

High Mill Primary School

Newsletter: September 2020

'Aiming High'



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the September 2020 edition of the High Mill newsletter. The children continue to be a credit to us and to you in the way they have adapted to our new systems and procedures

As the global pandemic continues, children may become anxious or need support with their wellbeing. Please get in touch if you have any concerns about your child or if there is anything that we can do to help. We will continue to review and update our procedures and will keep you informed of any changes. You will see in the newsletter, some boxes are coloured pale yellow. We will be using this to indicate any items which refer to or have been impacted by COVID-19 or are part of our COVID Recovery Plan.

The staff and I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the positive feedback and comments we have received for the effort and hard work both during school closure and since school re-opened.

Thank you for your continued support, patience and partnership. Wishing you all a lovely October holiday when it comes.

Kirstine McDonald

(Head Teacher)

Staffing Update

We are delighted to have Miss Melissa Kennedy at High Mill each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Melissa is an Area Cover Teacher for the Clydesdale Area. This means she provides cover for long term teacher absences. We are fortunate that no school currently requires Melissa on those 3 days. As a result, she attends High Mill as this is known as her Base School. Melissa could be required in another school at any time and at short notice to cover for an absent teacher.



From time-to-time, Miss Kennedy may teach your child's class. Due to COVID-19, we are keeping the number of different staff in each class bubble to a minimum therefore Miss Kennedy will only be in a small number of classes on any given day. Melissa is excited to be getting to know the children at High Mill.

Welcome to High Mill

We are delighted to have welcomed 2 new pupils and their families to High Mill. Milan joins Primary 3/2 while Dawson is a new Primary 7.



No Smoking Policy

A reminder that smoking is not permitted in school buildings or on school grounds.

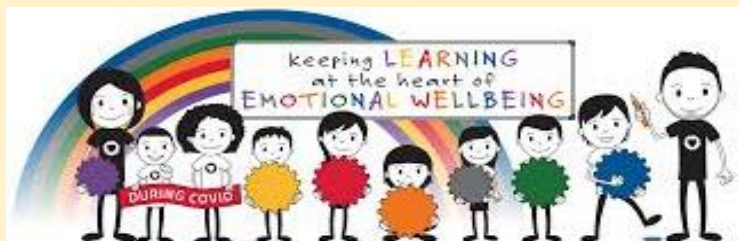


We ask that parents are mindful of pupil health and ask you to avoid smoking around the school gate.

Recovery Curriculum: Health and Wellbeing – Emotion Works

Emotion Works is our whole school emotional wellbeing programme. We have used this since last session. As part of our COVID-Recovery Curriculum, we are using a specialised 12 week Emotion Works framework. This focuses on emotion words, behaviours, triggers and regulation strategies. Mrs Naismith is leading the Health and Wellbeing part of our COVID Recovery Plan.

To support pupils emotional and mental wellbeing, we are also using Practical Mindset which is a programme developed by Jill Trevena an Occupation Therapist. Through this children have opportunities to participate in mindfulness and opportunities to develop resilience and calming techniques.



Annual Data Checks & Consent Forms

We ask that any remaining Annual Data Check forms and permission/consent forms are returned as soon as possible.



Important Allergy Information

A reminder that our campus is a nut free zone. This includes Nutella and Kinder Bueno products.



Meet the Teacher

It has not been possible to hold our annual 'Meet the Teacher' event this year. Class teachers are preparing 'Meet the Teacher' leaflets to share information and photos of the school environment. These will be emailed to parents prior to the October break.

Parents' Night/Parental Engagement

COVID-19 restrictions mean that schools are unable to hold face-to-face parents' night in the way that we are all used to. To ensure that we can continue sharing information about your child's progress and learning, we will be issuing interim report cards at the end of October. This short report will provide key information about your child's progress and next steps in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.



Parent Council

At the Parent Council AGM, the following office bearers were elected:

Chairperson	Treasurer	Secretary
Maggie Browning	Yvonne Crawford	Jen Morgan

The Parent Council members are:

Dawn Graham	Lillianne Halliday	Kirsty Holloway	Ashley Law	Melissa Williamson
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Staff Career-Long professional Development and In-service

At High Mill staff are committed to professional development, known as career-long professional learning (CLPL). Some of this takes place during the school day through training courses, other elements on in-service days while others staff undertake during their own time including twilights sessions, weekend. It includes professional reading, research, further study and networking. Below are some of the professional learning staff have engaged in recently

Number Talks Training

Number talks are short discussions between teachers and pupils about how to solve a mental math problems. The focus is not on the correct answer but on the possible methods of finding the answer. Pupils have a chance to explain their method and to learn from others' methods!

Catch Up Numeracy

Support Assistants undertook further training on Catch Up® Numeracy. This is a structured 1-to-1 intervention for learners who find numeracy difficult.

It involves 15-minute individual sessions delivered twice a week. It addresses 10 key components of numeracy:

Counting verbally	Counting objects
Reading and writing	Hundreds, tens & units
Estimation	Word problems
Translation	Remembered facts
Derived facts	Ordinal numbers

Attachment Theory

Attachment theory is about personality development within the context of relationships. 'Attachment behaviours' are evident when a child or adult is fearful/anxious/feels unsafe and these behaviours are ways of communicating unmet needs. Attachment-informed practice helps us improve outcomes for children and can improve life chances. It involves everything from our day to day interactions to nurture and restorative practice.

Google Certified Educator Level 1 & 2

Mrs Wilson has spent significant time training as a Google Educator. This include developing skills, knowledge and application of a wide range of Google tools in the classroom. During school closure, she successfully completed the Level 1 and Level 2 exams demonstrating her mastery of these tools.

School App

A reminder of the login details if you have not yet installed the app.

Username: HMPS
PIN: 7878



Twitter

Our Twitter handle is:

@HighMillPrimary



ICT Refresh

New computers are being installed on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October. There will be limited access to computers in school from Friday 2nd October. This includes classes, the office, Mrs Naismith and I.

Homework Programme

As many of you are aware, homework was an aspect we wanted to consult parents on this session with a view to developing a consistent approach across the school and which increased numbers of children were engaging with.

In light of COVID-19, we have had to change the approach to homework. Our homework programme will begin across all classes on **Monday 19th October**. With the exception of reading and word boxes/tins and word lists, all homework will be through your child's Google Classroom in Glow with evidence of written asks e.g. spelling being submitted to the Google Classroom via photograph. More information will come directly from class teachers. Reading books will be quarantined for 72 hours when they are returned to school.

Between now and Monday 19th October, please work with your child at home to log on to Glow and to access their Google Classroom. Your child's class teacher may trial some homework activities between now and then to support the children in developing their skills.

Children from P.2-7 have accessed this previously and however Glow required them to update their passwords. They have been using these new passwords in school. We will issue P.1 children with log-in details.

House Captains (Previously shared on School App)

The House Captain and Vice-Captain elections were held on Thursday 24th September. All children gave fantastic, well thought out speeches. Congratulations to our new Captains and Vice Captains! They have already planned their first event!



	Mill	Moorside	Mosspark	Market
Captain	Leo McVey	Sophie Callaghan	Kheya Aitken	Kae Henderson
Vice-Captain	Ava Paisley	Alana Scott	Aimee-Leigh Aitken	Emma Crawford

Balls are Back!!

We have re-introduced balls to the playground. This was stopped a few years ago due to complaints made when cars were hit by balls kicked over the fence. The children are loving having this opportunity and are being responsible and sensible about how hard the kick, hit or throw the balls. This is great to see! Thanks to Miss McNeil and Mrs Jackson who were re-organising our PE equipment and found fantastic hockey goals for the children to use. Next we're bringing music to the playground!



Spotlight on Attendance

We have been working hard over the last few years to improve the level of pupil attendance. Last year attendance improved by over 3% which is fantastic. Unfortunately the overall attendance is still below the average in South Lanarkshire and across Scotland which is 95%. To raise the profile of attendance, each newsletter will include a 'Spotlight on Attendance'.



Current overall average attendance at High Mill this session: **90.33%**

Average By Primary Stage (So far in 2020-2021)						
P.1	P.2	P.3	P.4	P.5	P.6	P.7
90.07%	90.33%	86.9%	92.97%	90.87%	91.35%	89.66%

Average By Class (So far in 2020-2021)				
P.2/1	P.3/2	P.4/3	P.6/5	P.7/6
91.79%	87.77%	91.23%	89.56%	92.03%

Good attendance is important for children's learning and wellbeing, please get in touch if you are concerned about your child's attendance.

High Mill Primary School

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Website: www.highmill-pri.sch.uk

Dates for your Diary

October 2020

Tuesday 6 th & Wednesday 7 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICT Refresh
Friday 9 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Mill Mental Health Day• Dress down day – wear bright colours – no donation.
Thursday 8 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Meet the Teacher' Leaflets emailed to parents
Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• October break
Monday 19 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils return on Monday 19th October 2020• Whole school homework programme begins
Thursday 29 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flu Immunisation for Pupils
Friday 30 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interim Report Cards Issued