



### Head Teacher's Message

We hope all families enjoyed the bank holiday weekend and are enjoying the longer days now that the nights are lighter. Summer is not too far away but before that we have a busy term to get through.

Over the past few weeks, Miss Butler has started her new permanent job at High Mill, if you have seen her since you will know how excited she is to be back with us. Mrs Paton has been joining the staff for 'Keeping In Touch' days while her maternity leave continues. We are delighted to have welcomed 2 new families to High Mill over the past few weeks. Darcy has joined P7 while Ronan has started in P.2. We know you will make the children and their families feel welcome.

*Kirstine McDonald*  
(Head Teacher)

### Staffing Update

We have welcomed a new Support Assistant, Miss Lauren Cumming to High Mill. Lauren works Monday-Thursday and will be with us until the summer holidays. We are awaiting our support staff allocation for next session, once this has been confirmed we will share this with you.

### Digital Wellbeing Award for Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety (DWCRIS)

A huge well done and congratulations to our Digital Ambassadors and Mrs Hughes who have led the school in achieving our second Digital Schools Award! The group met virtually with Beverly McCormick our validator to share our approach to promoting internet safety, developing understanding of ways to be resilient online and in fostering a healthy balance between using technology and engaging in other interests and hobbies.



Having achieved our first Digital Schools Award in March 2022, we are thrilled to be one of only 65 schools in Scotland and the second primary school in South Lanarkshire to have gained the Digital Wellbeing Award which is supported by Education Scotland, the Scottish Government, the Child Protection Unit and Police Scotland.

### Play Pedagogy



During the Inservice Day all of our Support Staff undertook training on play pedagogy. They explored the theory of play and ways in which this links to the learning. There was a focus on the skills developed through play such as communication, problem solving and creativity. The training also explored the roles of adults in play including guiding, challenging and being providers of space, time and resources.

Miss Butler undertook extensive training in play pedagogy during her time here in 2021-2023 and we will have another teacher trained next session.

### 'The Big Help Out'

To mark the coronation of King Charles III, the whole school participated in 'The Big Help Out'. Each child opted into a volunteering activity within our local community. From visiting at Milton Grange Care Home, helping make up food parcels at the Clydesdale Foodbank, litter picking at Moor Park, reading stories at Green Apple and Riverside Nurseries, welcoming Happy Feet Nursery into school for craft sessions it was great to see our children in the roles of responsible citizens within Carluke. The children displayed care, understanding, good communication and excellent behaviour with lots of positive feedback.



The volunteering has led to some new partnerships for the school which we are keen to build on through a wider achievement award programme which is being developed for next session. This will provide children opportunities to engage with our community while developing skills for life and work beyond the 'traditional' curriculum subjects. If you know of any local groups or organisations that we could link with, please contact Mrs Cairns who is our Community Link.

### OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

As part of our school improvement work next session, we are delighted to be undertaking the OPAL programme in partnership with Play Scotland. OPAL is a strategic, values based approach to play across all ages. It is a partnership which looks at all areas schools must plan for to improve the quality of play opportunities including environment, resources and culture.



The OPAL Primary Programme has been independently proven to sustainably improve the quality of play in primary schools. Research shows that play contributes to children's physical and emotional health, wellbeing, approach to learning and enjoyment of school.



A working group will lead this development and we would like to involve parents in this project. The first 2 group meetings are Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm where Simon Knight, our OPAL mentor will work with the group to look at the ways the children currently use the playground and to write up our action plan. If you would like to join the group, please contact the school office.

Having visited High Mill last week, Simon has already met a group of children and staff. It was interesting to hear that ours is not the smallest playground he has worked with so we anticipate some big, exciting changes.

### Classes for 2023-2024

At this time of year, we know parents thoughts turn to classes for next session. While unable to confirm class teachers just now, the class structure currently planned is:

**P.2/1**

**P.4/3**

**P.6/5**

**P.7/6**

Once our staffing for next sessions has not been confirmed by South Lanarkshire Council yet, I will be able to share the class your child will be in and who their teacher will be. However, it is likely that your child's teacher will be one of our existing members of staff.

### Dalquise Residential

Our P.7 children had a fantastic time at their residential trip at the end of March. They participated enthusiastically in a range of outdoor activities including abseiling, Jacob's Ladder, trapeze, and zip wire. Tackling new tasks and rising to new challenges together gave the children the opportunity to see themselves, and each other, in a new light and appreciate one another's strengths and weaknesses. They supported and helped each other to succeed in achieving common and individual goals. As well as developing new physical skills, the children developed their resilience, self-reliance, problem solving, decision making, co-operation and communication skills.

### Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council is at 6:30pm on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 in the staffroom. All welcome!

Many of existing members will be saying farewell to High Mill in June as their children move on to Carluke High. We are keen to ensure the Parent Council continues seamlessly. If you are interested in joining next session come along to the next meeting or pop in for a tea and cake on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 2:15pm.

### Kooth



P.6 and P.7 welcomed Chevonne from Kooth in to talk about mental health and the digital supports that are available from them. Kooth is a free online mental health platform for children and young adults between the ages of 11-25.

Kooth is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Experienced counsellors are available via drop-in or pre-arranged online chat sessions. Access is free of the typical barriers to support - no waiting times, no referrals, no thresholds to meet and complete anonymity. Kooth is a fully accredited counselling service with the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

### Bag Packing

A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped with the bag packing in Tesco on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The children did an incredible job and we received so many positive comments regarding their manners and behaviour.



We were delighted to raise £490.79.

### Make Up & Nails

An increasing number of children are coming to school with make-up, false eye-lashes/eye-lash extensions and nail extensions. We understand that children will experiment but, in the interest of health, safety and hygiene, children should not come to school wearing these. Thank you for your support.





## Dates for Your Diary



May 2023	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Morning: P.5 Youth Music Initiative – Fundamentals Morning: P.4-7 'Fizz Boom Bang' workshop from Edinburgh Generation Science Afternoon: P.5-7 Rugby coaching session 3pm: Netball Club
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Morning: SLC Achievement Award Ceremony (letters issued to specific children) Morning: P.1 transition event for new intake 10am: LEAD P7 Soccer event (letters issued to specific children) Afternoon: P.7 Transition presentation from Miss Hall (tbc) 6:30pm: Parent Council meeting
June 2023	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	All Day: Biggar Rugby Festival (letters to follow for specific children) All Day: Miss Butler at Maths Recovery training Morning: Miss McDonald at Educational psychologist review meetings 3pm: Mrs Wilson and miss McDonald to Attachment Network meeting
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day: Miss Butler at Maths Recovery training All Day: Mrs Wilson at FLIPP Early Literacy training Morning: Miss McDonald at Enhanced Transition meeting
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Health Week led by Miss Scott and Miss Butler</b> All Day: Mrs Wilson at Play Pedagogy training Morning: P.4/3 Youth Music Initiative – Fundamentals Afternoon: Miss McDonald at Social Work 3pm: Football Club
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Morning: Mrs Cairns at Numeracy Co-ordinator Meeting Morning: P.5 Youth Music Initiative – Fundamentals Morning: Parent Craft & Chat Group Morning: Miss McDonald at Social Work 3pm: Routine Health and Safety inspection 3pm: Miss Scott to Improving Our Classroom presentation 3pm: Netball Club
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Morning: Visit from Quality Link Officer
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11am onwards: Gala Cup Football (more information to follow) 3pm: Multisport Club
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	All Day: Mrs Wilson at FLIPP Early Literacy training Morning (9:45am approx.): Sports Day at John Cumming Stadium
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Gala Day – more information will be issue by the Gala Group
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Morning: P.4/3 Youth Music Initiative – Fundamentals 1pm: OPAL Group meeting 3pm: Football Club
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	All Day: P.7 Transition Day at Carluke High School (separate letter issued) All Day: P.4/3 to David Livingstone Centre (No cost to families, consent forms to follow) Morning: Parent Craft & Chat Group Afternoon: P.1 transition event for new intake 3pm: Netball Club
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	All Day: P.6/5 trip to Whitelee Windfarm (No cost to families, consent forms to follow) All Day: P.2/1 trip to Calderglen Park (No cost to families, consent forms to follow) All Day: P7 Transition Day at Carluke High School (separate letter issued)

Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	3pm: Multisport Club
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Morning: P.4/3 Youth Music Initiative – Fundamentals 1pm: OPAL Group meeting 3pm: Football Club
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Morning: P7 Leavers Treat – Escape Room and McDonalds (consent forms to follow) Morning: Parent Craft & Chat Group 3pm: Netball Club
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am: Prize Giving and Summer Service at Kirkstyle Baptist Church (Chapel Street)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	1:45pm: P7 Leavers Assembly (All welcome)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Morning: P.4/3 Youth Music Initiative – Fundamentals
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Close at 1pm. (Schools re-open to pupils on Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2023) Morning: Parent Craft & Chat Group

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