



### Head Teacher's Message

The Spring holiday has come around quickly and hopefully we will soon see some warm, sunny weather. As previously shared, we are not renewing the School App as ParentsPortal offers the same service, and more, without the £300 price tag.

The company who hosts our school website have advised us that they are no longer able to pull our Twitter feed through to our App or website, this is due to X (formerly Twitter) having placed a high cost on doing so. It would cost them several thousand pounds each month to offer this facility. To try to balance this out, we will revert to monthly newsletters in addition to using ParentsPortal and Twitter to showcase our wonderful children. You can update your child's photo permission via ParentsPortal.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their kindness and congratulations you have offered as I head off to welcome my little daughter into my family. It will be strange not heading back to High Mill come 15<sup>th</sup> April, but I am sure my days will soon be filled with sticky hands, runny noses and toddler tantrums.

*Kirstine McDonald*

(Head Teacher)

### Spring Tea – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Following the success of this event last year, we are hosting another Spring Tea on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. During this afternoon, there will be a chance to win fabulous raffle prizes, enjoy some tasty sandwiches and cakes, and be dazzled with performances of spring songs from each class. All funds raised will go to the school funds with a proportion being allocated to our Gala Day entry.



### Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

Pupil Equity Funding is additional funding allocated directly to schools to work towards closing the poverty related attainment gap.

The Scottish Government has committed to this funding as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge programme. High Mill Primary School has been awarded £49680 for 2024/2025. Details of our priorities for this funding is included in our SIP, previously a separate plan was published. After the Spring holiday, Mrs Cairns our Equity Lead will be in touch to seek views on how we use the PEF money next session.

### OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

As part of our school improvement work next session, we are delighted to be undertaking the OPAL programme in partnership with Play Scotland. OPAL is a strategic, values based approach to play across all ages. It is a partnership which looks at all areas schools must plan for to improve the quality of play opportunities including environment, resources and culture.



The OPAL Primary Programme has been independently proven to sustainably improve the quality of play in primary schools. Research shows that play contributes to children's physical and emotional health, wellbeing, approach to learning and enjoyment of school.



We have begun to make changes in our playground to develop this area. We would love to share our progress with parents at an information session on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. We look forward to seeing you then

### Ford Castle Residential

Our P.7 children had a fantastic time at their residential trip last week. They participated enthusiastically in a range of outdoor activities including abseiling, Jacob's Ladder, trapeze, and zip wire. Tackling new tasks and rising to new challenges together gave the children the opportunity to see themselves, and each other, in a new light and appreciate one another's strengths and weaknesses. They supported and helped each other to succeed in achieving common and individual goals. As well as developing new physical skills, the children developed their resilience, self-reliance, problem solving, decision making, co-operation and communication skills.

### Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council is at 6pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the staffroom. All welcome! We are always looking to expand our parent council If you are interested in joining next session come along to the next meeting.

### Make Up & Nails

An increasing number of children are coming to school with make-up, false eye-lashes/eye-lash extensions and nail extensions. We understand that children will experiment but, in the interest of health, safety and hygiene, children should not come to school wearing these. Thank you for your support.



## Dates for Your Diary

<u>April 2024</u>	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Netball Festival
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	New P1s Transition visit (9.45am – 10.30am)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Parent Council Meeting at 6pm – new members welcome!
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Football Festival
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Tea Afternoon 1:30pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	OPAL Parent Session at 2pm
<u>May 2024</u>	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	In-service day
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports Day at John Cumming Stadium at 9.30am
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents Night – appointments to be booked via Parentsportal
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	New P1s Transition visit (9.45am – 11.45am) including school lunch with parents
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent Council Shorts and Shades Disco (details tbc)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Parent Council Meeting at 2pm – new members welcome!
<u>June 2024</u>	
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	P3-P7 Trip to Kings Theatre, Glasgow
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	New P1s Transition visit (1.30pm – 2.45pm)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Transition Days at Carluke High School
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Prizegiving in Kirkstyles Church 9:30am
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Leavers Assembly at 1:45pm
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Leavers Treat (details tbc)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	School closes at 1pm

**High Mill Primary School**

Market Road, Carluke, ML8 4BE

**Tel:** 01555 772580

**Email:** gw14highmillpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

**Website:** www.highmill-pri.sch.uk