



Head Teacher's Message

As a little sense of normality begins to return, it is nice to see our children socialise more with other classes in the playground. It has been lovely to see the Primary 7's taking great care of and leading games for their P1 Buddies.

It is important to remember that schools are unique settings, therefore many mitigations are still in place for us compared to wider society. I appreciate that these can be a little frustrating, but they are in place to reduce the risk to staff, pupils and parents. I will keep you informed of any changes. In the meantime, please continue to support us by following the guidelines outlined below.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Please get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss further.

Kirstine McDonald
(Head Teacher)

Thank you to the vast majority of parents/carers who are adhering to our mitigations for the drop-off and collection from school. To ensure this runs as smoothly as possible, please remember:

- To avoid queues forming at the school gate, please try not to arrive before 8:45am and 2:40pm.
- Parents/Carers must adhere to safe social distancing at drop-off and pick-up.
- Face coverings must be worn by parents/carers in all areas of the school including drop-off area, car park and pavement adjacent to the gate (unless medically exempt).
- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must not come to the school

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**

We appreciate your understanding in keeping the school as safe as possible.

Parent Council

The Parent Council AGM was held on Monday 4th October. The new office bearers were elected.



Chairperson: Emma McCarvill
Secretary: Scott Thomson
Treasurer: Yvonne Crawford

Healthy Eating – Snacks & Packed Lunches



We encourage all children to eat healthily, and they are taught about a balanced diet through our Health and Wellbeing curriculum. An increasing number of children are bringing multiple high sugar and high fat snacks for playtime and in packed lunches. This can cause children's adrenaline levels to spike rapidly which often leaves them struggling to concentrate, feeling anxious, needing to move around significantly more and easily irritable. This means it is more difficult to learn. We promote the drinking of water in school and strongly discourage cans of

'fizzy drinks'. If you would like support with encouraging your child to have a healthier snack or packed lunch, the following websites contain lots of useful information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/all-about-school-meals>

Miss McDonald has recently met with Joyce Goodwin (South Lanarkshire Council's Menu Development Officer) to discuss health promotion, nutrition and how the national food standards regulations will impact on all aspects of food within school and not only the lunch service. Keep your eyes peeled for some exciting health promotion initiatives for High Mill.

House Captains

The House Elections were held on Friday 3rd September. The new Captains and Vice Captains are:

Moorside
Captain
Casey

Mill
Captain
Lola

Market
Captain
Cohen

Mosspark
Captain
Brooke

Vice-Captains
Alana & Hannah

Vice-Captains
Ava & Zak

Vice-Captains
Kodie & Demi-Lee

Vice-Captains
Aiden & Zoe

Thank You to M&R Commercials

We would like to say a huge thank you to local mobile mechanic service M & R Commercials which is owned by Fraser Murray, one of our parents. The company donated £100 towards the Halloween treats for the children.



Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is a fantastic free service available for all children. It operates from 8:15am to 8:45am, we ask that children arrive between 8:15am and 8:30am.



Spotlight on Attendance

Overall average attendance so far this session is **92.73%**.
The National average is **93%** and the South Lanarkshire average is **95%**

At this time last session, the average attendance was **90.33%** so it is great to see an increase – well done families!

	Average By Primary Stage (So far 2021-2022)						
	P.1	P.2	P.3	P.4	P.5	P.6	P.7
Average at end September 2021	95.54%	86.73%	94.36%	91.27%	97.68%	92.98%	89.01%

	Average By Primary Stage (So far 2021-2022)			
	P.2/1	P.4/3	P.6/5/4	P.7/6
Average at end September 2021	92.17%	94.04%	93.05%	91.67%

In line with South Lanarkshire new guidance around managing pupil attendance, we will be writing to parents whose children have attendance under 95% (the Council average). Attendance is monitored every month. Poor attendance is supported within our Staged Intervention process.

Staff Career-Long professional Development

We have had a busy month of training which brings some new approaches, pedagogy and interventions to High Mill.

Playful Pedagogy

Miss Butler is participating in a joint South Lanarkshire and Strathclyde University project which aims to develop play in primary schools. She is developing knowledge and skills in setting the environment for play, play conversations, observations and provocations as well as the role of the adult teacher in play.



The Experiences and Outcomes at Early Level, which spans Nursery to the end of Primary 1, specifically include learning through play. The children are already engaging very well with the varied range of activities and new resources. Watch this space for a changing environment in P.2/1 as we move away from the look of a 'traditional' classroom.

Catch Up Literacy & Numeracy

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Cairney recently undertook training in Catch Up Literacy. This is a structured 1-to-1 intervention for learners who find reading difficult. It uses a book-based approach to support word recognition processes (including phonics) and language comprehension processes.

Mrs Cairns and Mrs Paton undertook training in Catch Up Numeracy. This is a structured intervention undertaken 1-to-1 with children who find numeracy difficult. It focuses on 10 key components, counting verbally, counting objects, reading and writing, hundreds, tens and units, estimation, word problems, translation, remembered facts, derived facts and ordinal numbers.

Lego ABC



Mrs Wilson and Mrs Richardson have undertaken training in 'Nurture ABC (Aspire, Build, Connect) with Lego'. This health and wellbeing intervention encourages pupils to express their thoughts and ideas symbolically, which is a more playful, creative and hands-on way of engaging pupils of all abilities. The method ensures a secure and non-judgemental process for solving problems, expressing personal feelings and breaking down barriers that can affect achievement in curriculum-based topics. We have been able to fund this training due to PEF.

Thank You – Display Boards



We'd like to thank one of our parents Jamie McRuvie who responded to our S.O.S for a joiner. Jamie kindly mounted all 12 of our new displays boards onto the walls. This will provide more space to celebrate and showcase the children's learning.

Maya is very proud of her dad for helping her school!

Safe Cycling to School

A number of children are cycling to school without a helmet, and this puts them at risk of serious injury if involved in an accident. Please ensure your child wears a well-fitting helmet if cycling to school.



High Mill Primary



Dates for Your Diary

November 2021	
Various (letters issued)	• Parents' Night (Phone Calls)
Tuesday 2 nd	• After School Netball P.6-7
Tuesday 9 th	• After School Netball P.6-7
Thursday 11 th	• Football Festival (letter issued to team selected)
Monday 15 th	• In-service day
Tuesday 16 th	• After School Netball P.6-7
Wednesday 17 th	• Sports Hall Athletics Event P.5-7 (letters to be issued)
Friday 26 th	• House Captain Event
December 2021	
Wednesday 1 st	• Christmas Jumpers/Accessories can be worn from today (no cost)
Tuesday 14 th	• P.5-7 Christmas Party (details to follow)
Wednesday 15 th	• P.3-4 Christmas Party (details to follow)
Thursday 16 th	• P.1-2 Christmas Party (details to follow)

High Mill Primary School

Market Road

Carlisle

ML8 4BE

Tel: 01555 772580

Email: gw14highmillpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

Website: www.highmill-pri.sch.uk