Dear Parent, Carer,

It's hard to believe Term 4 is almost here! Reports have been written. Parents’ Night is drawing nigh. Spring Break is here and everyone is looking forward to time with family and friends.

**Teaching and Learning**
Classes will be working very hard in the final term of session 2015-16. All stages will be “Aiming High” in Literacy and Numeracy. Daily work in these areas will continue.

Most children have been involved in Maths and Reading testing this last month and our Reading Test scores show a continued upward trend. Nearly all children have progressed well and we have a significant number of children whose scores indicate a very good pace of learning and development. We do have some children for whom reading remains a challenge and as much support as possible is put in place for them.

When evaluating our new reading practices and resources staff have seen great dividends for all pupils. Just as we built on the development work of the previous few years we will continue to do so and to use our assessments to inform teaching and learning.

A similar story is occurring in Maths with most children working on appropriate level and recent tests highlighting areas that needed more work. We have seen an improvement in Mental Agility, but want to see this even better, so more work will be done on this and on Problem Solving. This coming term will see all classes having Health and Wellbeing lessons on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP). A leaflet will come home with Reports to give you an idea of the topics covered and material for lessons will be on show at Parents’ Night in the Conference Room. Please note if your child is in a composite class the lessons will be to the younger side e.g P5/6 get P5 lessons. We make sure these things catch up at the end with separate lessons where necessary for P7. After you have seen the materials, if you do not wish your child to take part in this curriculum work, please let us know.

Other areas to be covered by all stages in Term four include Spanish, Music, Art, Science, Outdoor Learning and a whole school topic on The Olympics.

P7 will be involved in lots of Transition work for High School with their two induction days being on the 1st and 2nd June.

P6 and P7 will soon start preparing their individual speeches for a public speaking event.

P5 will continue with swimming.

P4 will start a ten week Music Project when they return from Spring Break.

**School Events**
Our Easter Assembly was well attended by parents and friends. P2/3 did a fantastic job leading the assembly. The Easter bonnets on display were magnificent!
The Viking Showcase run by P3/4 was another well attended event where everyone learned lots about the Vikings and the children did a top quality job in entertaining us. The Pupil Council organised and ran a great afternoon of events for Sports Relief. They raised £50. Well done! This adds to the charity work already done this year for Team Erin, Cancer Research and the Stedfast Foundation. This is a great effort from everyone and a sound demonstration of our pupils becoming effective contributors and responsible citizens.

**Positive Playtimes**
In response to pupils highlighting the need for more “play” things and things to do in the playground £340 of School Fund money was spent on various items. The most popular seems to be the wheelie trolleys and we have some budding basketball players! Thanks to all who help generate support for our fundraisers throughout the year. It is this money we use to the benefit of our children.

**Residential Outing**
This week 15 of our senior pupils attended Wiston Lodge. They spent an overnight and Mrs Naismith and Mrs Welsh accompanied and stayed with them. Reports on their return are very positive. The children behaved well, had great fun and learned new skills such as archery.

**Clothing**
If you have any good quality school uniform items you no longer need, please hand these into the Main Office and they will find a good home.

**Improvement Plan**
This is a plan that outlines what we want to develop next in school. The teachers and children have been thinking about this and they have also been talking about what has gone well this past year. Our first thoughts are:

- To continue to build standards in Literacy and Numeracy and aim to raise attainment and achievement
- To consider Health and Wellbeing, refresh our lessons in this area, undertake staff training
- To build our curriculum in areas of Science and Languages
- To build on our already strong relationship with parents and carers to support children in their learning.

We would very much like your opinion or thoughts on these ideas or others you may have. An opportunity to write your ideas will be given at Parents’ Night.

**Parental Engagement**
The last idea for our Improvement Plan is very much about Parental Engagement. This is an extremely important and powerful facet of school life. At High Mill we have a high level of parental engagement e.g Breakfast Club, Parental Helpers, Parent Council, Homework, increasing pupil attendance, attendance at special events, assemblies and Showcases. The attendance at Parents’ Night is always in the 95% plus bracket and parents also communicate freely with the school with regards to concerns.

We hope to build parental involvement in the curriculum such as our curriculum Open Afternoon on Reading, display for RSHP and in this coming term an opportunity to join children in afterschool clubs if possible.

I will leave you on a final very positive note. When talking with one of our older classes about school, I finished by asking if they could use one word to describe their school what would it be. Among the answers were “magical, fabulous, excellent, outstanding, fun, brilliant”.
I hope you feel the same.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marion Girdwood
Head Teacher
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Fri 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>CLOSE 2.30PM for Spring Break holidays</td>
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| Mon 18<sup>th</sup> April | Return to school 8.55am  
P4 Music Project this week |
| Tues 19<sup>th</sup> April | Reports Home  
Parents' Council Meeting 6.30pm.  
All parents and carers welcome. |
| Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> April | Book Fair delivered - all half price  
Transition P7 at Carluke High School (last one) |
| Wed 27<sup>th</sup> April | Parents Night and Book Fair                                 |
| Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> April | P7 Street Level. Last day for Book Fair                     |
| Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April | Dress Down Day                                              |
| Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May  | HOLIDAY                                                    |
| Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> May  | Development Day - no children should attend.                |
| Tues 17<sup>th</sup> May  | Parents' Council Meeting at 6.30pm                         |
| Wed 19<sup>th</sup> May  | Boys and Girls Football                                     |
| Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May  | Ragbag Collection                                           |
| Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> May | Dress Down Day                                              |
| Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May | HOLIDAYS                                                  |
| Wed 1<sup>st</sup> June | P7 Induction Day at Carluke High School  
New Intake P1 –parents and children to school for 1.30pm |
| Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> June | P7 Induction Day at Carluke High School  
New Intake P1 pupils only - 1.30pm-2.30pm |
| Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June | Health Week - events to be decided.                        |
| Fri 10<sup>th</sup> June | Sports Day 9.30am-11.15am John Cumming Stadium  
Parents welcome.  
Afternoon - Summer Stroll – Whole School |
| Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June | GALA DAY - Good Luck to Hayley and Christie and all our  
Star Wars characters!                                     |
| Tues 14<sup>th</sup> June | Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm                           |
| Fri 17<sup>th</sup> June | Going For Green Award Assembly - all parents and families  
welcome.                                                     |
| Tues 21<sup>st</sup> June | Prize Giving - 10am                                        |
| Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June | School closes at 1pm for Summer Hols ..... Phew!            |

Thank you for your continued support.  
Marion Girdwood - Head Teacher

**Our Values**  
Helpfulness  
Hard Work  
Honesty  
Respect  
Kindness

Marion Girdwood  
Head Teacher