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 @heronhillschool

HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

11th NOVEMBER 2020

National Support School
designated by
Department for Education



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we have to cope with more restrictions, hopefully only for a short while. We are currently turning our thoughts to plans for Christmas celebrations, parties and nativity plays. Obviously it is going to be a little different this year, but we are determined to go ahead with our usual events as much as possible, within the restrictions. Over the coming weeks we will let you know what is planned, although unfortunately, much will need to be shared with you via videos.

Talking of plans, you may have noticed some work going on in our woods. We have tree surgeons working to remove ash trees due to ash dieback and while there, they are creating seating areas, log benches and openings/clearings for the children to gather, whilst also leaving dead wood for insects, piles of branches for hedgehogs and natural resources for future den building by our children.

Peter Hicks

Feet First

The 'Feet First' scheme, in which your child commits to walk, cycle or scoot to school at least once a week for the rest of the school year would have started this term, but due to Covid-19, production of the resources (activity book and badges) has been delayed and the start date is now going to be during the first week of January. However, you can still practice walking, cycling or scooting to school at least once a week, so that starting in January is not such a shock. If you have not signed up for 'Feet First' but would like to, please contact the school office for a form.



Two things to remember this Friday....

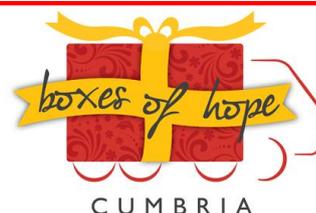
Children in Need Day: Friday 13th November

- Children can wear their own clothes, preferably with spots or stripes on them and/or bright colours. Please do not buy anything especially for the day.
- We will be discussing 'Generosity' with the pupils during the day.
- If you are able, please make a donation directly to Children in Need via their website or by text during Friday's programmes on BBC TV and radio. We will collate any £1.00 coin donations and forward them to Children in Need.



Boxes of Hope Cumbria 2020

Please bring your complete shoebox (decorated, filled and with a £2 transportation donation) to school before 9.30 am this Friday, 13th November. We will have a collection point on or by the benches under the big tree in the Infant yard, please leave your shoebox there.



Mrs Carmen Roberts - Iris School Business Manager of the Year 2020

Mrs Roberts was awarded the national award of 'School Business Manager of the Year 2020' at a ceremony in Birmingham in February. However, Mrs Roberts was not there to collect it, as she had not wanted to cause the school expense or to miss time at work. A plan was prepared to present the award at the end of spring term Celebration Assembly, but we all know what happened then. Finally, at the October half-term Celebration Assembly, Mrs Roberts was finally able to receive her award, presented by Mr Hicks in a socially-distanced manner.

Mrs Roberts started on a part time basis as Heron Hill's school secretary 31 years ago. Since then she has worked in her own time to achieve a number of business administration and accountancy qualifications despite being the only admin person in the school for over 11 years.

Mrs Roberts guards the school's budget with integrity, questions expenditure requests, monitors budget allocations to within pennies and ensures there is a transparent paper trail for all transactions. Yet she also recognises the need for progress and to develop our buildings and resources, so the carefully guarded pennies have grown into pounds, fiscal grants are drawn down at opportune times to enhance the tight budget and though we are in straightened times, we have been able to invest in our assets – property, staff and most of all, pupils. Mrs Roberts is always on hand to help new parents through the process of enrolling their child in the school and ensures there is a smooth transition into school life. These are just some of the reasons Mrs Roberts was selected for the award and since then, her work to ensure the school is safe to reopen after the lockdown, with PPE and safety resources in place, has been acknowledged too.

We are very proud of and pleased for Mrs Roberts and are glad that we are able to celebrate this award publicly at last.



Year 1: 'The Queen's Hat'

We are learning about the royal family in Year 1; last week we read this funny story! We have also been baking scones. We followed the instructions in the recipe carefully and we enjoyed eating them too. We have been writing evaluations about our scones to improve our recipe in case the Queen comes to visit. We are writing to her next week!



Evacuees and Cake

Year 5 had a celebration to mark the end of the theme 'Wars of the World'. They came to school dressed as evacuees, enjoyed (!) a slice of ration cooking (syrup cake) baked by the children and enjoyed a dance workshop where they learnt the Lindy Hop.



You had to Bee there

We are SO PROUD of our Year 6 beekeepers who led a whole afternoon's lesson on bees and beekeeping for their Year 6 classmates. They also led tours of our apiary's fabulous facilities.



Heron Hill School's beekeepers feature in the November edition of BeeCraft.



Reminder: Nasal flu inoculations for Reception to Year 6 pupils will take place tomorrow, Thursday 12th November, in school.

Bee Team Calendar



This beautiful A4 calendar, containing photographs taken around the school grounds by our Bee Team pupils, costs £10 and comes with a cardboard envelope. If you have not already received the letter with further details and the order form, email admin1@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Christmas present crisis? Sorted.

Christmas Cards and Gifts

The Christmas cards, mugs, coasters and other gifts that parents had a chance to order with their child's design on, have arrived and will be distributed on Friday, via your child's bag. Please contact the school office by Thursday afternoon if you do not want your child to bring the items home.

Update from Friends of Heron Hill

We were overwhelmed with the support for our 'Haunting of Heron Hill' event. So many families decorated their houses and carved pumpkins. We rewarded our favourites with an Amazon voucher but well done again to the Wilson family, the Bellinger family and Phoebe M in Year 2!

Whilst the country is in lockdown FOHH is trying to spread some festive cheer. Please support us and local businesses by heading to our Facebook group. It is called 'Friends of Heron Hill Christmas Countdown' and we have some lovely sellers. There is room for more so let us know if you want to get involved.

We are also involved in a nationwide raffle organised through Parentkind which gives raffle buyers a chance to win up to £5,000 a night on 12 consecutive nights. You can find the raffle via www.bigptaraffle.co.uk When you click on 'buy tickets' you can search for Friends of Heron Hill. There is an easy link on our Facebook page too.

Keep your eyes peeled for more events in the run up to Christmas.

Governor Insight: Mr Ian Vermeulen, Co-opted Governor

As a governor who no longer has children in the school, it seems strange that my girls were ever small enough to fit the tiny reception desks and even harder to remember them being as small as the students I see, who have just begun their school career. Yet it was only 9 years ago that my first daughter entered the gates of Heron Hill Primary for the first time. With my second daughter having now moved on to senior school, it feels strange for me that I am no longer doing daily drop-offs, as this was so much part of my life for all those years.



I think back to my daughters' early years and remember the rushed panics each morning to get them ready for school. The daily walk to school with them investigating everything along the way even when we were often already late. In the afternoons, collecting two very tired girls who struggled to walk home before collapsing on the sofa with something to eat. Hearing blow by blow accounts of their days, sitting reading with them and helping with homework. My own day was dictated to by the school clock. That routine seemed to dominate my life and – at times - I wished for it to end.

Those days seem a very long time ago. Now that my children have entered the nearly entirely independent world of senior school I am no longer needed as much and I look back with fondness to the days where I walked with them, hand in hand, to school.

They really do grow up so quickly and need us less and less with each year. So, even when they are driving us mad, we must remember to cherish each moment with them while we can.