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 @heronhillschool

## HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER NO. 11

**24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019**



National Support School  
designated by  
Department for Education



Dear Parents and Carers

Another break is upon us already! How this half term has flown by. Perhaps this has been helped by the number of out of school visits which have taken place. Year 1 enjoying the boat and train rides on their transport visit, Reception visited Leighton Moss nature reserve and Year 2 went to Martin Mere Wetland Centre. Year 4 had a very successful overnight stay in Troutbeck whilst studying rivers and also had bikeability training here in school. The choir took part in the Big Sing at the Brewery on Tuesday evening and the Year 6 classes enjoyed a day of creating and programming robots when "Robolab" visited school. There has been so much going on, I think the children all now deserve a week off.

I received messages of thanks from parents which I have passed on to the staff who gave up their evening for the Year 4 residential visit. Experiences like these do take a huge amount of planning and organising before the visit takes place and a great deal of hard work during it. The staff volunteer for this and do not get paid extra to be up at 3.30 am looking after children who cannot get to sleep, miss home, or simply cannot find the bathroom. They deserve a week off too.

Enjoy your own half term break. Thank you for your continued support.

*Peter Hicks*



#### Musical Instrument Lessons for Pupils Currently in Years 2-5

Is your child interested in learning to play a musical instrument? Are they in Years 2-5? Did you see the letter that was sent home on 10<sup>th</sup> May? It is possible for your child to have instrument lessons during (or just after) school time. Lessons cost between £7.50 and £10.00 a week, depending on the instrument; instrument hire can also be arranged. Families whose level of income or other circumstances make them eligible for free school meals have their child's music lessons subsidised. If you missed the letter or fear you have missed the deadline, it is not too late to give us notice of your child's interest in learning to play a musical instrument. Please contact the office for a copy of the music tuition letter.



#### Dates for your Diary

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Sponsored Walk (afternoon)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	May half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Return to school
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	FoHH Nearly New Uniform Sale, 3.00 pm, Infant playground
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks begin
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Sports Day, 1.15 pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day, 1.15 pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery Sports Day, 1.00 pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	New Parents' Information Meetings: Reception 5.30 pm, Nursery 6.30 pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Parents Information Meeting re Kidsafe, 2.45 pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Years 3-6 Sports Day, 9.30 am onwards
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Assembly for current parents, 2.30 pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Reception Assembly for new parents, 10.00 am
<u>Reserve Sports Days (in case of bad weather)</u>	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception, 1.15 pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 and Year 2, 1.15 pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery, 1.00 pm
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Years 3-6, 9.30 am onwards



## Considerate Parking, Driving and Turning

This week has been "Walk to School Week" and I do hope as many of you as possible have chosen to leave your cars at home, especially as the weather has been so good too.

Can I remind you that we have an agreement with the Leisure Centre for parking. We have permission to park before and after school, without restrictions, at the Leisure Centre. This is a convenient place to allow you to walk, just a short way to school while reducing the congestion outside school. You may have heard that the Leisure Centre will soon be charging for parking, but the first 3 hours are free, you simply need to display a parking dial/clock face with your arrival time. You may already have one of these from elsewhere or they will be available to buy from the Leisure Centre for a one-off cost of around £2.00. Please do consider this option, even when it is not Walk to School Week. Not only will it ease the flow of essential traffic outside school but also reduce the number of cars parking along the road.

I have received further complaints from our neighbours this week about blocked driveways, inconsiderate parking and one driveway has been damaged when a driver pulled into a resident's gateway to turn around. I appeal to you to consider the actions of your driving and parking at the beginning and end of the school day. I was told recently, that one of our neighbours "hates living near to this school". It is shame when Heron Hill School has such a good reputation and does so many good things locally, and for the wider community, that the people who live nearest to us consider us a problem. I also think it a little unfair that the school are blamed for adults' driving habits.

Please consider your driving and parking.

Peter Hicks



## Year 6 SATs Superstars



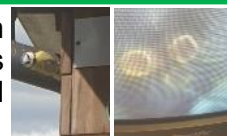
Well done to all our Year 6 pupils who did SO WELL sitting their SATs. As well as the tests, during the week Year 6 enjoyed extra biscuits, art, sport and ICT, and when a lost ice cream van found its way into their playground, they had some ice cream too. Whatever their results, we know our Year 6s are all superstars.



## Big Sing



FINALLY! After many barren years, a breeding pair of birds has nested in our camera-equipped bird box! They are on CCTV!



## Big Sing

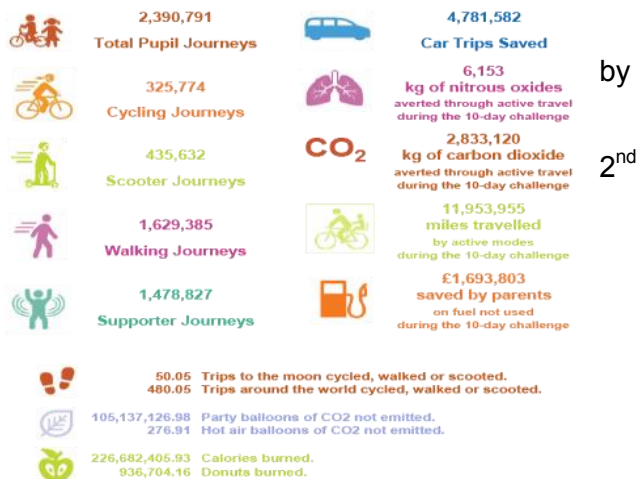
The choir performed their Mary Poppins medley to great acclaim at the Brewery Arts Centre, as part of 'The Big Sing'. They also sang in 'Dragon Days' with 3 other schools and we were extremely proud of them and their fantastic singing!

Miss Hildrew, Mrs Lawson and Mrs Ladds

## Big Pedal Feedback

Here is some feedback about the Big Pedal (organised by Sustrans), which we took part in before Easter. Amongst the large primary schools, Heron Hill School finished 182<sup>nd</sup> in the country, 8<sup>th</sup> in the North West and in Cumbria. Here is some information collected about the Big Pedal fortnight nationally (someone at Sustrans likes collecting statistics more than us!). We hope this inspires and entuses you to keep walking, cycling and scooting.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Walk to School Week this week and especially to the volunteer sticker-givers, who make it all possible.





### Year 4 Residential Visit, Rivers, Lakes and Coast: 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May



Eric and Charlie report that they learned loads about rivers on this visit and saw some otters. They walked 4 miles from Brockhole to the hostel! They had caramel crunch ice cream at the River Kent estuary. Charlie's centipede, which he found on Arnside Knott, was the top bug because it was the biggest and ate the other bugs. In the blindfold task, they had to find their way to a tree that their partner had already led them to once, using their other senses. They liked the youth hostel food and toasting marshmallows. They had great fun with their friends in their hostel room and did not sleep enough. What would have made it better? Hmmm....more nights away.

### Reception Visit to Leighton Moss, 15<sup>th</sup> May



On a beautifully sunny day, Reception went to Leighton Moss. We watched birds from the bird hide, collected materials to make nests, hunted for minibeasts, identified bird calls, made scent potions from the sensory garden and learned how to preen a feather! Our RSPB guides, Carol and Alex, enthralled us with their knowledge of the nature reserve. The children proved that they had a healthy appetite for information about the world around them!

### Fire in the Woods!

Year 5 reward time in the woods included den making, creating art from various natural items, toasting marshmallows over an open fire and drinking hot chocolate. Hands up if you want to be in Year 5...



## Fairtrade Poster Competition

Please encourage your child to enter a poster competition, which the School Council told children about in assembly. We would like your child to design an A4 sized poster to celebrate 25 years of Fairtrade. It would be good to include the Fairtrade logo in the poster and to make up a snappy slogan to reflect the work that Fairtrade does. There will be a prize of Fairtrade goodies for the winner and 10 runners-up posters will also be celebrated. Please send entries to school by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Events to mark Fairtrade's birthday will be held at the Kendal Unity Festival, which will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



Thank you!

*The School Council*

CELEBRATING  
**25**  
YEARS OF  
**FAIRTRADE**



## Start of the School Day: Reminder

Teachers will be in the playground just before 8.50 am to blow the whistle for children to line up and to come into school. Please make sure your child is in the playground in time to line up.

## Mathletics

Over 5 weeks during March and April our Year 4-6 pupils participated in the worldwide Mathlete of the Year competition. We are delighted that for the second year running, Harry in Year 5 is our in-school overall winner and has received a trophy and gift at this morning's Celebration Assembly. Here is some information from the Mathlete challenge this year:

- During the 5 weeks, Heron Hill children gained a fantastic 580 certificates: 470 bronze, 91 silvers and 19 golds!
- Harry scored 129,327 points to win overall.
- Special mention should go to Clayton for being a great Mathletics opponent for Harry.
- Class 6W won Best Participation as every child in the class gained over 1,000 points for 4 of the 5 weeks of the competition.
- The children have all worked hard to develop their swift recall of number facts and to improve their reasoning skills.

*Mrs Wilkinson*



## Digital Watches

Some children have been wearing 'fitbit' style digital watches to school and the school has told parents and pupils that they cannot wear them. Having listened to parents and children, we have amended our view and bearing in mind the following points, pupils will be allowed to wear simple digital/fitbit watches at school from now on:

- Devices that only tell the time and count steps are permitted. Any devices with the facility to play games, send or receive messages and give notification of messages are not permitted.
- Like any other watch, fitbits must be removed for sporting activities, PE and games in line with Cumbria County Council Health and Safety rules.
- School staff are not responsible for any loss or damage to devices children choose to bring to school; this includes looking after devices during sporting activities, PE and games.
- Any child who becomes distracted by such devices will lose the right to bring one to school in the future.
- If unwanted or distracting competition between children arises over number of steps etc. the right to bring the device to school will be removed.
- It is not school staff's responsibility to identify the appropriateness of the device. It is the child's/parents responsibility to ensure the device does not cause any distraction or is used inappropriately.

## Whole School Bee Photograph

Have you seen our whole school (not Nursery, sorry) bee photograph on our Twitter account? Hopefully a similar photograph will be in the Gazette soon - look out for it.

