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 @heronhillschool

**HERON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER NO. 5**

**28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**



SCHOOL MEMBER



Dear Parents and Carers

What an amazing privilege it is to join you as the Headteacher of such a successful school. The first week of January showed the strength of a staff determined to keep every class open and deliver quality education, despite the challenges presented by staff shortages.

Their welcome towards me and support of one another was astonishing. Whilst flexibly adapting to higher demands, teachers continued to expect the best from your children and the children continued to meet those expectations. Staff place a high priority on supporting our children's emotional and mental health. One night after school, teams of teachers delivered training and resources for the Wellbeing Week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> February. They are both passionate and professional about nurturing each child. It is crucial that this generation's future is not impeded by the events of the last two years. Their sensitive spirits have been through a time of crisis. I believe anxiety can and must now give way to peaceful, purposeful routines.



As I am getting to know each class, the children have chatted about how proud they are of their work in maths and art. The Supersonic books bring new life and joy to phonics. Around school children have been respectful and friendly, they are a credit to you; be proud! I have enjoyed decorating my office with children's gifts and colouring. Reading, playing and eating lunch with the Rannerdale nursery children has been a joy.

Heron Hill is poised with so many new developments ready to come out of their cocoon. Year 4, Mrs Harper and Mr and Mrs Cottam have uncovered the Quiet Garden. I call it the Secret Garden - circular beds surrounded by curved slate walls, winding paths through mature sleeping shrubs, sheds covered in ivy and overgrown trees. It is a magical place with huge school and community potential. The nursery gardens also have an up-and-coming revamp. There are beautifully drawn designs for an idyllic outdoor classroom and the plans for a beautiful relaxing calm group room are underway.

Mr Murphy and the leadership team have been utterly amazing. I clearly have the superhero dream team of leading teachers. I am so happy to join you as our children learn, grow and play together.

*Trish Merritt*  
Headteacher

### Nursery Open Sessions

We invite parents and carers of children who will turn 3 years old before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 to book for a visit to [our Nursery](#) on one of the following days:

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February: 1.00 pm-2.00 pm

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February: 9.00 am-10.00 am or 10.15 am-11.15 am

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February: 1.00 pm-2.00 pm

Please email [admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk) stating your preferred session(s) as numbers are limited.

## Year 1 After-School Den Building

In last week's club, the children made a mini version of a 'dog kennel' style den. It was great to see such creative and critical thinking. They worked so well as a team listening to each other's ideas and evaluating their progress. The children left buzzing! They could not wait for the next week to let their imaginations run wild again! In this week's club we learned how to make a 'lean to' den.



Reception children had a moon party! We have been learning all about space and even made space passports so we could travel to the moon.



Year 4 are getting their teeth into dental hygiene.



Year 6 Chess Club



We are very proud of our Year 6 pupils who have worked hard to achieve their green Blue Peter badges!



We are off to a flying start in chess club with our first tournament of the year! Who will make the final?

## Safer Internet Day

Keeping children safe online is vitally important. In school we teach children about the dangers of online activities, how they can keep themselves safe and how to be good citizens online.

As part of our Wellbeing Week, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February we will be marking National Safer Internet Day with a number of age-appropriate lessons and activities in school. To complement the work we do, we will also be holding Zoom sessions for parents and carers of Year 5 and Year 6 children on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 pm. We are aware that the practical challenges of keeping children safe online at home can be daunting for parents and carers, especially as technology and the digital landscape generally become more complicated. The Zoom sessions will be delivered by Simon Finch, who is a teacher, presenter and guide to online safety, safeguarding, digital citizenship and digital literacy. He is committed to helping young people become safe, confident and resilient digital citizens.

All parents can access information and resources at [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## Wool Donations in return for the Wood Donation

We have received a donation of tree stumps for our soon-to-be-renovated quiet garden from a lady who is chair of a charity that helps people with acquired brain injuries. We are very grateful for these beautifully finished pieces of wood. In return for this donation, she has requested donations of odds and ends, balls and skeins of wool or yarn that her charity can use to raise funds. Please send any wool contributions into school by the end of this half term.



## Dates for your Diary

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Pantomime in school, for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
From Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Wellbeing Week
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day (see above)
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	End of half term, 3.15 pm finish
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Hive Holiday Club (Tuesday and Wednesday mornings are already full)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Return to school

## Governors in School



While we are unable to have parent/carers volunteers in school, it is good that governors are allowed in and can fill the void by helping with hearing children read and with other activities.

## Level 4 School Gardening Award



The Bee Team are winners of the Royal Horticultural Society Level 4 School Gardening Award and have received £100 worth of seeds as part of the award.

## Bee Team Heroes

 CumbriaWildlifeTrust @cumbriawildlife · Jan 17  
Forget the A Team...enter The Bee Team! @beekeepingkids

Our next #60ForNature #NatureHeroes have transformed a school grounds in Kendal + use bees as a catalyst for teaching children about nature and environmental issues.

Read more  [wtru.st/60Heroes](https://wtru.st/60Heroes)



To mark 60 years of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, the charity has received nominations for 60 nature heroes from the Cumbrian community - and Mrs Cottam, Mrs Harper and the Bee Team are in there!

## Large Bits of Metal

Despite having had a very dry January with mild weather, many of our pupils have not been given the opportunity to enjoy winter walks to and from school. We have been made aware of parent/carers' cars being parked inconsiderately and even dangerously. When parking, please put yourself in the position of the house owner where you have parked; if they had a hospital appointment or a family crisis, would they be able to easily get their car out of their drive because of your car? You may not be parked there for long, but that may just be the time they have to be able to get out.

Parking at the Leisure Centre is free if you display a parking disc and is a short pleasant walk away from school. Please park considerately.

## PE Kit

We have had several questions about PE kit uniform as some pupils are wearing their kit more often now, e.g. for PE, swimming and after school clubs. The children **do** still need to wear plain white t-shirts but may wear their white or blue polo shirt if necessary. Other PE kit should be the same as normal.

## Book Donation

We have been very fortunate to receive a large donation of children's reading books from a neighbour of the school. Our children were very excited to see the new additions to the school library. Thank you Mr M!

## Poly Tunnel Builders

As part of our garden redevelopment, we are going to install a poly tunnel, which we hope to erect ourselves at some point this year. If any adults connected to the school have poly tunnel building experience, Mrs Cottam would love to hear from you, please contact the school office.

## Accelerated Reader

With Accelerated Reader, Year 3-6 students read a book, take an online quiz, and get immediate feedback. Students respond to regular feedback and are motivated to make progress with their reading skills. Below are the top three results of the online quizzes for this term. Quizzes means points and points mean Fairfield are doing very well indeed, congratulations! At the end of the autumn term, Year 6 Helvellyn were top of the table with a magnificent 1243.6 points. Keep reading everyone!

## Accelerated Reader Leader Board

Spring 1

Place	Class	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 5 Fairfield	315.1
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6 Scafell	299.1
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 Helvellyn	268.7

**Cumbria Libraries**

**Children's Costumes Needed Now!**

Do you have unwanted children's costumes? During February half-term we'll be running Costume Swaps in our main 6 libraries ready for World Book Day in March! So donate now or hold on to your costume to swap it in half term!

Please make sure donated costumes are in a gently used but clean condition and are definitely no longer wanted!

Drop off donated costumes at your nearest staffed library

Look out for details of our costume events at the following libraries in half term: **Carlisle, Workington, Whitehaven, Penrith, Kendal and Barrow**



Working with  
Recycle for Cumbria  
to reduce landfill

