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admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

@heronhillschool

HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 10

3rd MAY 2019



National Support School
designated by
Department for Education



Dear Parents and Carers

As so much takes place at Heron Hill, it is difficult to keep up with all the goings on; I hope these newsletters help you to stay informed. Our Twitter feed also demonstrates this with lots of great photographs and can be accessed via our school website easily. Do take a look.

Heron Hill was designated a National Support School (NSS) in June last year and we have been helping several other schools around Cumbria by sharing good practice and supporting their development. Yesterday, four senior leaders from a Carlisle school spent the day with us to look at how we teach writing and mathematics here. They told me that what they saw was 'fantastic' and were so impressed that they will be sending more staff to take a look. One said she wished she lived in Kendal as she would love to work at Heron Hill. This is a fine testament of how great our children are; polite, friendly and hard working, as well as how lucky we are to have such dedicated staff. The NSS status also brings a little extra money into school, which is always handy; we receive a small bursary from the Department for Education for hosting such visits.

I hope you have an enjoyable bank holiday.

Peter Hicks

Walk to School Week/Leisure Centre Parking Charge

For the last week of this half term, Monday 20th-Friday 24th May, we will again be taking part in 'Walk to School Week' along with many other schools. Please ditch the car and walk, cycle or scoot to school for the week. We shall again be handing out stickers at strategic points on the walking route to school IF we have enough volunteers to hand the stickers out. Please be one of those volunteers; contact Mrs Lehane at the school office to offer your 8.30 am-8.50 am on one or more mornings.

If you need the car to continue on to work, please park further away from school than you usually do, or park at the Leisure Centre; the walk from the Leisure Centre earns your child a sticker. The Leisure Centre is introducing parking charges at some point, but we have been assured the first three hours will be free, so this will not impact on our use of the car park.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 6 th May	May Day bank holiday - school closed
Tuesday 7 th May	Class photographs
Friday 10 th May	Year 1 Assembly, 10.00 am. Family and friends of Year 1 pupils are welcome
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 17 th May	Friends of Heron Hill Disco
Monday 20 th May	Walk to School Week begins (until Friday 24 th May)
Friday 24 th May	Mufti/non-uniform day for World Bee Day (see back page)
Friday 24 th May	Sponsored Walk (afternoon)
Friday 24 th May	May half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 3 rd June	Return to school
Thursday 13 th June	New Parents' Information Meetings: Reception 5.30 pm, Nursery 6.30 pm

Advance Notice: Sports Days

Tuesday 11 th June	Reception Sports Day, afternoon
Wednesday 12 th June	Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day, afternoon
Thursday 13 th June	Nursery Sports Day (time to be confirmed)
Tuesday 18 th June	Years 3-6 Sports Day, all day

Year 1 Transport Visit to Bowness and Haverthwaite, 1st May



Owen says 'Year 1 got on a coach and went to Bowness, where we got on the Swan and sailed across Lake Windermere to Haverthwaite. On the train we were given a clipboard and paper and wrote down our thoughts and what we saw, using adjectives but in the tunnel it was too dark to write. We couldn't go in the café at the station but had lunch in the play area.'

'At the Lakeland Motor Museum I saw a huge hot air balloon and I liked the Ford cars best of all. We saw a film about Donald Campbell; I didn't know Bluebird flipped through the air for so long. Then we came back to school on the coach. I liked the train bit the best.'

Year 2 Visit to Martin Mere Wetland Centre, 1st May



Lilly says 'I had a wonderful time at Martin Mere. I had so much fun seeing the birds, ducks and swans. Martin Mere is brilliant! My favourite part was the Plumwood Forest because we found insects, gently put them in a small pot and identified them with an insect sheet. I also liked the pond dipping because we collected mini water beasts and inspected them through a magnifying lens. On our afternoon walk we wore our wellies and played on balancing beams and wibbly-wobbly bridges. There are also sculptures there which you can find on your map so you know where you are. You should go there, it is massive!'



Nursery Visitor



Before Easter, the Nursery children had a very bleatful visitor who stayed the day and, an excellent example to the children, ate all their greens at lunch.

Year 4 Work of Art



In Year 4 we are learning about rivers. We explored lines and colours and painted to a piece of music called 'The Moldau' by Smetana, which describes the journey of a river. We moved round the table with our colours to come up with this wonderful collaborative work of art, which you can see on display in Y4L!!



After-School Clubs

The lunchtime and after-school clubs programme has properly started now and we are offering our pupils a wide range of sport and other activities.



Monster Pumpkin

The Gardening Club is getting ready to plant our monster pumpkin seeds. We are so excited about how big our monster pumpkin is going to grow! All monster pumpkin growing tips you have will be gratefully received.



Sports Report: Quick Sticks Hockey Finals, Queen Katherine School, 2nd May

Our two hockey teams played very fierce and competitive games.

We drew lots of matches which meant we did not win our groups this time. There were fantastic goals from many of our players and the experience our team members showed while umpiring and having control of the whistle was inspiring.

I am very proud of both teams and applaud the energy they put into their matches. Well done.

Mrs Foster



World Bee Day - Friday 24th May

World Bee Day will be celebrated at Heron Hill School on Friday 24th May. Pupils are asked to wear clothes with a bee theme, either through colour (black and yellow), motif or fancy dress and to bring a donation of £1.00 per child. The donations will be shared between supporting and maintaining our five bee hives and supporting The Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Children can dress as other pollinators if they wish to. During the day, there will be bee-themed activities. We will also be having our annual sponsored walk in the afternoon of this day.

Cycling with Care

It has been brought to our attention that some Heron Hill children have been cycling dangerously on the pavement on the way to and from school – cycling at speed and quickly weaving in and out of pedestrians, many of whom are families with young children and toddlers. Please take the time to speak to your child, if they cycle to school on their own, to remind them of the need to ride in a manner that is safe for them and everyone else around them.

Only pupils who have passed Level 2 Bikeability (Years 5 and 6) should be cycling to school on their own, all other cyclists should be accompanied by an adult.

Evening Health and Fitness Classes for Adults at Heron Hill School

Monday: 6.00 pm-6.50 pm	Piloxing	With Sarah Brook (£6 per session)
Monday 7.00 pm-7.50 pm	Target and Tone	With Sarah Brook (£6 per session)
Tuesday 6.00 pm-7.00 pm	Circuit Training	With Lynne Cornell
Tuesday 7.30 pm-9.00 pm	Chi Gong and Tai Chi	With Madi Dodd (term time only, £4 per session)
Wednesday 6.00 pm-7.00 pm	Weightwatchers (WW)	With Mel Missenden

There is a cost per week for all these classes; where we know the cost, this is indicated above.

Governor Insight: Mike Howse

I write this on a warm, hazy evening reminding me of my childhood when April could have the promise of the dream days of the summer ahead.

I've just come back from a Cumbria Education Governor's training course on 'Analysing Data'; it was well organised and well attended. Soon I will be meeting with Peter Hicks and others to be informed about the progress of various plans for the school.



How lucky children at Heron Hill School are to be in such an imaginative, progressive environment where the opportunities for learning and for personal development are there to be grasped with both hands. Their access to the 'outdoors' whether in Heron Hill - with the playing fields, school garden, bee keeping etc - or on school trips to the local fells, woods and lakes allow them all to enjoy open spaces and understand more easily how the problem of climate change could damage their environment.

As always, I feel privileged as I come to the school to hear, in the playground, the sounds of so many curious, successful, and resourceful children. Such a happy babble! A great tribute to all the staff of Heron Hill School as well, of course, to their parents.