



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
High Mill Primary School
Head Teacher: **Kirstine McDonald**

9th June 2020

Dear Parent

Planning for Return to School

As we move closer to the holidays, I know parents are eager to find out about plans for August and how these impact on the children. Staff have done an excellent job in providing your child with activities and experiences to progress their learning while the building has been closed. As I've said before, I am lucky to have them.

Last week, I returned to school to prepare for staff and children returning to the building. This week, teaching and support staff return, working some days at home and others in school. Everyone is working incredibly hard organising classes, sharing information for transition and planning our 'recovery curriculum'. They are also providing emergency child care for children who attended the Hubs. Staff are continuing to provide learning and this will continue until the end of term. As they are now also in school planning for August, their presence on the Google Classroom will be reduced. They will respond to children's work and any questions but this will take longer. I will post separately the times when teachers will not be active online.

You will no doubt hear about what other schools are doing however what is important to the staff and I is that we get it right for our children and for you as parents. Every school is unique and therefore we may choose to work differently from other schools in Carluke. We are working closely with South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources and taking a consultative approach to decision making; involving children and parents where it is appropriate. Our Parent Council will play a key role in this and a short survey will be issued in the coming days.

Your child's day, and week, will look different. The way we interact with our parents and community will change too. This is about keeping everyone (children, parents and staff) safe and well. Over the past week, an audit has been undertaken covering health and safety, risk assessment, capacity planning, cleaning, hygiene and physical distancing to ensure we meet all necessary guidance from the Scottish Government, South Lanarkshire Council and the NHS.

For those with children joining us for P.1 in August, we have worked with the schools in the Learning Community to plan transition. The P.1 teacher has already held some transition meetings with feeder nurseries and others have been arranged. Visits are being planned and families will be contacted. We hope to have more information next week about an opportunity for our P.7 pupils to join us before the end of term.

Recently, I received some very positive feedback from parents, which is welcomed and appreciated. We feel fortunate to have your ongoing support, patience and co-operation. I say to all parents that you are doing a fantastic job supporting your children at home. Some of you have shared that there have been times when you have felt like you are 'failing your child' – this is not the case! You are providing learning, care, reassurance, safety, fun and most importantly love.

Yours sincerely

Kirstine McDonald
(Head Teacher)

Market Road, Carluke, ML8 4BE Phone: 01555 772580 Fax: 01555 752236
Email: Contact: office@highmill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

