




The Parliamentary Review
BEST PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE

www.heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk
admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

 @heronhillschool

HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO. 3 13th NOVEMBER 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

Attend to succeed!

Children are required to attend school for 190 days each year but lately I have been receiving more and more requests for days off, long weekends away (Fridays and/or Monday's off) and holidays during term time. Schools are not allowed to authorise absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and never because of reasons of finance, i.e. because holidays are cheaper in term time than during school holidays. Unfortunately, this is out of school's control and dictated by the Government.

I thought it might be useful to explain to you what time off school actually means for your child. 95% attendance sounds good until you look at how many lessons and learning opportunities are missed.

Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent in the year	Approximate weeks absent	Number of writing lessons missed	Number of reading lessons missed	Number of maths lessons missed	Number of foundation subject lessons missed	Total number of lessons missed
95%	9½ days	2 weeks	10	10	10	30	60
90%	19 days	4 weeks	19	19	19	57	114
80%	38 days	8 weeks	38	38	38	114	228
70%	57 days	11½ weeks	57	57	57	171	342

Clearly if your child misses 2 weeks each year, over 5 years this equates to missing a ¼ of a year and all research shows that low attendance has a direct effect on children's achievement. Later on in secondary school, attendance of 92% can equal a full grade drop in GCSE attainment. Please do not underestimate the importance of the primary school years in equipping your child with the core learning they will need later on and for getting in to the habit of coming to school every day.

I know so many children do attend school every day unless they are ill and sometimes absence is unavoidable; overall the school's attendance record is good. So well done to all of the families who do their utmost to be here every day and make the most of the opportunities provided.

If you do need to be absent during term time, please do provide at least 4 weeks' notice in writing explaining why. I do look at every application and where there are exceptional circumstances, I am very happy to authorise the time.

Peter Hicks

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader has been used in Years 3 to 6 since the start of September and it is already having a positive impact on children's attainment and attitude to reading. It is a tool that encourages children to engage more with the texts they read in a bid to collect points and achieve targets, and it is this increased engagement which ensures that children strive for a more detailed understanding of the texts they read and consequently an increased likelihood of them actually enjoying them.

Obviously if we increase the possibility of children enjoying the books they choose to read, we have a greater chance of them seeing reading as a form of entertainment - rather than something they have to do - and becoming lifelong readers, which is our ultimate goal.

With all of this in mind it is important that parents are engaging with Accelerated Reader with their children at home. Every parent in Key Stage 2 has received a letter with login details and instructions for a web-based app called 'Home Connect'. Mr Murphy is more than happy to speak to anyone who would like support or more information. He will also give a full demonstration on the afternoon of Tuesday 27th November, at 2.10 pm in the school hall. Hopefully we will see as many Year 4-Year 6 parents and carers there as possible.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 13th November

Friday 16th November

Friday 16th November

Tuesday 20th November

Wednesday 21st November

Tuesday 27th November

Friday 30th November

Wednesday 5th December

Friday 7th December

Monday 10th December

Tuesday 11th December

Wednesday 12th December

Thursday 13th December

Thursday 13th December

Friday 14th December

Monday 17th December

Tuesday 18th December

Tuesday 18th December

Wednesday 19th December

Wednesday 19th December

Thursday 20th December

Thursday 20th December

Friday 21st December

Parent Consultation Meetings, Year 1-Year 6, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm

Children in Need Day. Pupils wear own clothes, with spots or bright colours, and donate £1 per child to charity.

Friends of Heron Hill Disco, Infants at 6.15 pm, Juniors at 7.15 pm

Bags2School collection will be picked up

Reception Open Afternoon (for September 2019 admissions), 1.00 pm-5.00 pm

Mathletics and Accelerated Reader Workshop for Y4-6 parents/carers, 2.10 pm

Mufti Day, bring in donations (bottles and chocolate) for Christmas Fair

Family Morning (Reception-Year 6 classes mix up, siblings can work together)

FoHH Christmas Fair, 5.00 pm-7.00 pm

Reception Nativity Dress Rehearsal, 10.00 am

Reception Nativity Performance, 2.15 pm

Year 1/Year 2 Nativity Dress Rehearsal, 2.15 pm

Choir at Elephant Yard, 1.00 pm

Year 1/Year 2 Nativity Performances, 2.15 pm and 6.00 pm

Year 5/Year 6 Christmas Party

Reception Christmas Party

Nursery Crib Service at Kendal Parish Church, 9.45 am

Year 3/Year 4 Christmas Party

Kendal Parish Church Carol Services: Reception-Year 2 9.45 am, Y3-Y6 2.00 pm

Year 1/Year 2 Christmas Party

Nursery Christmas Party, morning

School Christmas Dinner

End of term, 2.00 pm

Boxes of Hope Cumbria Shoeboxes

We will be packing your donations for the shoeboxes on Wednesday 14th November. If you would like to help at any point during that day, please contact the school office or the Friends of Heron Hill Facebook page. Shoeboxes that you are filling at home need to be at the school by 8.50 am on Friday 16th December. We will gratefully accept any donations of £2.00 to cover the cost of transporting each shoebox.



Children in Need Day: Friday 16th November

Pupils do not need to wear uniform on Friday 16th November. Instead, they are invited to wear spotty clothes or Pudsey clothing. Please can each child bring in a donation of £1 for Children in Need.



Sewers Needed

Do not worry, the school's drains are all fine.

Reception is in need of people good with a sewing machine who can help to make some new nativity tunics for the Christmas performance. Please contact the school office or talk to our Reception class staff.

School Angel, Black Friday: Every Click Helps

By clicking on Heron Hill's 'School Angel' link at the bottom of our website pages (and [here](#)), a small percentage of the value of any purchases you make online comes to the school (that small percentage would otherwise go to Google or the other search engines you use). As 'Black Friday' will be on us soon (23rd November), please remember to click on our School Angel link first before you dive into the bargains.

Circuit Training at Heron Hill School

A new circuit training class for adults has started in the school hall. It takes place every Monday, is from 6.30 pm-7.30 pm, costs £5 per session and is for all levels of ability. Just turn up.

Unwanted Furniture and Electricals Recycling

British Heart Foundation provides a 'free and fast' collection service for unwanted furniture, electrical items, books, DVDs and bric-a-brac. They have asked us to pass on details of how to book this service: 01946 418800 or bhf.org.uk/collection. Sales of these items fund research into heart disease and treatment.

Year 2 Exploration of Kendal: Year 2 had great weather for a walk to the castle and a visit the town.



Nursery children have had a lovely time making bread.

Year 1 made some lovely works of art out of autumn leaves, what a good idea!



Year 4 Mayan Topic

Following on from their Mayan feast in the woods, Year 4 pupils have brought in their homework, which has focussed on the culture, history and other aspects of Mayan life. There have also been many excellent examples of cooking with chocolate, enough to share around the year group and with the school staff. This is fast becoming the office ladies' favourite week of the year.



Feet First, Big Pedal, Walk to School Week and Traffic/Parking

'Feet First' has now officially begun. If you have signed up your child to take part in this initiative to encourage walking/cycling/scooting to school at least once a week, you need to make sure your child can colour in their 'foot' on their classroom wallchart with a clear conscience; this is the record that they have not travelled to school by car that day. If you have not signed your child up yet, please collect a sign-up letter from the school office. Children taking part receive an activity-packed puzzle book at the start and can collect 3 badges during the year if they stay committed to the plan. We plan to take part in the 'Big Pedal' fortnight in March/April and 'Walk to School Week' in May, so give in now, leave the car at home and get used to walking, cycling and scooting in all weathers, you know it is for the best.

Neighbours have reported to us that their drives have been blocked by cars on the school run; we can only advise neighbours to contact the police, as the school has no traffic management powers. We have also been told that some of our older pupils on bikes and scooters are going too fast and without enough care on these crowded, busy roads and pavements. Please continue to talk about road safety with your child and we will be here too. If you drive, please be very careful and considerate on the roads around the school.

Hi-Fives Netball Tournament at Heron Hill School, 2nd November

Heron Hill played host to a Level 1 netball tournament where 12 teams from local schools competed against each other for a place in the finals at Cartmel. We had a Year 6 team and a Year 5 team entered in to the competition; for some of the children it was their first time playing the game. The children all played 4 games and worked brilliantly in their teams.

Our Year 5 team lost their first game, drew the next two and then with great passing by Olivia and Grace and a perfect aim by Fynlay, they managed to score 2 goals to win the last game.

Our Year 6 team were undefeated in all 4 games and managed to score an impressive 15 goals; all 9 of them worked well together, Holly E and Corey were great up front together whilst Grace and Alfie were effective in defence, making sure the opposition did not manage to find our goal!

Our Year 5 team finished 4th in the tournament, which was impressive as they have only been practicing for a few weeks. Our Year 6 team topped the leaderboard and made it through to Cartmel on 13th November (today!!).

Carly Dodd-Hemingway



Relief Mid-Day Supervisors

We like to have a bank of relief Mid-Day Supervisors who can work on an as-needed basis to cover absence, but there are not many people in the bank at present. Please contact the office if you are interested. Hours of work are 1¼ hours over lunchtime Monday to Friday and the rate of pay is £8.82 per hour.

Kirkbie Kendal School: Admissions Policy September 2020 Consultation

Mr Hyman, Headteacher of Kirkbie Kendal School has asked us to pass on the following information. As per the legal requirement to consult on changes to admission arrangements, please click on the link below to find Kirkbie Kendal School's proposed Admissions Policy for 2020. The policy has been checked by the Local Authority for compliance with the School Admissions Code.

<http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/admissions-policies/5692.html>

The consultation is available from 5th November 2018 and will last for six weeks. It will close on 14th December. If you have any comments, please send these to: headspa@kksa.co.uk by 14th December.

Governor Insight: Andy Blackman

In the previous newsletter you will have read of Mr Hick's visit to Kenya to support the development of Open Arms Academy in Western Kenya, a school which serves the educational needs of children from Open Arms International orphanage village and its wider rural community. This is not the first time Heron Hill has been involved at Open Arms; recently retired teachers and another Governor have accompanied myself and my wife on one of our frequent visits and have offered staff training activities, modelled contemporary teaching methods and provided a range of resources to enhance the quality of education for the 250 children in the school.

It was a wonderful privilege to be involved with the '2 Peters' (Heron Hill and Open Arms Academy headteachers are both called Peter) as we sought to determine the way forward for Open Arms Academy through questioning, discussion, teaching observations and evaluation of the new Kenyan curriculum which was introduced in January this year. In addition, Heron Hill's Peter led a 3½ hour training session with all the staff who willingly gave up their 'public holiday' to learn from the insights of a UK National Leader in Education.

Out of this intensive week, Open Arms Academy now has a School Development Plan for the next 3 years focussed on the demands of the new curriculum and its intention to meet the needs of its children in the 21st Century. This includes achieving a better understanding of the global world. A joint commitment to an ongoing partnership between the schools will serve the children of both schools as they learn about life beyond their own village, town and country. The energy, effort, commitment underpinning the contribution made by Mr Hick's during this intensive week was immeasurable. Open Arm School's Peter says this in a letter to our Chair of Governors... *'From such empowering experiences, wisdom and knowledge we look forward for a lasting partnership with Heron Hill School as we continue to grow.....We envy Heron Hill School for such a great talent.'*