



The Parliamentary Review

BEST PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE



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## HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER NO. 1

13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

National Support School  
designated by

Department for Education



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. It has been a great start, despite the rain, with lots going on. The Year 5 children have already been out on a visit to the County Show and had a lovely time, even though they endured very heavy rain at times, and we have a great deal of exciting events planned for the coming term.

Later in this edition, you will see a piece by Friends of Heron Hill. I would like to thank our outgoing committee for all their hard work and extend a warm and grateful welcome to our new volunteers; please do support them.

It is lovely to see the children, smiling and smart in their new uniforms, back in school. Some of our pupils are in their first days of school in Reception and others have newly joined us from Kendal, different places in Britain and from around the world: Malta, Romania and Australia! We also welcome the new children in Nursery and we hope all our new starters and their families quickly settle into the Heron Hill family.

*Peter Hicks*

#### ALLERGIES WARNING

We have children in school with a severe nut allergy, so please do not send your child into school with nuts or foods which contain nuts, including Nutella sandwiches. We also have children with a severe allergy to kiwi fruit, so please do not send this into school either.



#### Job Vacancy: Mid-Day Supervisor

We have a vacancy for a Mid-Day Supervisor to work for 1¼ hours Monday to Friday and the rate of pay is £9.36 per hour (term time only). The closing date for applications is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, please pick up an application pack from the school office. More details are on our website. We also like to have a bank of relief Mid-Day Supervisors who can cover absences; the rate of pay is the same. If you are interested in being a relief MDS, please come and see Mrs Roberts in the office.

#### Dates for your Diary

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Lunchtime and after-school clubs and activities begin
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2 Maths Family Learning <b>WILL NOT START</b> , not enough parents/carers have signed up. Can you take part? See page 3 for more details
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery Open Afternoon, 1.00 pm-3.00 pm (for January 2019 admissions)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Kirkbie Kendal School open evening for Year 6 pupils, 5.45 pm-8.00 pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Queen Katherine School open evening for Year 6 pupils, 5.15 pm to 8.15 pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 5 Cyclewise training begins
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Friends of Heron Hill Annual General Meeting, 7.00 pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	'Learn Its' parent meeting, 2.30 pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Closing date for January Nursery applications
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3-Year 6 'Building Resilience' family learning course begins (6 weeks)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception parent consultation meetings begin (see sign-up sheets)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Family and individual photographs
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Final date for sunflower photographs and pumpkins/pumpkin photographs
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm

## Classes and Teachers 2019-2020

Headteacher Mr Peter Hicks (Designated Safeguarding Lead)  
Deputy Head Mr Ian Murphy (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)  
Assistant Head Mrs Michelle Wilkinson

	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Teaching Assistants</b>
Nursery	Mrs Metcalfe	Mrs Ormrod, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Bennett, Miss Dalzell
Reception	Mrs Foster and Mrs Barber	Mrs Robinson, Mr Westwell, Mrs Drayton
Year 1	Miss Baxter and Mrs N Jones	Mrs Dyer, Mrs S Jones, Mrs Turner
Year 2	Miss Dollard and Mrs Hudson	Mrs Broomby, Mrs Scott
Year 3	Mrs Corbett and Miss Dawson	Mrs Quilliam
Year 4	Miss Hildrew and Mrs Lawson	Mrs Wilson
Year 5	Miss Watson and Mrs Wilkinson	Mrs Gorst, Ms Powell
Year 6	Mrs Hunter and Mrs Ladds	Mrs Smith

Mrs Cooling is Inclusion Manager and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, and along with Mrs Dodd-Hemingway, Mrs Harper, Mrs Osborne, Mrs Robinson and Mr Murphy, teaches in school to provide non-contact and PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time. Mrs Roberts is our Business Manager, with Mrs Lehane, Mrs Carter and Mrs Butler providing additional clerical support. Lunch time supervision is provided by our team of Mid-day Supervisors.

## Food Information

We would like to remind you that morning break snacks should only be fruit, vegetables or cheese for children in Years 3-6. Processed foods containing concentrated fruits which have a high sugar content are not acceptable. Younger children are provided with fresh fruit and vegetables via a government scheme.

Children up to 5 years old and those in families eligible for Free School Meals can be registered to receive a free carton of milk each day. Parents of children 5 years and older can register to buy milk for their child each day at a cost of approximately 23p a day. Contact the office for more information.

School meals cost £2.50 per meal and should be booked, up to 3 weeks in advance, via Lunchshop. Children in Reception-Year 2 are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals, so you do not have to pay for the meals, but please use the online booking site to order your child's meals.

## Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

We will be distributing, via each child, a leaflet about Pupil Premium funding which is for children of parents who receive Income Support, Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit and other benefits, as listed in the leaflet. If you are in receipt of any of these benefits and have not claimed Free School Meals, you are missing out on the following for your child: free milk, uniform and bookbag, subsidised music lessons and fully paid-for after-school activities and class visits, including residential visits. Even if you are in receipt of benefits for a very short period of time, these school benefits continue for the next 6 years so it is worth applying for free school meals as soon as you receive benefits. Please contact the office if you require any more details.

## Pumpkins and Sunflowers

It has been a good year for pumpkins, so much rain! Have you got the winning sunflower and/or pumpkin? Take a photograph of your child beside their sunflower in its garden/growing location and send it into school, with your child's name and height of the sunflower clearly written on the back of the photograph. Please do this by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Actual pumpkins, along with a photograph of your child beside it in the pumpkin patch, need to be brought into school for the pumpkin competition and the closing date for this is also Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Prizes will be awarded at the end of half term celebration assembly.

## Ryman Vouchers for Classrooms

Ryman stationers are giving vouchers which can be used by schools for classroom supplies, if you spend money in their shop. This scheme is running until 2<sup>nd</sup> November, so if you do need to buy items at Ryman, please save the vouchers and bring them to the school office. Thank you.

## Our Reception pupils have made a great start to their big school life!



### Torchlight Night

Heron Hill School plans to participate in Torchlight Night every other year. We were participants last year, so will join the parade next year, in 2020. We will need lots of volunteers next year, please be ready!

### Voluntary Contributions

We would be grateful if you could make a £5.00 contribution per family for the year. This will help to cover the cost of the wide range of class activities we provide, such as baking, art, craft and gardening, which benefit all the children. Please send your contribution into school by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September in a sealed envelope with your child(ren)'s name on. Please make cheques payable to 'Heron Hill Primary School'.

### Free Course for Year 1 and Year 2 Parents and Carers

To help Year 1 and Year 2 parents, carers (and grandparents) become more familiar with approaches to teaching mathematics, we invite you to a 10 week course we are running on Tuesdays from 9.00 am-12.00 noon. The course is completely free, plus we can fund childcare costs whilst parents attend. You will work with a very experienced tutor for half the morning, then your child will come along so you can both engage in a range of fun maths activities together. **The course can only run if we have at least 6 parents/carers signed up. Please return the flyer we have sent out, or contact the office or Mrs Wilkinson. If more parents/carers sign up, the course will start 2 weeks later than advertised, on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October.**

### Safe Use of Social Media

Year 6 pupils have been learning about age restrictions on social media websites. See the safeguarding page on our website for more information.

### Mobile Phones in School

Our school policy is that children are NOT ALLOWED phones in school. This is both to safeguard all children and to avoid loss or damage. The children have all been reminded of this and that if they do bring a phone into school by mistake, eg they left it in a bag or coat pocket, it must be given to their class teacher immediately. We ask that you support this policy to help to keep our children safe.

### Safeguarding

We take safeguarding your child seriously at Heron Hill School and once your child is in our care, we do all we can to keep them safe. Therefore, we ask that parents do not try to catch their child's attention when they are passing by the school and see children in the playground. Staff cannot let children go up to adults who call to them from the school gate and cannot let adults walk into the playground to talk to children. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please come straight to the school office and we will collect your child for you. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to Mr Hicks, Mr Murphy or Mrs Cooling, or follow the instructions on our website.

### Play Equipment Out of Bounds after 3.15 pm

Please note that all of the outdoor equipment in the Reception yard, including the toy boxes, sand trays, climbing equipment and swing – are completely out of bounds after school. The climbing equipment at the end of the Upper Junior playground similarly should not be played on after school while waiting for brothers and sisters to come out of school. School is not insured for accidents after 3.15 pm when the children are not being supervised by staff. Staff tidy up Reception equipment at the end of the school day, please leave it as they have left it.

## Are you planning a holiday during term time?

If the answer is “yes”, there are some important facts you need to know.

At least 4 weeks’ notice, in writing, is required for a term time absence request.

If the holiday is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance and you nevertheless take your child out of school for the leave of absence this will be recorded as unauthorised leave and you may be fined by the Local Authority. Cumbria LA is taking a more active approach to fining families for taking term time holidays.

Not every family who takes a term time holiday will be fined but please be aware of the DfE latest guidance. It now states that taking holidays in term time due to lower cost, work rotas of parents and working in tourism or farming can no longer be considered to be exceptional reasons.

Exception reasons are:

- Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child’s rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
- The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family.
- To attend a wedding or funeral of a person close to the family (four weeks’ notice is still required for weddings).

As a result of this increased scrutiny, it is becoming apparent that sometimes parents contact school to say their child is poorly when in fact they are/have been on holiday. If this is the case, you will be asked to complete a request in retrospect but I will not be able to authorise the absence and am duty bound to inform the local authority. Not sharing planned absence from school could lead to safeguarding issues; if families have not informed school that they are taking a break and we cannot contact you for an explanation of absence, we may need to take all necessary steps to ensure the children and family are safe and well.

I do have concerns that families may feel they cannot share with schools that they plan to take time off during term time. This could mean that children will not be able to share any experiences they may have had and it could even encourage them to lie about their absence. This is not a situation we would want any of our families or children to be in.

Peter Hicks

## Sports Report - Cycling Team (report by Mrs Dodd-Hemingway)

On Tuesday we were lucky enough to be asked by British Cycling to take part in time trials at the final leg of the Tour of Britain Phase 4. Eight children represented the school, riding up Beasts Bank, racing against the clock. The children had a great time and we were fortunate that both teams came home with medals. The red team won bronze and the green team won the gold. Great team work from all the children. The children were then given a great position on the finish line to watch the cyclists come through; they certainly had a day to remember.

School cycling clubs will begin again after February half term for any other keen cyclists.



## Friends of Heron Hill

Welcome back to all our families at Heron Hill. Before the summer break a new committee was voted in to run FOHH. The new committee is made up of Chair Katherine Haley, Vice-Chair Helen Westwell, Treasurer Gemma McKee and Secretary Jo Birch. We also have 6 other committee members - Derek Annand, Emma Butler, Karen German, Gemma O’Kane, Gillian Money and Laura Gibson. We, the new committee, would like to thank the previous committee for all their dedication and excellent fundraising efforts. We are really excited about the year ahead and are looking forward to continuing with some of the brilliant events that we are used to at Heron Hill as well as some exciting new ones. FOHH relies on your support and we would like to invite you all to a General Meeting at Heron Hill School on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 pm. We are really interested to hear your thoughts and ideas about events organised by FOHH moving forward. You are all automatically members of FOHH and the more money we raise, the more enrichment opportunities we can provide for the children of Heron Hill.

Many thanks, FOHH committee