly New Uniform Sale, 3.00 pm. Bring your purses and wallets!
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	New Parents' Evening: Reception at 5.30 pm, Nursery at 6.45 pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Visitors from Nigeria at Heron Hill for the day
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Fairtrade Tuck Shop
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Reception Assembly for current parents and family/friends, at 2.30 pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Assembly for new parents and starters, at 10.00 am
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	FoHH Summer Fair, 5.00 pm-7.00 pm
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Family Morning
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Rescheduled Nursery Sports Day, 10.30 am and 2.15 pm
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Nursery home visits take place during this week
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production, 'Archibald's War', 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Heron Hill's Got Talent auditions, 3.30 pm-5.00 pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2H (Ms Chapman) Class Assembly, 10.00 am. All family and friends welcome
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Nursery Induction Morning, 9.30 am-11.30 am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Heron Hill's Got Talent rehearsals, 3.30 pm-5.00 pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Music Concert, 6.00 pm: our choir and music instrument students perform
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Heron Hill's Got Talent
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports distributed
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Party, 7.00 pm-9.00 pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	End of Term, 2.00 pm

## Staff Changes

Mr McDougall has given notice that he will leave Heron Hill at the end of the summer term. A popular teacher who has taught in several year groups over the years, Mr McDougall has also been a lead PE teacher at the school and has helped our teams to participate and even taste victory in many sporting events. His jokes are famously bad but we will even miss these.

A new teacher, Mrs Emma Patrick, has been appointed to the staff and we look forward to her joining Heron Hill in September. Look out for news later this term regarding class teachers for September 2016.

## Y5/6 Kwik-Cricket Festival: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

On a bright morning, perfect for cricket, a squad of 10 children made their way to Netherfield Cricket Club to take part in the kwik-cricket festival. Drawn in a group with 3 other schools, Heron Hill's first game pitted us against St Martin's and St Mary's Primary School, Windermere. Windermere were put into bat and it was soon obvious that our tight bowling was restricting their scoring; Windermere finished their innings with a modest total of 209. With the roles reversed, Heron Hill made a rather tentative start to their innings but once the boundary had been found, the confidence grew and Heron Hill recorded a total of 267 to win comfortably.

Our second game was against Staveley A. Again, having won the toss, Heron Hill chose to bowl first. Tight bowling and some sharp fielding restricted Staveley to a score of 213. Confidence in our team's ability to clear the boundary was now growing and Heron Hill ended their 8-over innings with a total of 303. The final group game was against St Mary's, Kirkby Lonsdale. Heron Hill were asked to bat first and ran up a total of 340! Another tight bowling display saw Heron Hill restrict St Mary's to just 227.

Three straight wins saw Heron Hill top their group and qualify automatically for the semi-final. Staveley B provided the opposition in the first knock-out stage. Heron Hill batted aggressively and finished with a total of 339. Although some of Staveley's batsmen tried hard and played a few shots, the accuracy of the bowling and good fielding meant they could only manage 244 in reply.

In the final Heron Hill came up against a confident St Mark's, Natland, team. St Mark's were put in to bat and immediately took on the bowling with 4 sixes coming from it. Gradually Heron Hill's bowlers found their rhythm and eventually, St Mark's reached a total of 231. Heron Hill's innings started in similar fashion then they lost a couple of cheap wickets and their run rate dropped. The second half of the innings saw more successful scoring and our team finished with a total of 286 to win the game and the competition.

As a result of winning the festival, the squad looks forward to representing the school and the South Lakes region at the County Finals on 1<sup>st</sup> July in Keswick. The whole squad did a great job not only playing some very good cricket but also supporting and encouraging each other in all aspects of the game.

Keith McDougall



## Heron Hill's Torchlight Night Float

If you would like to help to prepare materials for the float it is not too late to volunteer! Contact the school office if you would like to be involved. More help is needed.

## Friends of Heron Hill Summer Fair: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 5.00 pm-7.00 pm

There are more reasons than ever to come to our Summer Fair next Friday. In addition to the stalls and activities we know and love (bouncy castle, fabulous raffle prizes, fun table games with prizes and barbecued food including burgers and Plumgarth's sausages), this year there is the added excitement of an assault course, grass sledging and a chance to throw a wet sponge at Mr Murphy! Please come!

## The next Fairtrade Tuck Shop is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

We are having difficulty replacing stock either because the price has risen sharply or production of the item has ceased, so we only have the following in the tuckshop:

Pineapple fruit pot	60p
Yoghurt raisins	60p
Chocolate wafers	30p
Ginger cookies	20p
Chocolate cookies	20p



Please share this list with your child, in order to avoid disappointment on the day.

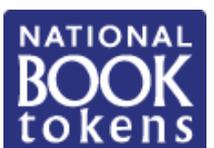
## Todds in Kendal

Friends of Heron Hill is registered as a charity with this wholesale meat company. When you make an on-line order you can nominate your chosen charity to receive 3% of the value of your order. Shop at Todds and help Heron Hill!

Todds Wholesale Meat Suppliers: [www.toddsinkendal.co.uk](http://www.toddsinkendal.co.uk)

## Book Tokens: Nominate Heron Hill Primary School so we win £5000 of book tokens... and win £100 for yourself!

Follow this link [www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools](http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools) or Google 'book tokens for schools' and nominate Heron Hill School so that we are in with a chance of winning £5000 of book tokens. Please make sure you write 'Heron Hill Primary School, Kendal' in the nominated school box. The Schools Library Service has recently surveyed our junior library and culled 20 boxes of books which are out of date or too worn and dirty to be acceptable. We desperately need to replenish our stock! Somehow, if we are selected, you could win £100 worth of book tokens yourself. Please encourage friends and relatives to nominate us too. Closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> July.



## Sports Days

Years 3-6 and Years 1-2 have had their Sports Days, which family group got the most points? All will be revealed at the end of term. We especially thank Kirkbie Kendal students for helping to make the Juniors Sports Day run so smoothly.



**Nursery and Reception Sports Day photographs will be in the next edition of the newsletter—check the dates of the rescheduled Sports Days in the diary on the front page.**

### From Source to Sea

Yesterday, Year 4 pupils tracked the River Kent from a source at High Borrans down to Morecambe Bay at Arnside. They also found an amazing variety of bug life and enjoyed an ice-cream in the rain!



### Yarns in Yards Vibrant Artwork

Year 3 pupils are working with artist Sue Gilmartin to make displays for the Kendal 'Yarns in Yards Vibrant Art-Work' which takes place 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July alongside 'Kendal Yarns Festival of New Plays'. Look out for their shoe banners which will be displayed in the town next month.



### The Owl and the Pussycat

The children in Year 2 are really enjoying their 'Owl and the Pussycat' English unit. Having looked at the poem, they have written wedding announcements for the 2 characters and now they are beginning to look at the 'Further Adventures of the Owl and the Pussycat' by Julia Donaldson. Here is a picture with the 4 suspects being interviewed for stealing the Pussycat's ring!



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June 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

Absence from school due to family holidays taken in term time can be disruptive to children's education. It can also be disruptive to other pupils in the class. In addition, I am concerned that there could be some misunderstanding of the law in relation to absence from school because of holidays taken during term time

Any absence from school should be avoided unless for medical reasons, as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress, and can create difficulties for them on their return to school, particularly if they are joining a new school or class. It is important to note that **only the Headteacher can authorise absence from school**. Parents/Carers cannot authorise the absence themselves.

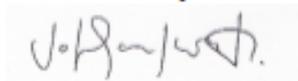
Changes to legislation have removed the discretionary 10 day period of absence which covered family holidays. Schools can only grant requests for holiday absence in term time **in exceptional circumstances**. If you believe that your circumstances are exceptional you can make a request to the school. In considering a request, the school will take into account the child's age, the time of year of the absence, and the nature of the visit. The Headteacher will also consider the child's stage of education and progress and the child's overall attendance record. It is highly unlikely that leave will be authorised if examinations or other important tests will be missed. Headteachers will not authorise absence unless they believe your circumstances are exceptional. In all cases it is best to have a discussion with the Headteacher in order to look at the issues as they affect your child.

**All unauthorised absences, including holidays** that have not been sanctioned by the Headteacher, are accumulated and parents who **fail to ensure regular attendance** of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. The amount is £60 if paid within 21days and £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days. It is therefore essential that parents take this into consideration if they are thinking of a family holiday in term-time.

The Department for Education define persistent absenteeism as below 90% attendance and schools may wish to use this figure to determine whether or not to pursue legal action such as the issuing of a fixed penalty.

Many people are working very hard to help your child to succeed. I trust you will support us in this matter, in partnership with your child's school.

Yours sincerely



John Macilwraith  
Corporate Director- Children's Services

*Together we can achieve the very best for every child, young person and their family in Cumbria*