



### Head Teacher's Message

Having moved away from a 'traditional' newsletter due to the school news being shared through the App, Twitter, Website and the new Parent Portal, I recently consulted the Parent Council about whether they felt reintroducing a newsletter would be useful. The consensus was that it would be and that it had been specifically useful for diary dates, events, information about training and development work the staff had been undertaking.

With the theme of the recent Children's Mental Health Week being 'Let's Connect', now seemed like an ideal time for us to re-connect with parents, families and the community through the newsletter. Things are certainly busy in our school, and it is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year!

The best way to keep yourself 'in the know' is to take time to keep checking our calendar, use the website or the App. You are probably doing this already, but today I learned that you can save diary dates on the App straight into your phone calendar with the click of one button.

Now pop the kettle on, take a few minutes to yourself and read about what's happening at High Mill.

*Kirstine McDonald*  
(Head Teacher)

### Football

Last week our football teams participated in the football festival. They showed great sportsmanship and skill - well done everyone!



### Teaching Staff Update

As a result of Miss McNeil moving on to pastures new, I am delighted to share that Miss Jennifer Scott is now a full-time permanent teacher at High Mill! This change will not 'look' any different for the children as Jennifer was permanently working at High Mill 3.5 days and temporarily for 1.5 days each week for this school year. The part-time post that Jennifer previously held has been advertised and has attracted lots of interested with almost 50 applications. I hope to hold interviews early in March, and am sure we will be welcoming a new teacher to our staff soon after.

### Primary 7 Hoodies

Our P.7 children have received their hoodies - and are looking fantastic wearing term! Children are encouraged to wear these every Friday, while out of school at events and at their residential stay. After the Easter holiday, children can wear them every day.

Thanks to their own class fundraising, and a little help from the school fund, we were able to order these with no cost to individual families. This is helping us work towards South Lanarkshire Council's ambition for schools to operate at zero cost, or as near to zero cost as possible, for families.

### Support Staff Update

I can confirm that Mrs Angela Patrick's last day will be Thursday 22nd February. Angela has been a welcome addition and much valued team member since returning to High Mill in August. She will be missed by everyone. Our Support Service Co-Ordinator is responsible of recruiting a replacement for Angela, and she has already started this process. Once they have appointment the new member of staff, I will share a further update.

### Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council is at 6:30pm on Wednesday 1st March in the school staffroom. All welcome!

### Office Bearers

Chairperson  
Alexa Thomson

Treasurers (Shared Role)  
Yvonne Crawford & Shellie O'Connor

Secretary (Shared Role)  
Ash Newsome-Miller & Shellie O'Connor

## **Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI)**

As part of our School Improvement Plan, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Wilson, Miss Dorrian and Miss Noble are undertaking training on the NELI – a tried and tested, highly effective oral language Intervention for our youngest pupils. Miss Dorrian will be implementing this 20-week intervention programme for targeted learners to help improve learning and raise attainment.

## **Children's Mental Health Week**

P.6/5 launched Children's Mental Health Week with a fantastic assembly about ways to practice self-care and how to gain support to ensure we experience positive mental health. They performed with knowledge and confidence, and with brilliant singing!



The theme was 'Let's Connect' and we are delighted to launch The Pit Stop as a weekly self-referral support for our children where they can discuss problems, share worries or take a moment of 'calm' with a member of staff. This further strengthens the range of supports we offer in school including Nurture, FAIR, Lego ABC intervention, and Drawing and Talking Therapeutic Intervention. If you think your child might benefit from one of these targeted interventions for wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **PEF - Participatory Budgeting**

The Participatory Budget (PB) is money taken from our overall PEF allocation, which the Scottish Government state should be spent based on feedback and decisions made by all pupils, parents and staff. The minimum allocation to PB must be 5% however this session we made the commitment to use allocate 12%. For our school this equates to just under £6000.

The preferred focus was for 'Outings and Wider Experiences'. This has been used so far towards:

- Part funding of Forest Friends programme and Forest Schools training
- Coaches for Netball, Football and Run, Jump & After School Club
- Pantomime tickets
- Contribution to P7 Residential to Disguise
- P.6/5 RHET Visit to Lanark Market
- P.4/3 Trip to the Tall Ship
- P.2/1 Trip to Riverside Museum
- P.6/5 Swimming Lessons
- Entry for SLC's sporting events including football festival, netball festival and the upcoming dance festival.
- Transport for P.7 planned visit to Sky Academy



We are planning to provide all classes with another outing to widen their experiences before the Easter break, if you have suggestions of somewhere the school has not visited before, please email the school office.

## **Scottish Poetry Competition**

The final of our Scottish Poetry Competition was held on Friday 27th January, the children performed with confidence and enthusiasm. Each class sang some fabulous Scottish songs. Congratulations to Samantha in P.7 who was this year's winner!



## **Gala Steering Group**

The Gala Group will be meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 1st March in the school staffroom. The group are actively seeking volunteers to help with the High Mill entry, The theme this year is The School of Rock so if you can draw, cut or paint or like me can make the teas please pop along and meet the group. Thanks to one of the P.7 dads who has volunteered to be the steward for High Mill!

## **Improving Attendance**

As part of our school improvement plan, we are participating in a project with the Equity Team at Council Headquarters and the Educational Psychologists to improve school attendance. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing an update with parents on children's current attendance levels and sampling views about barriers to attendance and ways we can support families with encouraging improved attendance. We will be working with targeted groups and individual children to explore their barriers for attending school regularly.

## **Parental & Family Learning**

We are delighted to invite parents to our Maths Recovery workshop on Monday 20th February at 2pm. This will be followed by in class session where you and your child will complete some activities together. We have also offered a livestream for parents unable to attend in-person, so far we no one has taken up this offer. If you would like to help us trial this, please contact Mrs Cairns.

Maths Recovery is part of our School Improvement Plan this year. It is an international programme developed by Professor Robert Wright at Southern Cross University in Australia. All of our teaching staff are undertaking Maths Recovery training this session. Mrs Cairns is training as a Maths Recovery specialist for the Council and will lead training for other teachers across South Lanarkshire.



## Dates for Your Diary



February 2023		
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2pm – Family Learning Maths Recovery Workshop	After School Football
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs Cairns at Maths Recovery Training	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Cairns at Maths Recovery Training After School Netball	P2 and P3 children at Higher Play event (information issued)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs Wilson and Miss McDonald at Attachment Leads meeting	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hughes at Talk for Writing Training Miss McDonald at Learning Community Meeting	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	ICT Refresh this week – limited access to office and class computers	
	Mrs Wilson at Maths Recovery Training P.4/3 Fairtrade Assembly at 2:15pm	After School Football
March 2023		
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Netball Festival (letters to be issued) Miss Scott at Improving our Classrooms Training After School Netball 6pm – Gala Day Group meeting	6:30pm - Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day (Mrs Wilson leading) Mrs Hughes at Maths Recovery Training	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	S1/P7 Coffee Morning for Carluke High (information to be issued) Hamilton College Maths Day (specific children letter to be issued) Miss McDonald at Carluke Primaries Head Teacher Meeting	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Miss McDonald interviewing for new teacher After School Football	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Miss McDonald at Child Protection Training	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	After School Netball	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Miss McDonald out of school all day Football Festival (tbc) Mrs Wilson at Literacy Co-ordinator Meeting	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	P.6/5 and P.7 visit to Sky Up (Sky Academy) (letters to be issued)	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	British Science Week led by Miss Scott After School Football	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Quality Link Officer visiting school	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	After School Netball	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Comic Relief House Event (information to be issued)	Miss McDonald on interview panel at Kirkton Primary
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	P.7 at Dalguise Residential All Week Mrs Cairns and Miss McDonald at Attendance Project	After School Football
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	After School Netball	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Miss McDonald at Primary Head Teacher Meeting Football Festival (tbc)	Mrs Wilson at Maths Recovery Training
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Hughes at Maths Recovery Training	Cross Country Competition (information to follow)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	After School Football	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Cairns at Maths Recovery Training	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Cairns at Maths Recovery Training After School Netball	Miss Scott at Improving our Classrooms Training Dance Festival at Lanark Memorial Hall (Evening - time tbc)
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Fling Parent Event	Spring Fling Disco – Gala Day Fundraiser
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	House Event Close at 2:30pm for Spring Holiday	Annual Report Cards Shared with Parents

### High Mill Primary School

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