



High Mill Primary School



Newsletter: August 2021

'Aiming High'

Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the August 2021 edition of the High Mill newsletter and a warm welcome back. It is wonderful to have the children and staff together again in the school. We missed you all very much.

The children are looking very smart in their uniforms and have had a settled start. We appreciate that the beginning of term is a time of change as the children and staff become familiar with the routines of a new class. It is natural that some children might be anxious or need some extra assistance. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some children may have found returning to school more challenging than normal. Please speak to a member of the team if you have any concerns about your child or if there is anything that we can do to help.

I hope you have felt the positivity of a lovely new school session.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Kirstine McDonald

(Head Teacher)

Welcome to High Mill

We wish to extend the warmest welcome to the newest 'High Millers'. This includes all of our new Primary 1s. Everyone has settled very well and are bringing a great energy to our school. Thank you to P.1 parents who are doing a super job at drop-off and pick-up.



We are delighted to welcome another new pupil to High Mill. Lewis is a new pupil in P.4/3.

Staffing Update and School Roll

You will also see a new face in our school office as Mrs Theresa Sweeney joins us as our new Support Staff Team Leader. This year Miss Lucy Whitelaw and Miss Hayley Butler are welcome additions to our teaching staff. Miss Whitelaw share P.6/5/4/ with Mrs Ailidh Wilson while Miss Butler is teaching P.2/1 during Mrs Welsh's absence. They are all looking forward to working with the children and in partnership with parents and our wider community.



Classes & Teachers or 2021-2022: School roll 96

Primary 2/1 (22 children): Miss H. Butler

Primary 4/3 (24 children): Miss S McNeil

Primary 6/5/4 (25 children): Miss L. Whitelaw (Mon-Wed & Fri am) & Mrs A. Wilson (Thu & Fri pm)

Primary 7/6 (25 children): Mrs J. Cairns (Mon, Tue & Wed am) & Mrs L. Hughes (Wed pm, Thu & Fri)

Mrs Hughes and Mrs Cairns will also cover CCC, this is teachers' weekly timetable planning time. They will be in classes at the following times:

- Primary 2/1: Mrs Hughes – Tuesday 11:45am to 3pm
- Primary 4/3: Mrs Cairns – Thursday 11:45am to 3pm
- Primary 6/5/4: Miss Whitelaw & Mrs Wilson have CCC on the days they do not teach the class
- Primary 7/6: Mrs Cairns & Mrs Hughes have CCC on the days they do not teach the class

Miss Whitelaw's post (0.7FTE/3.5 days) is funded by the Scottish Government's COVID Recovery budget. This will enable us to provide additional teaching, supports and interventions for Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.

We have used some of our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to retain Mrs Hughes on a full time basis this year (our core staff entitlement would ordinarily be for 0.4FTE/2 days). This facilitates additional teachers to lead targeted interventions to raise attainment and support children's wellbeing.

Support Staff for 2021-2022

We are ably supported by our skilled Support Assistants.

Mrs Theresa Sweeney (Team Leader)

Mrs Gillian Paton

Mrs Liza Cairney

Mrs Hazel Richardson

Communication

We use our School App as a key tool for communication with parents and encourage you to sign up. A copy of our App leaflet I attached. We also showcase the children's learning on Twitter. Please follow us @HighMillPrimary. Our 'Tweet of the Week' (the Tweet with the most 'likes' earns the class a reward!



School Logo

You may have spotted a new look school logo at the beginning of our newsletter. We were keen to have the logo used match the school badge. A huge thanks to parent Mark Reid (Josh and Alyssa's dad) who created this logo for us. We think he did brilliant job of making a match! Our documents will be updated as we come to them.



House Captains

Our House Captain elections take place on Friday 3rd September. Children in P.6 and P.7 are invited to nominate themselves by submitting an application form with election speeches being held on Friday 3rd. This year, Mrs Cairns is teacher supposing the House Captains.

Parent Pay

Parent Pay is the system used across South Lanarkshire to pay for school lunches and activities. It is important to sign up for a Parent Pay account as lunches cannot be paid using cash. If need help in creating your ParentPay account, please contact Mrs Sweeney in the office who will be happy to assist you.

Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)

The Pupil Equity Funding is allocated directly to schools by the Scottish Government and must targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. Every council area benefits from PEF and 97% of schools in Scotland are allocated funding. The amount of funding schools receives is based on the number of children P.1-S3 known to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) through benefits not though the P.1-4 universal free lunches.

PEF is spent at the discretion of Head Teachers working in partnership with each other and their local authority, with PEF national operational guidance. At High Mill, we have always consulted staff, pupils and parents about how to use our PEF. Our plans for this are determined by the attainment and wellbeing needs of children. While PEF must be used for the benefit of those living in deprivation, at Head Teacher's discretion other children can participate in the interventions and supports however their progress is not reported on when measuring impact.

This session, we are introducing Participatory Budgeting which strengthens our commitment to involving children in parents in determining how PEF is used. Mrs Cairns will be in touch soon with more information about this process.

Cycling to School



We encourage children to cycle/scoot to school but stress the importance of wearing a helmet. Bikes/scooters should not be ridden in the playground. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to bikes or scooters. Electric scooters and 'hover boards' etc. are not permitted.

Annual Data Check & Consent Forms

Annual Data Checks and Consent Forms have been sent home. Please check that the contact details and emergency contacts are up-to-date. All forms must be signed and returned, with any changes noted on them. It is parental responsibility to ensure that the school holds the most up-to-date information for the children in case of emergency.



Medical Information

Please inform the office staff of any medical conditions that may affect your child in school. If your child requires prescribed medication during the school day, please discuss this Mrs Sweeny (Team Leader). Medicines should not be sent to school in pupil bags without completion of the relevant consent forms. There are also consent forms to be completed if parents choose for their child/children to carry their own inhalers.

Lost Property

Please assist in preventing items of school uniform being lost or misplaced by labelling all items of clothing, footwear, bags and packed lunches with the child's name.

Important Allergy Information

Members of our school community have severe allergies to some food items, therefore the following are not allowed in school:

- any type of nuts such as peanuts, hazelnuts and almonds etc.
- products which may contain nuts



This includes most chocolate spreads, Nutella and Kinder Bueno products so please check labels carefully.

**South Lanarkshire School Holidays 2021-2022**

September 2021	
Friday 24 th September Monday 27 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September weekend
October 2021	
Monday 11 th October to Friday 15 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October break Pupils return on Monday 18th October 2021
November 2021	
Monday 15 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-service day - all schools
December 2021 & January 2022	
Wednesday 22 nd December to Wednesday 5 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools close at 2.30pm on Wednesday 22nd December Schools re-open on Wednesday 5th January
February 2022	
Monday 14 th February Tuesday 15 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February break
Wednesday 16 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-service day - all schools
March/April 2022	
Friday 1 st April to Monday 18 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 1st April Spring break/Easter Schools re-open on Tuesday 19th April
May 2022	
Monday 2 nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May Day
Thursday 5 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-service day - all schools
Friday 27 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local holiday
June 2022	
Thursday 2 nd June and Friday 3 rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Holiday Queen's Jubilee holiday
Friday 24 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools close at 1pm on Friday 24th June Summer break

Please download **School App for Parents** that lets you see news, dates and receive important messages.



Scan the QR Code or search for **School App for Parents** in the Google Play or Apple App Store. When you have downloaded the app please search for our school name to see our dates, news and receive messages.



Username: HMPS

Password/PIN: 7878

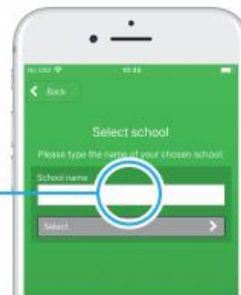
**Have children at
different schools?
No problem!**

You can add up to 5 schools to the app!



Click on the 3 lines at the top of the home tab and click **Add school**

Type the name of the school you would like to add



Download the app today!

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