Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to session 2015-16 at High Mill Primary. We extend a special welcome to new members of staff, new pupils and of course to our P1 class.

High Mill is an ambitious school that aims to provide the best service possible to its families and pupils. It has grown and progressed on many fronts and the close bond between home and school is something we greatly value.

Ours is a happy school and visitors often comment on its ‘family’ atmosphere. Our pupils are encouraged, challenged and supported and their achievements, both from school and from home, are celebrated throughout the year.

We look forward to another highly successful year. We will work towards our Visions and Aims and strive to live up to our values of ‘helpfulness, honesty, hard work, respect and kindness’.

I am immensely proud to be Head Teacher of High Mill Primary and feel privileged to lead our school.

I hope you find this and subsequent Newsletters informative and helpful. If at any time you need more information, have a concern or a great idea, please contact the school.

Teaching and Learning
This is our core business and is always the first article in our Newsletters.

- **P.E.** - all classes will have two hours of P.E. each week. This is made up of lessons conducted in the gym hall and other activities may take place outdoors. P.E. Lessons are on Mondays and Tuesdays. Children should come to school in their uniform and bring their gym kit to change into (shorts, gym shoes, polo shirt or T-shirt).
- **Spanish** - all classes will have Spanish lessons. Mrs Welsh is our lead teacher in this area and we have a school programme for all stages. Spanish will also be used throughout the week wherever possible.
- **Interdisciplinary Topics** - all classes will be involved in a short topic on the Local Area at the start of the term. They will then move on to a whole school Interdisciplinary Topic on Amazing Africa.
- **Literacy and Numeracy** - these key areas are taught throughout the year. At the start of
term teachers will consider prior learning, revise and determine best groupings. Reading and Spelling groups will be organised first and Homework arranged soon after.

**Staffing and Roll**
We start the session with 109 pupils. We have five classes – P1, P2/3, P3/4, P5/6 and P6/7. Our new teachers are Miss Sharif (P2/3), Miss MacGregor (P5/6) and we are delighted that Mrs Welsh (P6/7) is now with us full time. Mrs Naismith joins our staff as Principal Teacher. She forms part of our Management Team and will teach P3/4. Her remit will include the development of Schools’ Rights Based Learning and Stonelaw Reading Strategies. Mrs Naismith will also be our ICT Co-ordinator and is currently undertaking a much needed refresh of our school website. Mrs Mutch also joins us this session and will have a partial teaching remit for P3/4 and P6/7. Mrs Campbell will be with us for four days per week and during that time will be working with P2/3, P5/6 and providing teacher relief time (CCC) for Miss McNeil in P1.

**Vision and Aims**
Extensive work was undertaken at the end of last session to refresh the Vision, Values and Aims of our school. We want these to be fit for purpose and to guide us in our development. All stakeholders were involved with our pupils having the largest voice. Please see attached sheet.

**Schools’ Rights Based Learning**
This is based on the Rights for Children as outlined by the United Nations, e.g. right to an education, right to be safe, right to play etc. This work will be lead by a School Committee made up of pupils, staff, parents/carers, Management Team and Mrs Naismith will lead its development.

The first thing children will do is to produce a Class Charter. This will contain simple statements that they all agree on. These are aimed at ensuring everyone has best learning opportunities and a safe, enjoyable class environment.

We will also make up an overall ‘School Charter’. These charters will be supported by Going for Green and our September Newsletter will have more information.

**Handy Hints**
The following are aimed at giving you basic information:-

- Please put children’s names on jumpers, jackets and indoor shoes
- Indoor shoes are kept in school and sent home at regular intervals in order to check size and condition
- Children can order school dinners, bring a packed lunch or go home for lunch. Registers are taken first thing in the morning and families are supplied with menus for school lunch choices. Lunches are free to all P1-P3 children.
- Healthy snacks are encouraged. Children can bring a playtime snack or buy fruit or fruit juice from our school ‘Fruit Basket’ at morning interval and lunchtime (30p per snack)
- Children are allowed to have water in class. They can bring in bottled water and fresh drinking water is available in school.
- We have a Breakfast Club that operates each morning from 8.15-8.45am. The register is taken from 8.15am onwards. The Breakfast Club is supervised by parent helpers who have the appropriate disclosures. Food is provided and served by our school cook, Mrs Sezer. Breakfast Club children are dismissed into the playground at 8.45am.
- Children are supervised in the playground by two members of staff from 8.45am and the school gates are opened at 8.30am. At lunchtime three members of staff are on supervisory duty and the Management Team are also supervising in the dining hall.
- Attendance and punctuality for school is very important. These are monitored and logged. If a child is late, they should report to the main office. If your child is ill, please contact the school between 8.45am and 9.15am. Office staff will phone home if no contact is made and where no information is available absences will be logged as unauthorised. If a child has an appointment or is to be collected early, parents/carers should inform the office and collect their child from the main office.
- If parents/carers have any concerns they should enter the school via the main door and
report to the school office. Alternatively, phone the office and your concern will be dealt with.

- Parents/carers should not enter the school playground and once a child has come in to the school gate, they should remain in the playground.
- Smoking is not permitted on school grounds or premises and we would ask that there is **no smoking** in or around the school gates or premises.
- The school gate should be left clear to allow children safe passage.
- Cars dropping children off or collecting children should not be parked up for any considerable time. We wish to keep the flow of traffic safe and as decongested as possible.
- If you would like future newsletters to be emailed rather than a paper copy, please supply your details to the school office or complete slip at end of newsletter.
- Finally, I wish to underline that your support, your opinions are greatly valued. We have a wonderful bunch of bright, hardworking, kind children and a staff who deeply care for their wellbeing and development.
- This is going to be a great year and I look forward to spending it with you all.

**P1 Parents/Carers - Tea with the Teacher**

We would like to invite parents/carers of Primary 1 children to Tea with the Teacher. This will be held in Room 1 at 2pm and finish at 2.45pm on Friday 21st August. Miss McNeil will have a chat with parents/carers about how the first week has gone, initial teaching and answer any questions.

We would ask that only one family member attends. Also as this meeting is only for parents or carers, children not to attend.

**Marion Girdwood - Head Teacher**

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**EMAIL ADDRESS**

Please complete slip below if you wish to receive Newsletters by email.

**NAME:** ...................................................................................................................................................................

**CHILD/REN'S NAME:** ...........................................................................................................................................

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** ...............................................................................................................................................  

Many thanks for your assistance.
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Monday 17th</td>
<td>Pupils return (8.55am) P1 pupils start 9.30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 18th</td>
<td>P1 Soft Start - 8.45-9.15am Parents/carers can bring P1s into school, help with jackets, shoes etc Parents/carers lunch with P1s (pre-ordered on Monday)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 19th</td>
<td>School Photographs - annual whole school photographs, all pupils to be in school uniform. Individual photographs to be taken as well as Class photographs. Family photographs can be taken also.</td>
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<td>Thursday 20th</td>
<td>Amy – Lunchtime Storytime in room 1 (P1-P3) children (only children who wish) Music – P5 with Una Cunningham – 2.10-3pm</td>
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<td>Friday 21st</td>
<td>P1 Parents/Carers – Tea with teacher – 2.00-2.45pm in P1 classroom</td>
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<td>Monday 24th</td>
<td>Flying Start P1 – full day, end of soft start</td>
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<td>Friday 28th</td>
<td>Dress Down Day (non-uniform day £1 for school funds)</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Tuesday 1st</td>
<td>All Aladdin money in please (£8/pupil) letter attached</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23rd</td>
<td>Parents Evening – 3.30-8.30pm Book Fayre finishes</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th</td>
<td>Dress Down Day (£1 for school funds)</td>
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<td>Friday 25th</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Friday 8th</td>
<td>Wellie Walk – sponsored event for school funds (more info to follow)</td>
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<td>Monday 12th</td>
<td>HOLIDAY – October week from Monday 12th to Friday 16th</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Friday 11th</td>
<td>Panto - Whole School – Aladdin at the Memorial Hall, Lanark</td>
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