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 @heronhillschool

**HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER NO. 1**

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2021**



SCHOOL MEMBER



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new school year! For those of you whose children are part of new Nursery or Reception intake, or if your child has joined us from another school, welcome to your first Heron Hill School newsletter. What a start to the new school year it has been! This newsletter will detail just some of the amazing things that have been happening during these first few weeks but I am certain that all of your children have also been waxing lyrical about their new teachers, their new classroom and all of the amazing things they will have been doing in class – some of which they would not have been able to do last year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Indeed, returning to some degree of normality since the recent relaxation of the rules has been nerve-wracking, challenging and liberating in equal measure. I am sure you all felt exactly the same when you arrived at school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September without having to think about staggered start times or face masks! The operation of the school is now more familiar to those of us who remember how things were pre-Covid, so it is easy to forget just how difficult things were for us as a school during the last academic year. Hopefully, if we all continue to act with care and work together to keep each other safe, we will not need to return to any of those measures that stifled education so much last year.

*Ian Murphy*

Interim Headteacher

### 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 Vacancies: Mid-Day Supervisor

We have vacancies for three Mid-Day Supervisors to work for 1¼ hours Monday to Friday and the rate of pay is £9.62 per hour (term time only). The closing date for applications is this Friday, 17<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 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 Cyclewise training begins
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Closing date for January Nursery applications
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Family and individual photographs
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Half term holiday begins, 3.15 pm
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Return to school
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Nasal Flu inoculations for all Reception-Year 6 pupils (letter to follow)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Autumn term reports come home
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Consultation Meetings, Year 1-Year 6

## Classes and Teachers 2021-2022

Interim Headteacher Mr Ian Murphy (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Assistant Head Mrs Michelle Wilkinson (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)

	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
Nursery	Mrs Metcalfe	Miss Addison, Mrs Ormrod, Miss Dalzell, Mrs Wilkinson
Reception	Mrs Foster and Mrs Barber	Mrs Robinson, Mr Westwell, Miss Walker
Year 1	Mrs Ladds, Mr Napper and Miss Ashworth	Mrs Turner, Mrs Bennett
Year 2	Miss Dollard and Mrs C Hudson	Mrs Broomby, Mrs Scott, Mrs Little and Mrs Taylor
Year 3	Mrs Corbett and Mrs Lowther	Mrs Wilson, Mrs Drayton
Year 4	Miss Hildrew, Mrs Harper, Mrs Lawson and Mrs Patrick	Mrs Quilliam and Miss Turner
Year 5	Miss Watson and Mrs Altounyan	Mrs Gorst
Year 6	Mrs Dodd-Hemingway and Mrs H Hudson	Mrs Smith, Miss Powell

Mrs Jones is SENCO and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, and along with Mrs Harper, Mrs Towe, Miss Hildrew and Mrs Osborne teaches in school to provide non-contact and PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time. Mrs Roberts is our Business Manager, Mrs Dowker is Finance Assistant and Hive Administrator and Mrs Lehane and Mrs Carter providing additional clerical support. Lunch time supervision is provided by our team of Mid-day Supervisors. Mrs Breaks, Mr Buxton, Mrs Murphy and other school staff work in the Hive.

## 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.

## Morrisons: 'It's Good to Grow'

Heron Hill School has registered with the Morrisons' 'It's Good to Grow' promotion. For every £10 that a shopper spends, they will get one 'Grow Token'. The more 'Grow Tokens' attributed to the school, the more gardening equipment the school will receive. Shoppers will need to download the MyMorrisons app and we have until 24<sup>th</sup> October to collect as many 'Grow Tokens' as possible. It would be great to have more gardening equipment as we plan to do much more in the outdoor environment this year.

## Construction Toys Appeal

If you have, but no longer need, good quality plastic builders kits eg plastic hammers, saws, builders hats, children's tool belts etc, Reception would warmly welcome any donations.



**Welcome to Nursery!** The children have settled in well and are making the most of their great facilities and lovely staff.



## Welcome to Big School!

Our Reception children have settled really quickly into school. It is lovely to have you with us.



## Reception Parent/Carer Consultations

There will be a sign up sheet nearer the time for an opportunity for Reception parents to visit their children in class and talk to their teacher about how their child has settled in.

- For Mrs Barber's class it will be Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October until Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1.45 pm-3.00 pm.
  - For Mrs Foster's class it will be Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1.45 pm-3.00 pm.
- Parents can choose the most convenient day. We kindly request that parents do not bring younger siblings to our already busy classroom.

### **Boxes of Hope**

We are seeking a small group of parent volunteers who are passionate about this wonderful charity to co-ordinate the process of collecting items, wrapping and filling the boxes. Please email your interest to [admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk) as soon as possible.



### **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 Murphy, Mrs Wilkinson or Mrs Jones, or follow the instructions on our website.

### **PCR or Lateral Flow Test**

If your child develops one or more of the Covid-19 symptoms (a temperature over 37.8°C, a new continuous cough or loss of sense of taste or smell), please go to the walk-in PCR testing centre at Busher Walk or book an online appointment. If your child has one or more of these symptoms, they cannot come back to school for 10 days unless they have a PCR test with a negative result. We cannot accept a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) negative test result, please do not carry out one of these tests on your child if they have a Covid-19 symptom. LFD tests are good at picking up Covid-19 in people without symptoms in regular, twice weekly tests.

### **October Half-Term Holiday Club**

We will be running a Hive half-term holiday club in October, Monday to Friday, 7.30 am-6.00 pm. Booking forms will be available soon.

### **Communication Between School and Home**

ParentMail. We are aware that many parents and carers do not read the ParentMail messages that we send out, this is not helped by ParentMail combining messages into a 'Daily Digest', in which you need to click on links to the messages. If you have the ParentMail app, the letters etc are much more accessible. We are sending the newsletter home on paper this time, as well as via ParentMail so that you see this information. It would be appreciated if you could read all the emails we send you so that you are fully informed.

Google Forms. We are considering using Google Forms when we ask for parent/carers consent for school visits and other events and activities. We plan to send a test Google Form to you by ParentMail in the next few days, to see how easy you find this way of communicating with the school. Please look out for it.

### **Bee-nefits**

Please remember to continue to vote weekly for The Bee Team in Asda's Green Token scheme until the end of September. You have been marvellous so far, we are doing very well, thank you.

We have half pound/227g jars of honey for sale at the school office, £6.00 each (cash only), please come and buy.