

High Mill Primary School

Newsletter: October 2020

'Aiming High'



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the November 2020 edition of the High Mill newsletter. I would like to express my thanks to all pupils, parents and staff for their co-operation, understanding and support as we continue to review and develop our procedures to ensure the school remains 'COVID secure'. Items in the newsletter related or impacted by COVID-19 are in yellow.

Since returning to school in August, the children have shown tremendous resilience and maturity when following the rules and restrictions that are in place and I am incredibly proud of them all. Despite these restrictions, the children's experiences in school are as normal as they can be, with lots of fun and interesting lessons and activities going on in and around the school on a daily basis.

Thank you for your continued support, patience and partnership.

Kirstine McDonald

(Head Teacher)

Welcome to High Mill

We are delighted to welcome another new pupil to High Mill. Marek is a new pupil in P.7/6.



Annual Calendar

Last session, we shared our annual calendar of events with parents which feedback tells us was very useful in supporting family arrangements. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, our calendar this year is ever changing and events (where we can host them) will look quite different e.g. no audience in the building and single class parties. It is also difficult to give firm timelines as the number of COVID cases in Scotland rises and falls the restrictions in place change.

We have acted on feedback from our recent parents' Health and Wellbeing survey and have included our proposed calendar at the end of the newsletter. Please note, at the moment none of the events involve parents entering the building. We ask that you are patient as this calendar is likely to change, with changes possibly being at short notice depending on any national guidance imposed.

Recovery Curriculum: Health and Wellbeing

Thank you to those parents who volunteered to join our Health and Wellbeing Group. The first meeting of parents and children takes place online at 9:30am on Friday 6th November.

To promote good mental health, our House Captains and Vice-captains planned and organised activities for World Mental Health Day on 9th October. Some classes made information leaflets and children had the opportunity to participate in mindfulness and relaxation.

Thank you to those parents who responded to the recent Health and Wellbeing survey. We received responses from 27 of our 76 families, which is a response rate of 35.5%. The Health and Wellbeing group are currently collating the responses and we will feed these back to you with our next steps.

Suitable Clothing for Winter Weather

Parents/carers are kindly asked to ensure children come to school wearing suitable clothing for winter. A warm, waterproof jacket is essential at this time of year, especially with PE lessons taking place outdoors as much as possible.



P.7-S1 Transition

We have been in contact with Mrs Hope (DHT at Carluke High) to begin our work on transition. This will ensure that important information about children's health, wellbeing and learning is shared on an ongoing basis.

Thank You - Parent Council

The children and staff would like to say a huge thank you to our parent Council. The Parent Council contributed towards the costs for the Halloween Goody bags and sourced all the pumpkins.



Staff Career-Long professional Development and In-service

At the upcoming in-service day, the staff will be participating in further training on Attachment Theory with our Educational Psychologist. There will also be a focus on moderation of Writing. This is where the staff discuss samples of pupils' writing from other classes and work to confirm the professional judgement made about the child's learning and attainment. Below are some of the professional learning staff have engaged in recently

Play

Mrs Welsh participated in an online training with Education Scotland on supporting children in 'coping with changes: social-emotional learning through play'.



West Partnership – Health & Wellbeing

As Health and Wellbeing Lead, Mrs Naismith participated in a network meeting where practice in nurturing and supporting pupil wellbeing was shared. Next week, she is involved in South Lanarkshire's Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinators' meetings.

The West Partnership is a Regional Improvement Collaborative group of 8 local authorities across the West of Scotland who share a vision to promote equity, excellence and empowerment to improve outcomes for children.

Google Classrooms

We continue to develop our use of Google Classrooms for homework, and as a contingency for any potential school closures. We will do our best to respond to any questions posted in Google Classrooms about Homework tasks, but please be aware that class teachers might not be able to reply to these straight away due to their other commitments to planning and preparing lessons. The quickest way for your child to get clarity on a Homework task is to speak to their teacher in class.

IT Devices – Home Loan Programme

Mrs Hughes our ICT Co-ordinator has reviewed the responses to our 'Access to Technology' at home consultation. We have been in touch with identified families to arrange to loan out Chromebooks. This is where children do not have access to an appropriate device to access online learning at home. The Chromebooks would also support blended learning should school buildings be required to close. Children are asked to bring the device to school each day to support digital learning. These new devices were requested during the initial lockdown period and are funded by the Scottish Government. We are still awaiting delivery of the MiFi WiFi dongles which will support those who do not have internet at home to use the device.

Autism Support - National Autistic Society Parent Webinars

The National Autistic Society is running a series of free webinars to help parents understand their child's Autism and support them effectively. This includes themes such as sensory difficulties, supporting anxiety and building emotional resilience. They can be accessed here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-national-autistic-society-scotland-26259535979>

House Captains Update

Our amazing Captains and Vice-Captains are now 'live' every Friday. They are using Google Meet to share the House points each week. They also suggested outdoor play activities this included the school purchasing a basketball stand which is now in the playground. Mr McInnes, one of our parents, kindly donated autographed Steven Brown colouring books. The House Captains and Vice-Captains are currently running an art competition which closes this Friday.

Spotlight on Attendance

Overall average attendance this session is **89.98%**. South Lanarkshire and Scottish averages are **95%**.

	Average By Primary Stage (So far in 2020-2021)						
	P.1	P.2	P.3	P.4	P.5	P.6	P.7
Average at September 2020	90.07%	90.33%	86.9%	92.97%	90.87%	91.35%	89.66%
Average at October 2020	90.59%	89.61%	88.70%	94.18%	90.24%	88.14%	88.99%

	Average By Class (So far in 2020-2021)				
	P.2/1	P.3/2	P.4/3	P6/5	P.7/6
Average at September 2020	91.79%	87.77%	91.23%	89.56%	92.03%
Average at October 2020	87.96%	90.57%	92.77%	88.96%	89.63%

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: Proposed Calendar of Events 2020-2021

November 2020

Week beginning Monday 9 th November	Anti-bullying week
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Monday 16 th November	In-service Day
Tuesday 17 th November – Friday 20 th November	Road Safety Week
Tuesday 24 th November	Parental Engagement / Sharing Learning (in place of Coffee Morning)
Friday 27 th November	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)

December 2020

Friday 4 th December	Christmas Celebration Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 8 th December	Christmas Celebration
Friday 11 th December	P.7/6 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Monday 14 th December	P.4/3 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Tuesday 15 th December	P.6/5 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Wednesday 16 th December	P.3/2 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Thursday 17 th December	P.2/1 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Friday 18 th December	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)
Tuesday 22 nd December	Christmas Service School closes at 2:30pm
Wednesday 23 rd December to Tuesday 5 th January	Christmas and New Year Holiday

January 2021

January 2021	We are awaiting details of P.1 Enrolment Week
Wednesday January 6 th	School re-opens at 8:55am
Friday 22 nd January	Scottish Event / Celebration
Monday 25 th January	P.7/6 Holocaust Memorial Event
Friday 29 th January	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)

February 2021

Friday 5 th February	Internet Safety Day
Monday 8 th and Tuesday 9 th February	Holiday
Wednesday 10 th February	In-service Day 4
Week beginning Monday 15 th February	P.6/5 Showcase Week (in place of class assemblies)
Tuesday 16 th February	Parental Engagement / Sharing Learning (in place of Coffee Morning)
Monday 22 nd February	Fairtrade fortnight begins
Friday 26 th February	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)

March 2021	
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day Event
Week beginning Monday 8 th march	Sports Relief Week/High Mill Health Week
Week beginning Monday 22 nd March	P.4/3 Showcase Week (in place of class assemblies)
Friday 26 th march	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)
Wednesday 30 th March	Annual Report Cards Issued
April 2021	
Thursday 1st April	Easter Service Close 2.30pm
Monday 5 th April to Friday 16 th April	Easter/Spring Holiday
Week beginning Monday 26 th	P.3/2 Showcase Week
Friday 30 th April	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)
May 2021	
Monday 3 rd May	Holiday
Thursday 6 th May	In-service Day 5
Tuesday 11 th may	Parental Engagement / Sharing Learning (in place of Coffee Morning)
Week beginning Monday 17 th May	P.2/1 Showcase Week
Week beginning Monday 24 th May	High Mill STEM Week
Thursday 27 th May	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day –information to follow)
Friday 28 th May and Monday 31 st May	Holiday
June 2021	
Friday 4 th June	Sports Day World Environment Day
Thursday 10 th June	Parental Engagement/Reporting on Pupil Progress (in place of Parents' Night)
Tuesday 15 th June	Prize Giving Summer Service
Thursday 17 th June	P7 Leavers' Event
Week beginning Monday 21 st June	Uniform Swap Shop. Pupils to dress down all week
Tuesday 22 nd June	P7 Leavers Treat/Trip
Thursday 24 th June	Close at 1pm for Summer holiday

High Mill Primary School

Market Road, Carluke, ML8 4BE

Tel: 01555 772580

Email: gw14highmillpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

Website: www.highmill-pri.sch.uk