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HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 12

25th JUNE 2019

The Parliamentary Review
 BEST PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE

National Support School
 designated by
 Department for Education



Dear Parents and Carers

Our summer term activities fill this edition of the newsletter and the next few weeks will be even more packed with exciting activities; Year 3/Year 4 production, talent show, sports finals and much more. We will not be able to fit everything into the next and final newsletter of the year so keep an eye on our Twitter feed.

At this time of year everything seems to be aiming towards the summer break and this summer's family holidays, whereas I have been looking at holidays for 2020-2021! Each year, the Local Authority issues their 'proposal' for holidays a couple of years in advance. Schools can either adopt these dates or adapt them to suit their needs. In Kendal, the other headteachers and I agree to make sure our holidays align with each other, which can mean the dates are slightly different to the published Cumbria dates, and this is the case for Easter 2021. With this in mind, please do not look at Cumbria dates or simply Google school holidays, go directly to our Heron Hill website or refer to the paper copy of the dates we sent out last week, to ensure you have the correct school holiday dates. I wish to repeat that it is very important that Year 6 pupils are at school for the week before and the week of SATs, so in 2020, this will be from 4th-15th May.

Still thinking about holidays and referring back to my first point, the end of the school year for our pupils is just as important as the start; this is when we spend time on transition, when the children meet their new teacher and visit their next classroom etc, as well as take part in so many fun activities at school. Much as I agree with family holidays being very important, school is important too. Please consider what your child might be missing before taking them out of school during term time. If you do have exception circumstances, such as a wedding far away, with the required 4 weeks' notice, I may well be able to authorise the absence.

Thank you for your support.

Peter Hicks

DEFRA Bees' Needs Green Champions Award - Winners

We are very pleased and proud to have successfully applied for a national award for schools, which is given each year to a school which has worked hard to ensure pollinators have a great environment in which to thrive. We have won this award largely because of the hard work and dedication that our Bee Teams have demonstrated over the last two years. They have willingly given up weekends, time after school and even some holidays to come and look after the bees, and are educating and enthusing other people about bees and the vitally important role of all pollinators.

Some of our Bee Team members are going to go to London in July, to the award ceremony which will take place at a venue on 'Carna-bee Street'. In preparation for the awards ceremony, a small film crew came to Heron Hill School last week and filmed footage which will be shown at the ceremony. Later this week, some of our Bee Team children are going to share their knowledge with a class in Natland School. Recently our Queen Bee, Mrs Cottam, Chair of Governors, gave a talk to a large group at Grange-over-Sands WI and they are now all planting pollinator-friendly plants in their gardens!



Dates for your Diary

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| Wednesday 26 th June | Family Day; Reception to Year 6 children will spend the morning in mixed age groups (brothers and sisters in the same class) and will take part in nature-themed activities. The children will also have a picnic lunch in their family groups. The school kitchen is able to provide takeaway lunch boxes – go on Lunch Shop to book |
| Friday 28 th June | Reports to parents |
| Monday 1 st July | Transition morning - teachers will visit next year's pupils in their current room |
| Tuesday 2 nd July | Lower Juniors dress rehearsal of 'The Bee Musical', 2.00 pm |
| Wednesday 3 rd July | Lower Juniors performances of 'The Bee Musical', 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm |
| Thursday 4 th July | Transition afternoon - pupils visit their new classrooms and teachers |
| Thursday 4 th July | Heron Hill's Got Talent auditions, 3.15 pm-5.00 pm |
| Friday 5 th July | Choir perform at Kendal Leisure Centre in 'One Small Bird' |
| Tuesday 9 th July | Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.30 pm |
| Wednesday 10 th July | Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm |
| Thursday 11 th July | Heron Hill's Got Talent dress rehearsal, 3.15 pm-5.00 pm |
| Friday 12 th July | Heron Hill's Got Talent show and mufti/non-uniform day - bring £1.00 donation for the 'New Beginnings' charity |
| Friday 12 th July | FoHH after-school raffle, soft toy sale, cake stall, etc 3.15 pm-5.00 pm |
| Monday 15 th July | FoHH Special General Meeting, 6.30 pm |
| Wednesday 17 th July | Year 6 Leavers' Barbecue and Ceilidh, 7.00 pm |
| Thursday 18 th July | Year 6 Leavers' Assembly, 2.00 pm (invitations will be distributed soon) |
| Friday 19 th July | End of term, 2.00 pm |

School Meals

Due to an increase from our suppliers, from 4th September 2019, the cost of a school meal is going to increase as follows:

- Nursery: from £1.85 to £1.90.
- Year 3 to Year 6: from £2.40 to £2.50

School meals for Reception to Year 2 children will continue to be funded by the government and therefore are free. Families with low income and other qualifying circumstances are eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium; come and talk to Mrs Roberts if you think this applies to you.

Job Vacancies at Heron Hill School

See the school website or call at the office for further details of our vacancies:

- Finance Assistant
- Mid-Day Supervisor

The closing date for applications is 1st July.

- Play Leader
- Play Workers

The closing date for applications is 4th July.

Year 4 Pollinator Project

Y4L has carried out the next stage of the study into pollinators in their patch on the canal path; they were counting wildflowers as part of a survey for the Kendal Pollinator Project, a 3-year venture of South Lakes Action Against Climate Change. Y4H will go later in the term to count the bugs!



Staff Changes

After 27 years as a class teacher at Heron Hill School, Mrs Knipe has decided to have a change of direction and will be leaving at the end of this term. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, please send your donation to the school office by Friday 12th July. Thank you.

Following the recent class teacher appointment process, we are very pleased that Miss Amy Dawson and Miss Patti Baxter will be joining the school from September.

Sports Days

We managed to get three of our four sports days done on the day; Nursery will have their (twice over!) rain-affected sports day later this week.



Wrap Around Care at Heron Hill School

Have you been in contact with the school office about your wrap around care needs from the start of the autumn term? Heron Hill School will be providing before and after school care and school holiday care. Please fill in a booking form or come and talk to Mrs Roberts at the school office.

Boys' Kwik Cricket Tournament at Netherfield Cricket Ground, 5th June

The boys had a great day of cricket! Despite the cold and wet weather, they got on with playing some very competitive matches. Our A team managed to win their group matches with some excellent batting and wicket taking on display. The B team found it a little harder as some of their opponents were finding bowling difficult which meant we found it hard to actually hit the ball from their deliveries! However, both teams showed great competitive attributes as they attempted to win each match. The A team played a tough semi-final against Milnthorpe A team. After a fairly even match they eventually lost out to the team that would progress to the next round. Once again I was impressed with the team work, respect and good manners of all the boys throughout the day.

Mrs Foster

Girls' Kwik Cricket at Burneside Cricket Club, 11th June

This fabulous all girl cricket team won every game in their group matches to take them to a competitive semi-final, which they also won. After an amazingly close final game, Heron Hill became the winning team and will progress to the county finals on the 4th July. Well done girls! We are very proud of your teamwork.

Mrs Dodd-Hemingway



Equipment Appeal for Nursery and Reception

The teachers in Nursery and Reception would be very grateful for donations of the following for their classrooms and outdoor areas:

- Large and small cable reels
- Planks
- Small tyres, eg bike or go-cart size
- Plastic crates and large boxes
- Metal containers, pots, teapots, spoons, baking trays, pans, old dinner services
- Landline telephones, computer keyboards
- Drapes, old curtains (good condition)
- Old car steering wheels, bumpers, mirrors
- Left over pieces of wood that can be cut into smaller pieces or lots of small pieces.
- Loose parts, eg screws, bolts, metal keys
- Good condition 2 seater settee (fire safety compliant)
- Large sheets of tarpaulin
- Metal/ plastic supermarket shopping baskets

Please make sure any donations are in good condition (we reserve the right to refuse your donation!) and as child friendly as possible.

Governor Insight: John Haley

When I joined the Governing Body last spring, one of the first projects we discussed was an extension to the nursery which I naturally took an interest in with my background in property and development. I did however raise my eyebrows when Mr Hicks suggested it would be designed, tendered, procured and built to welcome children by January – which January I questioned, more so as the development would be delivered from the school's own money and without external County Council assistance.



Fast forward 9 months and the bright new space provides a great environment for pre-school learning and will also be the base for a wide variety of fun and exciting activities for pupils of all ages, at the new wrap-around provision. The internal and outside space will accommodate for the children's choices of games and projects as well as the holiday clubs.

With only 4 weeks of the summer term left, things may start to slow for the holidays, but we are already planning more improvements to the school buildings and grounds. It is great to see that the school has aspirations and that they can be delivered quickly and successfully without disturbing the day to day running of the school and for the benefit of everyone.

Save the Planet - Keep Batteries Out of Landfill Sites

Your child will be bringing home a small flat-pack cardboard box, into which you can put spent batteries. When the box is full, bring the batteries to Heron Hill and we can recycle the batteries for you.