



### **Head Teacher's Message**

2022 has come around very quickly and everyone at High Mill wishes you a happy healthy year. Christmas was another strange time and I know that many of you had to change plans or isolate due to COVID-19. If you were affected, I hope that this didn't cause too much disruption.

In this ever changing landscape, the restrictions and mitigations are updated regularly. This week new guidance has been issued to schools and we will share how this impacts our existing mitigations in due course.

I would like to extend my gratitude to parents and carers for adhering to the rules in place for our school such as wearing masks and limiting the number of adults dropping off and collecting children. While I know that these can sometimes be inconvenient, I really do appreciate your co-operation in ensuring our school community operates within the guidelines.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school.

Kirstine McDonald  
(Head Teacher)

### **Welcome to High Mill!**

Over the last few weeks we have welcomed 2 new pupils to our school.

Aaliyah joined Primary 1 just prior to the Christmas holidays while Alicja joined Primary 1 last week.

We welcome both children and their families to our school community.



### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Lia Meechan, our new Team Leader, started with us after Christmas. Many of you will have spoken to or met Lia at the office. She brings many skills to High Mill, not only within the office but prior experience of supporting children with interventions for learning. Lia has quickly established nurturing relationships with our children and is looking forward to working with parents.

As you are aware, Mrs Liza Cairney left her School Support Assistant post at Christmas. Recruitment of her replacement is underway. Mrs Eleanor Orr has joined us 3 days per week on a temporary basis until the new member of staff takes up post. Eleanor is enjoying getting to know the children and staff. We have also benefited from additional days with Mrs Gillian Gallacher in school, Gillian is a School Support Assistant within the Carluke Learning Community whose work is focused on COVID Recovery.

### **P.7/6 Holocaust Memorial Day**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January, P.7/6 produced a video presentation to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The children showed sensitivity and compassion as they led reflection and remembrance of genocide not only of the Jewish people but of those in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.



### **House Captain Event**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February is our next House Captain Event. The Captains and Vice Captains have chosen to link this with Fairtrade Fortnight and the theme of "choose the world you want". With this in mind, children are invited to choose the clothes they want to wear (no football colours).

No money is required, we are simply raising awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight.

## Ultimate Dodgeball - British Heart Foundation

Competition was fierce between the Houses during our Ultimate Dodgeball British Heart



Foundation event on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Not only was it a great way for the children to get active, but it is a fantastic way to raise funds for our school and for the BHF's life-saving research. BHF is an organisation important to us as there are members of our school community affected by heart conditions. Coincidentally, all Houses gained the same number of points so have 250 added to their total for the month.



We have raised £711 – this is incredible! The school retains 20% of the money raised which means we have £142.20 which will be used towards purchasing another Clever Touch

## British Science Week

British Science Week is on 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March. This is a celebration of the world of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). We are keen to develop the children's interests and skills in this area. If you or a family member work within any of these fields, we are keen to hear from you as we'd like to arrange some talks for the children.



## COVID-19 Update

Many of the COVID-19 restrictions for wider society ceased on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The restrictions in place for schools remain tighter. We are still required to:

- No large gatherings of children e.g. assemblies etc.
- Minimising contacts between classes indoors.
- One ways system in corridor (keep left and right).
- Staff wearing masks in all communal areas and when unable to maintain a distance from pupils.
- Enhanced cleaning of touch points and high use areas e.g. toilets, dining areas etc.
- Enhanced hand hygiene measures.

Please continue to follow these rules:

- All adults must wear a face covering in all areas of the school grounds (unless medically exempt).
- Keep the number of adults dropping off or collecting children to a minimum.

New schools guidance is being introduced from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and we will write to parents with how this impacts our existing arrangements.

## COVID Self-Isolation

The guidance around self-isolation was revised by the Scottish Government on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The following will give you some important and helpful information around self-isolation rules.

In the event of a pupil; testing positive, parents must inform the school as soon as possible. Track and track do not inform schools on parents' behalf.

**Positive cases** are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. However, if the individual returns two consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart with the first test no earlier than day 6 they may end isolation before the end of the 10 day period if they have no fever.

**Close contacts** who are fully vaccinated, having received 3 doses of the vaccination (plus 14 days) or are aged under 18 years and 4 months, can take daily LFD tests for 7 days instead of isolation - provided the tests are negative and they remains without symptoms. If someone has not received 3 doses of the vaccination, they will need to book a PCR test and even if this is a negative result, they will need to isolate for 10 days.

**Advice on confirmatory PCR tests** where people test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) test they are now not advised to get a PCR test to confirm infection but to follow isolation advice as it applies to them as a positive case – *there is an exception for people who may be eligible for the Self-Isolation Support Grant who are advised to take a PCR test to ensure they can confirm their infection to be potentially eligible for financial support.*

### **'Warn and Inform' Letters**

When a positive case is confirmed in a pupil, a 'Warn and Inform' letter from NHS Lanarkshire is emailed to all parents/carers **of that class only**. This provides the most recent guidance on what your child is required to do re lateral flow testing etc. We have been asked to adopt a sensible approach to issuing these e.g. multiple copies will not be issued in the same week to same class.

### **Pupil Voice**

We are actively developing pupil participation in the wider life of the school through increasing the range of Pupil Voice Groups (committees). This offers children the chance to make decisions about the life and work of the school. All members of teaching and support staff lead a group, and our groups have representatives from every class and all primary stages.

GROUP	FOCUS	STAFF MEMBER(S)	NO. OF PUPILS
Change Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Undertake self-evaluation on learning, teaching, curriculum and life of the school.</li><li>Take forward aspects of change and improvement.</li></ul>	Miss McDonald	12
Digital Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lead aspect of Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety</li><li>Promote high quality learning and teaching in technologies.</li><li>Lead school's work towards Digital Schools Award.</li></ul>	Mrs Hughes	8
Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lead school approaches to promoting and supporting health and wellbeing.</li></ul>	Mrs Richardson Mrs Meechan	12
Maths Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promote a love of Maths and increase confidence of pupils, parents and staff.</li></ul>	Mrs Cairns	12
Outdoor/Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lead development of our outdoor spaces.</li><li>Promote high quality Outdoor Learning.</li></ul>	Miss McNeil Mrs Paton	13
Reading Ambassadors (Literacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Build and sustain a reading culture across the school.</li><li>Develop approaches to reading for pleasure.</li><li>Lead school's work toward becoming an accredited Reading School.</li></ul>	Mrs Wilson	14
Rights Respecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promote children's Rights in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Scots Law.</li><li>Co-ordinate the Rights Respecting Schools Award</li></ul>	Miss Butler	13
Sustainability (Fairtrade and Eco)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support children's understanding of Global Goals, Eco Schools and Fairtrade for a sustainable future.</li><li>Lead any involvement in accreditation within Eco or Fairtrade. Co-ordinate the Rights Respecting Schools Award</li></ul>	Miss Whitelaw	12

From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, our groups will be meeting every 3 weeks to provide dedicated time in which to take forward their initiatives or areas of improvement.

Once COVID restrictions allow, we are keen to include parents and members of our wider community in our groups, if you have a particular interest or skillset which could support one of the groups please contact the school office.

### **World Book Day**

We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. The key message this year is **'you are a reader'**! Children are invited to come to school in pyjamas with their favourite book and a teddy to cosy up to! We hope this approach reduces the Cost of the School Day by removing the pressure to buy or make a costume. Children can borrow books from our school library and we encourage families to visit the local library.



### **Kirkton Church – Chaplaincy**

We are delighted to welcome Lesley Ewing, the Youth & Children's Worker from Kirkton Parish Church to our community. Lesley will initially visit the children over lunch time on Thursdays to build relationships and to become another positive role model who they can confide in and who can help keep them safe. We are also looking forward to a time when Trevor from Kirkstyle Baptist Church can join us in school again. We hope that both he and Lesley can form a chaplaincy team for High Mill.

High Mill Primary



### **Dates for Your Diary**

<b>February 2022</b>	
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Schools Award Assessment</li></ul>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P.1-3 Multi-Sports After School</li></ul>
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Miss Ali (Teaching Student) joins P.4/3</li><li>• Netball Festival</li></ul>
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesley Ewing visiting</li></ul>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fair Trade Fortnight begins</li><li>• House Captain Event</li></ul>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P.1-3 Multi-Sports After School</li></ul>
<b>March 2022</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P.1-3 Multi-Sports After School</li></ul>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P.7 Parents' Coffee Morning for Carluke High School (more details will follow)</li></ul>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World Book Day</li><li>• Lesley Ewing visiting</li></ul>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesley Ewing visiting</li></ul>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit from Linda Gardner (Quality Link Officer)</li></ul>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• British Science Week starts</li></ul>
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesley Ewing visiting</li></ul>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Red Nose Day (more details will follow)</li></ul>
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesley Ewing visiting</li><li>• Football</li></ul>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• House Captain Event (more details will follow)</li></ul>
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesley Ewing visiting</li></ul>

**April 2022**

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report Cards Issued</li><li>• School Closes at 2:30pm</li></ul>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Re-opens at 8:55am</li><li>• P.6 and P.7 Swimming lessons begin</li></ul>

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