



Head Teacher’s Message

It is hard to believe that another year is almost over. 2021 seems to have passed very quickly. While this year has been challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, I am grateful that we have not needed to return to whole school remote learning and that the children have been in school full time so far this school session.

I would like to thank all of children, staff and parents for your continued co-operation and understanding over the past 5 months as we continue to navigate COVID mitigations and tighter restrictions for schools.

Hopefully school has seemed a little more 'normal' for the pupils this year. We've been able to restart events such as netball club, Sports Hall Athletics, instrumental tuition and Fun Play at Carluke High School. Depending on the mitigations as the new year begins, we will look at widening the range of after-school clubs

We are fortunate not to have been significantly affected by staff absence and should this happen, we will work hard to minimise disruption to pupil learning. From time to time, I may have to teach a class to cover or provide additional supervision at break time and lunch time. This can impact on availability to take calls, respond to emails or get back to parents in the same day. Your patience and understanding should this be the case is appreciated and seek to reassure you that we will always get back to you as soon as possible.

As we head into the holiday period, I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Kirstine McDonald
(Head Teacher)

Community Christmas Cheer Walk



All classes participated in a surprise community Christmas cheer walk. Each child has designed a Christmas cards for our ‘neighbours’ who were delighted to receive some ‘festive cheer’ from High Mill. Some local residents have since been in touch to thank the children and to praise them for being polite, well-mannered and joyous. I am always proud of them but hearing such lovely feedback and recognition from our community made my day!

Reading Ambassadors

Following successful applications, High Mill’s new reading ambassadors are:

P.2/1

Jacob Melvin
Charlie Sirrell

P.4/3

Isterk Hamdush
Emma Murray

P.6/5/4

Ava Cowan
Connor Craigie
Riley Flynn
Ryley Goodwin

P.7/6

Amy Ferguson
Kae Henderson
Hannah Melvin
Brandon Muncie
Alyssa Reid
Zoe Thomson

We are looking forward to the Reading Ambassadors leading exciting things within our school to promote reading for pleasure. They have been allocated £2000 from our PEF budget to help develop a love of reading.

Breakfast Club



The Breakfast Club is a fantastic free service available for all children. Breakfast Club starts at 8:15am and we ask that children are not dropped off earlier as there is no adult supervision.

Visit from Wiggy and Elfie



On Tuesday 21st December, the children from Primary 1-4 had a brilliant afternoon with a visit from Wiggy and Elfie, 2 of Santa's special helpers. They led the children in games, dancing and singing. Great fun was had by all!

House Christmas Quiz

Our annual festive quiz was held on Tuesday 21st December. Our Captains and Vice-Captains did a fantastic job by creating a quiz with differentiated questions so all classes could participate.

Market were the winning House. They were also the winning House for December so will enjoy a lovely treat once we are back at school in January.



Infant Enrolment Process 2022-2022

The process for enrolling children to start Primary 1 in August 2022 is the week beginning **Monday 10th January 2022**. As was the case last year, the process will be online. Below is some key information which parents may find useful and reassuring.

Children due to start school in August 2022 will ordinarily turn 5 years old between 1st March 2022 and 28th February 2023.

Week Commencing 10 January 2022

- Parents will be advised via South Lanarkshire social media that they can begin using the online registration form to enrol children for school in August 2022.
- The registration form along with the child's full birth certificate and 2 proofs of residency will come directly to the school office email address.
- When received school office staff will check the documentation supplied to confirm that the child is within the correct date of birth range for starting P.1, that your home is within our catchment and the proofs of residency supplied are acceptable.
- Parents who are unable to complete an online registration form due to technology issues or that your property is not listed on the mapping system can complete a paper form. This can be completed over the telephone with a member of school staff. In these circumstances, parents must email or post in the full birth certificate and necessary proofs of address.

Week Commencing 17 January 2022

- This is called Infant enrolment week.
- During this week our Miss McDonald (Head Teacher) will contact the parents of all children registered to start Primary 1 in August 2022. This can be arranged through telephone appointments or a Google Meet.

Information will be advertised on all social media platforms over the course of the next few weeks to inform parents of the process

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch was held on Thursday 9th December. The children had a lovely time with delicious traditional festive fare and some Christmas crackers to pull with their friends. Thank you to Angie our fabulous school cook and to Lesley Ann, Sheena and Chrissy our wonderful catering assistants.



COVID-19 Mitigations

We continue to ask for your support and understanding with the measures in place for the school grounds to minimise crowding and passing as much as possible:

- 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

Revised guidance has recently been issued to schools and we will review our existing mitigations in light of this. Any changes will be shared via our School App. We appreciate your understanding in keeping the school as safe as possible.



Dates for Your Diary

January 2022	
Wednesday 5 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School re-opens to pupils at 8:55am
Monday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework programme re-starts
Week beginning Monday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online enrolment for Primary 1 (August 2022 new starts)
Week beginning Monday 17 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.1 Enrolment Week (Miss McDonald contacting all families who have registered to start in August 2022).
Friday 21 st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.7/6 Holocaust Memorial Event (more details will follow)
Wednesday 26 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports hall Athletics Finals for specific senior pupils (to be confirmed)
Friday 28 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burns Poetry Competition and Celebration (more details will follow) • House Captain Event (more details will follow)
Week beginning Monday 31 st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the Learning – Termly overview of learning, PLPs and samples of learning shared with parents
Friday 4 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Children’s Mental Health Week • British Heart Foundation Dodgeball Event (more details will follow)
Monday 7 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Mental Health Week
Monday 14 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday
Tuesday 15 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday
Wednesday 16 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service Day – school closed to children
Monday 21 st February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miss Ali (Teaching Student) joins P.4/3
Friday 25 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Trade Fortnight begins • House Captain Event (more details will follow)