



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

@heronhillschool

HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 7

15th FEBRUARY 2019

The Parliamentary Review
BEST PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE

National Support School
designated by
Department for Education



Dear Parents and Carers

In this newsletter, I thought it would be good to share with you news from our link school in Kenya. Mrs Lawson and Mrs Turner are currently there supporting the teachers and children...



It is amazing to be here at Open Arms Academy. We spent the first morning looking round the school, chatting to the teachers and some of the pupils, and hearing more about the project from the head teacher.



This afternoon we were planning some Maths activities for tomorrow when we will be doing a Maths carousel with the Primary 1, 2, and 3 classes (about equivalent to UK Years 2, 3 and 4), helping the teachers to use concrete resources in place value work. We will also be working to support the teachers in the classroom in other lessons and our aim is to encourage them to differentiate the learning at least 2 ways. In the afternoon the whole staff are having a training session whilst our team look after all the children (234 of them!) so we are having a big sports carousel with most of them, whilst the little ones do lots of creative artwork on a jungle theme.



It is hot here, hotter than usual for the time of year (28°C in the daytime) and we are at 7000+ feet so we are taking things steady. We had a tour around the rest of the campus today and saw the water treatment system (they pump up all their water from the river and process/clean it using their own systems), the bakery, the grain-store, the dairy (20 cows, 7 of them dairy cows that are milked by hand daily producing 70 litres of milk a day), and the poultry farm where they collect 690 eggs each day from their 800+ hens! The children have a rota for cleaning their own classrooms (could this be an idea for our Heron Hill children?! ;-).



Thanks again for all your support for us to be here; the work that is done here for these children is very special. (Message from Mrs Lawson on Tuesday.)

I have also just heard that a grant application we made recently has been successful, awarding us £3,000 to continue our link and hopefully enable some Kenyan teachers to visit us here at Heron Hill.

Peter Hicks

The Fairtrade Big Brew



Please come along on Thursday 28th February to our annual Big Brew. Pupils and their family members are warmly invited to come into the school hall after school finishes to buy a delicious cup of Fairtrade coffee or tea and home-made cakes and traybakes, and to see the awareness raising activities and information displays.

We hope that you will accept the challenge of our 'Fairtrade Bake Off' competition and enter a home-made party cake, which includes at least one Fairtrade ingredient. Please see the letter sent out on 8th February for more information.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 15 th February	End of half term, 3.15 pm
Monday 25 th February	Return to school
Wednesday 27 th February	Bring a Fairtrade Banana to school
Thursday 28 th February	Bags2School collection day, please bring donations by 9.00 am
Thursday 28 th February	Fairtrade fruit pots for sale at morning break, 30p each
Thursday 28 th February	Fairtrade Big Brew event, 3.15 pm
Friday 1 st March	National Offer Day (secondary school allocations announced)
Friday 1 st March	Travelling by Tuba (visiting musicians/storytellers)
Friday 1 st March	Nursery Open Afternoon, 1.30 pm-4.30 pm (for September 2019 admissions)
Friday 1 st March	Termly reports to parents
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Family Morning; dress up as a book character
Thursday 7 th March	Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.30 pm
Friday 8 th March	Year 2 Assembly, 10.00 am. Family and friends are warmly invited to watch
Tuesday 12 th March	Parent consultation meetings, 3.30 pm-6.00 pm
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief Day. We will be selling red noses after half term, £1.25 each
Wednesday 20 th March	Phonics Check information meeting for Year 1 parents/carers, 2.45 pm
Monday 25 th March	Big Pedal begins (see information on page 3)
Tuesday 26 th March	Kirkbie Kendal School Moving Up Evening, 5.30 pm, for current Year 5s
Thursday 28 th March	Year 5 Enterprise Project sale, 3.15 pm
Friday 29 th March	Friends of Heron Hill Disco
Friday 29 th March	Closing date for September 2019 Nursery applications
Wednesday 3 rd April	Music concert, 6.00 pm
Friday 5 th April	Super Hero dressing up day, to mark the last day of the Big Pedal
Friday 5 th April	End of spring term, 2.00 pm (note: this is different to Cumbria's recommended holiday date. We return to school on Tuesday 23 rd April)

Safer Internet Day - 5th February

Last week we spent time in school focusing on how to use the Internet wisely and safely. We also sent home to each family, a booklet called 'Digital Parenting'. If you did not receive a copy of the booklet, we have more copies in the school entrance hall.

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year in over a hundred countries, to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people and inspire a national conversation. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Safer Internet Day is a fantastic opportunity to reflect as a family about how you can use the internet and technology safely, responsibly and positively. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, foster carer, aunt, uncle or older sibling – we can all play a role in empowering children to enjoy their time online!

On our website you can find Internet Safety Information under the 'Parents Information' tab. There are lots of ideas and activities, please have a look.

The Miracle of Sleep

As Inclusion Manager and Staff Governor I am always thinking about the wellbeing of our children here at Heron Hill. We are very keen for every child to be happy at school and make the best progress they can with their learning, and one thing we find that makes a big difference is how alert they are in the classroom.

This week I heard that the recommendation from experts is that primary-aged children need 10-11 hours of sleep a night. Without this, children become sleep-deprived, and can get hyper, irritable and have a hard time paying attention in school.

As well as consistent bedtime routines, www.kidshealth.org suggests leaving 'enough technology-free time before bed to allow your child to unwind before lights-out. A good rule of thumb is switching off the electronics at least an hour before bed and keeping TVs, computers, and mobile devices out of kids' bedrooms.'

With this in mind, perhaps now is the time to review our children's bedtime routines to make sure that our children get the sleep they need.

Mrs Cooling



Parking and Road Use Issues

We receive frequent complaints from pedestrians, residents and other vehicle drivers about dangerous parking and inconsiderate driving in the roads near to the school. There is nothing we as a school can do, because the road is not part of the school's property. Our Police Community Support Officer's advice is for you to pass on any complaints directly to the police using the 101 number, or if you witness a serious or dangerous problem, call 999.

Parents, grandparents and carers who have **blue badges** can request access to the staff car park (please contact the school office), but great care must be taken accompanying children when walking between the car park and the school. The road into to the staff car park is a dangerous junction and there are a lot of pedestrians, cyclists and children on scooters crossing the road there at the beginning and end of the day. Blue badge drivers are requested not to stop on the double yellow lines and zig zag lines outside school, or drive up onto the pavement. Drivers without blue badges cannot park in the staff carpark.

SLDC's Environmental Protection Office has received a complaint about people sitting in their cars outside Heron Hill School, with their engines idling for up to half an hour at a time. If you are waiting at the school in your car, please switch off your engine.



The Big Pedal 2019

Heron Hill School has signed up to the Big Pedal and we will be competing, yes competing against 1,200 (and counting) other schools across the country to see which schools can log the most journeys made by bike, scooter and, for the first time ever, FOOT over a 2 week period, beginning Monday 25th March. We have the chance of winning a BMX cycling demonstration and other prizes. So please dust off your bikes, find your scooters and plan to walk, cycle or scoot to school for 2 weeks. Journeys made by parents, carers and staff by bike, scooter and foot count too, in fact they make a huge difference to our total. We will record all the journeys in the classroom each day. We celebrate the end of the Big Pedal, on Friday 5th April, with our annual 'dress up as superheroes' day. Who is your child's superhero?

Year 2 were fabulous in the 'La'al Big Sing' at the Brewery Arts Centre, on 13th February



The displays in the entrance hall (Year 1 sharks, Year 3 letters and Year 4 robots) are splendid; please take a look next time you are in.



Staff News

Benjamin Murphy

We are delighted for Mr and Mrs Murphy and congratulate them on the safe arrival of their son Benjamin on Saturday 9th February.



Mrs Kate Carter

Congratulations to Mrs Kate Carter who has been appointed to work in the school office; we look forward to her starting work here at the beginning of March.

Tortoise with a Purpose



Totty the tortoise came to visit Year 1 to help them learn about reptiles, in their science lesson.



Wonderfully Winning Welly Designs:

1st Kendal M, 2nd Harrison N, 3rd Ayda H

Sports Reports

Girls' Football Festival: Monday 21st January

The Year 5/Year 6 teams walked up to Vicarage Park School to take part in the Girl's Football Festival. We had 2 teams ready for a fun afternoon of football in the rather cold weather. I was very pleased to see how competitive all the girls were, with some amazing talents being displayed by the different schools.

Our A team played 5 matches and there was very little separating the teams in the scores. We drew 1-1 with Vicarage Park A (a fabulous goal from Abbie I), lost 1-0 against Dean Gibson A, won 1-0 against St Thomas's (another great goal from Grace A) then lost 3-0 against a very competent St Mark's. We played a game to see who would be 3rd in the 'league'; this was another close 0-0 against Vicarage Park A again.

Mrs Dyer was very impressed with the way our B team played in their games. Not many goals, but lots of perseverance and team work in all their games. Well done all!

Mrs Foster

Indoor Athletics: Wednesday 30th January

A team of 12 Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went to the Leisure Centre to compete in the Sports Hall Athletics event with lots of other Kendal teams. They competed well with particularly impressive high jump and standing long jump scores. Well done to our athletics team.

Mrs Dodd-Hemingway

Cross Country District Finals, Casterton, 11th February

On a beautiful afternoon, I took the 8 Cross Country runners who had qualified for the Finals, to compete for our school and the South Lakes team. All the races were very competitive and I am really pleased to say that Heron Hill contributed to the high scores that the South Lakes team achieved in order to win each race!

Y4 boys – 20th James, 21st Fraser and 25th Harry from 60 runners

Y5 boys – 3rd Leon, 21st Will and 48th Lachlan from 81 runners

Y5 girls – 15th Elissa from 62 runners

Y6 boys – 8th Alfie from 81 runners

Following these amazing results, Alfie and Leon have qualified to represent the South Lakes and Cumbria at the Cross Country Nationals in Leicester on Saturday 23rd March.

Janette Foster



Governor Insight: Douglas Rathbone

I started as a Local Authority Governor here last year. I had previously been Chair of Governors of an urban, Infant school where I lived previously. While you would think that would make me feel that I know what I am doing from Day One, life as a Governor, teacher or one of the leadership team has moved on so much - even in the last 3 years - that I have to question all my assumptions of the way to do things. I think that is good though, because I can use that to soak up the atmosphere, the ethos of Heron Hill and not have any preconceptions.



Regulations have altered, yes, but the whole role of a school is in a state of constant change and this is a different type of area. When I started as governor at the other school, we hardly had any activities after school; there was no space for a nursery; we became a Forest School using of the bit of land next to the station car park. Our local Council made a political decision that it wanted all schools to become academies and pushed us into a position where we had to go through that change to maintain our quality of care for the children, whether we wanted to or not.

Coming here has meant I have been able to appreciate anew the atmosphere, sense of commitment and enjoyment of the task at hand from everyone at Heron Hill working together. It has also made me value what the local authority, for all its faults, gives the school! Above all it is as much a learning curve for me as all the pupils at Heron Hill.

Finally, one wonderful asset this school has, which still makes me smile whenever I arrive, is the grounds – from the grass out the back to the quiet garden – it is something we are really blessed to have.

PS Oh, and can I join in the Kwik Cricket this year please?