

High Mill Primary School

Newsletter: August 2020

'Aiming High'



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the August 2020 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 after such a long time. We missed you all very much.

The beginning of term is a time of change as the children and staff settle back into the routines of a new school year. It is natural that some children might be anxious or need some extra assistance. Given the current global health crisis and the lengthy school closure since March, 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.

There have been a lot of necessary changes to the school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the staff and children. We hope you have found the information about the new procedures helpful and that it made the first few days of term as straight forward as possible for you and your family.

We will continue to review and update our procedures and risk assessments and will keep you informed of any changes. Our risk assessment is available to view on our school website.

Thank you for your support and patience as we all get used to our 'new normal'. I extend a warm welcome to all new members of the school community; pupils, staff and parents/carers but especially to our new Primary 1 children who are settling in beautifully.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Kirstine McDonald

(Head Teacher)

Staffing Update and School Roll

This year Miss Jennifer Scott is a welcome addition to our teaching staff. We say a huge 'glad you're back' to Mrs Sandra Cheyne (Support Assistant) who returns from her career break. You will also see a new face in our school office as Mrs Gillian Paton (Support Assistant) joins us from Carluke High School.

In addition to myself, Mrs Heather Naismith (Principal Teacher) is part of the Senior Leadership Team.

We start the school session with 96 children on our school roll. These are configured into 5 composite classes based on the number of children in maths working groups.



Teaching Staff for 2020-2021

- Primary 2/1** (14 children): Mrs J. Welsh
- Primary 3/2** (20 children): Miss S McNeil
- Primary 4/3** (18 children): Mrs L. Hughes
- Primary 6/5** (24 children): Mrs A. Wilson
- Primary 7/6** (20 children): Miss J. Scott & Mrs J. Cairns (All day Thursday & Friday afternoons)

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

- Primary 2/1: Mrs Cairns – Wednesday 11:45am to 3pm
- Primary 3/2: Mrs Naismith – Thursday 11:45am to 3pm
- Primary 4/3: Mrs Cairns – Tuesday 11:45am to 3pm
- Primary 6/5: Mrs Naismith – Wednesday 11:45am to 3pm

Mrs Naismith and Mrs Cairns will also be working with individual children and small groups as part of our drive to raise attainment through Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Support Staff for 2020-2021

We are ably supported by our skilled Support Assistants.

Mrs Aileen Gray (Team Leader)
Mrs Sandra Cheyne (Monday to Wednesday)
Mrs Gillian Paton
Mrs Lorna Vecino

Mrs Liza Cairney
Mrs Carol Jackson (Wednesday to Friday)
Mrs Hazel Richardson
Mrs Vari White (Monday to Thursday)

Parent Pay

Parent Pay is the system used across South Lanarkshire to pay for school lunches and activities such as outings. It is important to sign up for a parent pay account as lunches cannot be paid using cash. Currently on **56%** of parents have activated an account. If need help in creating your ParentPay account, please contact Mrs Gray in the office who will be happy to assist you.

Parent Council

The Parent Council AGM are holding their AGM on Tuesday 15th September at 7pm. This will be a digital meeting using the Google Meet application.

In supporting our Parent Council, I have offered to assist in setting up the meeting. If you are interested in becoming a member and would like to attend the AGM, please email the school office by **Friday 11th September** so that a meeting invite can be issued.

During the AGM, elections will be held for the positions of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to put yourself forward as an office bearer, please email your name and the position you are interested in to the school office. Google Forms will be used during the AGM to elect office bearers.

Cycling to School

We encourage children to cycle or scoot to school but stress the importance of wearing a suitable helmet and reflective clothing. Children must dismount their bike/scooter in the playground and push it to the bike rack. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to bikes or scooters while on school property. Electric scooters and 'hover boards' etc. are not permitted.



No Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted in school buildings or on school grounds.

We have several children with medical conditions which affect their breathing and lung health. To help us in protecting the health and wellbeing of children, we kindly ask parents/carers to avoid smoking in the area surrounding the school gate.



Annual Data Check

Annual Data Check 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 important that the school holds the most up-to-date information for the children in case of emergency.



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.

Dogs

A reminder that only guide/assistance dogs are allowed into the school grounds to ensure the safety of all members of the school community.



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 with a member of office or management staff. Children are not permitted to have any medication in school without the completion of a medical administration form. Medicines should not be sent to school in pupil bags without completion of the relevant consent forms.

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



* Please note that this includes most chocolate spreads, Nutella and Kinder Bueno products.



High Mill Primary
South Lanarkshire School Holidays 2020-2021



August 2020	
Tuesday 11 th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service Day • Pupils begin returning on Wednesday 12th August 2020 • There will be a phased return, with all pupils in school from Monday 17th August 2020. • Schools will let parents know on what days pupils will attend from Wednesday 12th August until Friday 14th August 2020.
September 2020	
Friday 25 th September Monday 28 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September weekend
Tuesday 29 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service day - all schools • Pupils return on Wednesday 30th September 2020
October 2020	
Monday 12 th October to Friday 19 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October break • Pupils return on Monday 19th October 2020
November 2020	
Monday 16 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service day - all schools
December 2020 & January 2021	
Tuesday 22 nd December to Wednesday 6 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools close at 2.30pm on Tuesday 22 December 2020 • Schools re-open on Wednesday 6 January 2021
February 2021	
Monday 8 th February Tuesday 9 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February break
Wednesday 10 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service day - all schools
March/April 2021	
Thursdays 1 st April to Monday 19 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools close at 2.30pm on Thursday 1st April • Spring break/Easter • Schools re-open on Monday 19th April
May 2021	
Monday 3 rd May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Day
Thursday 6 th May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service day - all schools
Friday 28 th May Monday 31 st May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local holiday
June 2021	
Thursday 24 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools close at 1pm on Thursday 24th June • Summer break

High Mill Parent Council AGM



7:00pm

Tuesday 15th September

This meeting will take place remotely.

Details to follow on the School App.

All parents and carers welcome.

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