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Welcome to our September newsletter. We hope you enjoy finding out about what has been happening in school and what we are looking forward to.

### COMMUNICATION

We strive to keep parents/carers informed as much as possible. We currently use Newsletters, the School App and ParentsPortal to keep you up to date and to gain your views. We also have regular opportunities to meet with parents through parents nights, reports and informal discussions at the school gate, over the phone or through Google Classroom. Also, follow us on X (previously twitter) for regular updates @highmillprimary where we will be giving photo updates which are also linked to the **News** section in the school app. To ensure you don't miss out go to your App. Store and search for 'School App for Parents'.

School  
App for  
Parents

USERNAME: HMPS

PIN: 7878

When asked, select **ALLOW** to receive notifications.

Mrs Hughes is also working on refreshing our school website and we will give you more information once this is up and running.

### STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Wilson has been successful in securing an acting Principal Teacher post at Woodside Primary School, every week on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Kirsty Thorpe will be joining our team at High Mill to cover these days. This means that teaching in Room 1 will be as follows from the 1st of October;

Mon / Tues Mrs Wilson  
Wed / Thur / Fri Miss Thorpe

### DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

As a school, we greatly value the development of leadership in staff, pupils and parents. We look for opportunities to improve these skills by sharing responsibilities. We are very proud of our pupils and their capacity to lead and help implement change including leading events and activities.

Our Primary 4-7 learners are working in partnership with staff across the school to develop their leadership opportunities. Our current pupil leadership groups are as follows;

- Reading Ambassadors with Mrs Wilson.
- OPAL (outdoor) Group with Miss Butler
- Digital Leaders with Mrs Hughes
- Sustainability Group with Miss Scott
- Reading Ambassadors with Mrs Cairns
- Change Makers with Mrs Daly

Our staff are also leading areas of improvement including:

- HWB, Sports & Play - Miss Butler
- ASN, Numeracy, Equity, Parent Council, Pupil Leaders, Attendance - Mrs Cairns
- Pupil Wellbeing, ICT, Modern Languages, Outdoor Learning & Social Stories - Mrs Hughes
- Sporting events - Mrs Lavery
- Science, STEM, P7 Transitions, Forest Schools— Miss Scott
- Literacy, Nurture & Attachment, P1 Transitions, OPAL, Talk for Writing— Mrs Wilson
- IDL intervention, pupil Wider Achievement— Miss Gardiner
- Promoting Positive Relationships and understanding distressed behaviour— Mrs Good
- Daily nurture and Forest schools— Miss Lewis

All other staff are working alongside the teacher leaders developing each area.

### OUR SCHOOL, OUR IDEAS

This session, we are working hard to drive **OUR** school forward with the views and ideas of pupils, staff and parents. As a staff, we are regularly evaluating what we currently do well as a school and what we can do better. We also have regular discussions with pupils on their views on learning and school improvements. We now need your help! We value your input greatly and have enjoyed your Google Form questionnaires and discussions with staff so far. Please keep an eye out for more opportunities to have your say on how to drive **OUR** school forward through online forms and paper forms. The most recent parent feedback questionnaire is available on the School App.

### PARENT COUNCIL

Our next events are **Bag packing at Tesco** Saturday 5th October

**Halloween Disco** Tuesday 29th October

If you are available to help at any of these to raise funds for **OUR** school please contact Sam on 07802722390.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There are a number of significant improvements we are making this year as we continue to build an excellent school.

Our priorities are:

- ◆ **Outdoor Learning**
  - ◆ **Promoting the positive health and wellbeing of children, young people, parents/carers and staff**
  - ◆ **Writing**
- Further improvements include:
- ◆ **Working in partnership with parents**
  - ◆ **Improving attendance and punctuality**
  - ◆ **Increasing Pupil Voice**
  - ◆ **Sustainability and looking after our planet.**

Please look out for regular updates on how we are driving our school forward, as well as many opportunities to have your say in what we are doing, what we could do better and how you can help.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

One of OUR key priorities this session is Outdoor Learning. OUR aim is to increase the children's outdoor learning experiences, giving them opportunities to learn **in the outdoors, through the outdoors and about the outdoors.**

To do this successfully, we are looking for your help.

Firstly, if you are available to give your time once a week to support outdoor learning, please email Mrs Daly indicating what days/times suit best.



Secondly, if you have any waterproofs, warm jackets and/or wellies that you no longer require could you please hand in to the school office.

## PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Following pupil and parent consultation, we have decided to spend £2484 of our PEF money on outdoor learning resources and training. Thank you for your input.

## HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

If you have Halloween costumes that your child may have outgrown, please hand them in to the school office ASAP. These will be laundered and a pre-loved Halloween costume rail will be available from the 10th of October.

## ALLERGIES

We have children in school with particular food allergies, including allergies to foods containing nuts. Please ensure that you do not send in snack or lunch items containing nuts, including chocolate spreads.

## GOOGLE CLASSROOMS

All classrooms have their own Google Classroom set up for home learning (homework). There is a function to communicate with your child's class teacher and this can be used to make enquiries about home learning or to ask day-to-day questions. Our recently launched Home Learning Guide can be accessed through the school app, or you can call to discuss with a member of staff if you require guidance for this.



## FOCUS EVENTS

We are very excited to be organising a number of events this term including fun events and events with a focus on aspects of the curriculum, school Improvement and raising money for school funds.

### TESCO BAG PACK

**Saturday 5th October**

We have a fantastic opportunity to raise a significant amount of money for school funds. If you are able to help, even for a short period of time, please complete the Google Form on the School App or contact the school office. Thank you to the Parent Council and parent helpers so far for running this event.

### PARENT CONSULTATIONS

**Thursday 10th October**

We can't wait to have our first face-to-face consultations for this session to discuss your child and their progress. There will also be opportunities for you to share your views, have chats with management and become involved in school life.

### HALLOWEEN

**Tuesday 29th October**

Run by the Parent Council in order to raise funds for the Gala Day, we are having split discos for P1-3 and P4-7. Children will also be able to dress down in costumes on Thursday 31st October. Information to follow.

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

**Sunday 10th November**

We will take part in remembrance services at part of Carlisle Learning community. Updates to follow.

### ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

**Week beginning 12th November**

As part of our values to ensure that all children at High Mill Primary School are included and respected, we will take part in anti-bullying week, offering children opportunities to drive OUR school respectful and kind ethos forward.

### ST. ANDREW'S DAY

**Tuesday 30th November**

We will be celebrating St. Andrew's Day with special activities and experiences, including a dress down day (see previous information on the School App). On this day, children can wear tartan, should they wish, to get in to the theme of the day!

## SPORTING EVENTS ARE BACK!

We are delighted to report that school sports events run by South Lanarkshire are back this session. We are hoping to take part in as many events as possible and will keep you updated as they arrive. Look out for information on all our sporting achievements.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

We take pride in offering our children as many clubs as possible. This session we will run pupil and staff led clubs at playtimes, lunchtimes and after school. Please look out for these. We are very grateful to staff, parents and pupils who lead these activities every week.

If you have any particular skills and feel that you could enhance our children's learning experiences by taking a club, please contact Mrs Daly via the school office email.



### BREAKFAST CLUB

Our school breakfast club is open every morning at 8.15-8.45am. Please bring children to the office entrance for 8.15am to have a breakfast with friends before the start of the school day. Support Staff are present to supervise pupils.



- **September Weekend**  
Friday 27th & Monday 30th September
- **October Week**  
Monday 14th to Friday 18th October
- **INSET Day (pupils do not attend)**  
Monday 11th November
- **Christmas Holidays**  
School closes at 2.30pm on Friday 20th December.