Welcome to our first newsletter of the new session. We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year. The children look marvellous in their new uniforms, the staff are refreshed and ready for the challenge and even the sun has been shining. Classes have settled and are already hard at work. Our P1 new starts are doing so well. They are lining up beautifully, engaging in learning and they are full of smiles.

Our newsletters aim to keep you informed about school life, teaching and learning and what’s coming up. The newsletter is on our website (www.highmill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk) and you can also have this e-mailed rather than pupil post. We are already e-mailing to some people and if you would like this service please contact the Main Office with your E-mail address.

Teaching and Learning
This session we have a very clear aim to raise attainment and achievement with particular regard to LITERACY, NUMERACY and HEALTH and WELLBEING. These priorities are described in our School Development Plan. Anyone wishing to read a full copy of the School Development Plan can get a copy from the Main Office.

As part of our in-service days at the start of term Staff did development work in Numeracy, Reading and Spelling. We will continue to develop these areas and will also be working on Writing. Teachers will all be attending Numeracy training in November and we will be receiving further training on Autism. All staff work very hard keeping their knowledge and skills up-to-date. They share good practice and work with other schools in the Learning Community.

All classes will be involved in Numeracy, Literacy, Spanish, ICT Skills, P.E and Expressive Arts. We have a wide variety of ICT equipment on loan from Education Resources. These include I-pads, tablets, digital cameras, camcorders, mini laptops and DSs. These will be used to enhance teaching and learning in many subjects as well as building the children’s technical skills in working with different technologies.

We have a rugby coach coming for six weeks to take training sessions with P6 and P7. These children will need their P.E. kit on Thursdays as well as the normal Monday and Tuesday when all classes have P.E lessons.

Mrs Una Cunningham has started music tuition with P5 on Thursday afternoons. Our Weekly Lending Library will begin soon. This will start with P3 Pupils. They can borrow a book, for one week at a time, from the school library and read it in their own time at home.

Other contexts for learning:
P1/2 - Road Safety; Local Area and Mapping
P2/3 - Road Safety; Maps and Mapping; Materials (Science)
P4 - Road Safety; Maps and Mapping; Water
P5/6 - Road Safety; Maps and Mapping; Water
P6/7 - Road Safety; Maps and Mapping
**Homework**
All children will be involved with Homework. This will likely include Reading, Spelling word practice, Numeracy and occasionally research or Home/School projects. Spelling homework is a bit different this year for P4-7 as we are refreshing our Spelling Programme. Teachers will make sure that children are clear on what they have to do. If parents/carers need any questions answered please contact the school.

**Staffing and School Roll**
We have started the Term with 117 pupils and are fortunate that all staffing requirements have been filled. Mrs Cairns joins us as a permanent member of staff and this year is teaching P2/3. Miss Harrison joins us to teach P4 and Mrs Fachie has two days with us teaching P5/6. Miss Ross has also rejoined us to be a second class teacher in P1/2. Mrs Miller is with us for one day and will mainly support teaching and learning.

Our Support Staff has also grown with the addition of Mrs Kirstie Gray. Mrs Monica Watson has replaced Mrs Cheyne, who has taken a career break at present. Mrs Dudgeon has also had to take a career break and will be replaced this week (Thursday and Friday) by Mrs Valerie Riley. We are delighted that we have a number of disclosed helpers already timetabled and we will be looking at relevant and practical placement of others.

**Breakfast Club**
Our Breakfast Club is up and running. This is supervised by a group of dedicated, PVG disclosed parents. The food is produced by our new school cook, Mrs Angie McFall. Breakfast Club starts at 8.15am with registration at the Main Entrance. Children go for Breakfast, have a quiet play and are then dismissed into the playground at 8.45am. This is when we have our adult supervisors in place in the playground.

**Wet Weather**
Unfortunately, we are not always lucky enough to have the beautiful weather of our first few days of school. Parents/carers are aware of this and children come dressed to school ready for inclement weather when needed. Our playground is open from 8.30am, but is not supervised until 8.45am and this is also the time children would be taken in if it is raining. At breaks and lunch, if the weather is bad, children are also kept in, but it should be stressed that we do like the children to get some fresh air if possible. If inside all classes have Wet Weather games and monitors and staff supervise the children.

**Positive Ethos**
Many things work towards us building and sustaining a positive ethos in our school. Our Vision, Values and Aims set us goals and give us an overview of what we want to be like. As a staff we set very high standards for behaviour, manners and how to treat one another with respect. We have a Bully Proofing Policy and we work on being a Rights Based Learning School. Children discuss rights and have a class and school charter based on these. Going for Green is a system aimed to support all of the above with children aiming to stay on Green. This means they are upholding their charter and working for better behaviour, better learning and better relationships. Master classes on a Friday, 2.15-2.50pm, are rewards for staying on Green. Master classes will be open to children next week. They can make their own choice and most groups will be a mixture of ages.

Going for Green starts this week and the colour for the day is intimated in Homework Diaries. Each child is a member of a House - MILL, MARKET, MOORSIDE, MOOR PARK. Our youngest children will soon be assigned to a House.

Pupils’ Voice is something we take very seriously. Children’s opinions and ideas are sought through Circle Time, surveys, class discussions, HT visits and the many pupil committees we run. These committees also provide pupils with opportunities to be Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors and Confident Individuals. They take on challenges and fundraising, talk at assemblies and produce displays. We are selecting our committees over the next few weeks. Our children are very special to us and each is an individual and we recognise that at times they can face personal challenges, friendship worries, home worries. We always work to support our
children and look to work with parents/carers to solve any issues or concerns. If you have a worry, concern or simply need to talk through issues affecting your child my door is open. Simply contact the school or ask for me directly and we will get together as soon as possible. Many visitors comment on the “family" atmosphere at High Mill. This is something we are proud of and work to maintain.

**Fruit Basket**
We have a group of children who run our Fruit Basket each day. We sell fresh fruit and cartons of fruit juice. These cost 30p per item and are on sale at break and lunch time. Fresh produce come in each Monday.

**Christmas Panto**
Last year we all went to Lanark Memorial Hall to see a Christmas Panto and we are doing the same this year. We are going to see “The Wizard of Oz" on Tuesday 13th December at 10am and it will cost £8 per child (this includes transports costs). We would like all payments made by Friday 14th October as we have to pay Lanark Memorial Hall then.

**Gouldings**
The children of P1 and P2 will be visiting Gouldings on Wednesday 14th December in the morning. The cost will be £9 per child. They will receive a gift from a very important person, visit the play area and have a snack. We would appreciate if this could be paid by the end of November.

**Residential Outing.**
P6 and P7 will be offered the opportunity to have an overnight stay at Wiston Lodge. More details will follow and we will be limited to 20 places. Last year’s group had a fabulous time. This will take place next year around March/April.

**Home /School Partnership**
P1 parents and children will be involved in a Home /School Partnership Project starting on 14th September. This project runs once a week for four weeks and encourages literacy skills. It should be great fun.

**Parents’ Council**
Our Parents’ Council will hold their AGM on Tuesday 6th September. This will be held in the school hall between 6.30pm-8.30pm and the meeting will include a report from the present Chairperson, Head Teacher and Treasurer. Parents/Carers may then be put forward for being a committee member for the coming year and new office bearers will also be selected. All parents and legal guardians are welcome and please do not be nervous...no-one is forced into any job!!

**Meet the Teacher**
All parents and families have been offered the chance to meet the teacher. Our first few meetings have gone very well. We fully understand that not all parents/carers can manage because of work commitments, but if you have any questions, please contact the school and we will get back to you.

**Fundraising**
The last Friday of each month is a DRESS DOWN/UP DAY. The children and staff can come in non-uniform and we ask £1 for the privilege. Any money raised goes to the School Fund and it buys "extras" for the children.

The Dress Down Day on Friday 26th August will mark our friendly goldfish Jaw's 21st birthday and children can be dressed casual, party, “fishy" if they wish. Money from School Funds will buy a birthday cake which we can all share. Dress Down Days are normal school days with work and routines continuing. However the children will celebrate Jaws’ birthday with a few dances and cake!

Our sponsored Wellie Walk on Friday 16th September usually raises a considerable sum and this will help buy novels and support some educational outings. Please find sponsor sheet in the poly pocket your child/ren will bring home along with all annual forms.
Some of our pupil committees will also raise money throughout the year for particular causes. The RotaKids are supporting Global Citizenship by working with Carluke Rotary to raise money for Straws for Life. This is a clean water venture. The Pupil Council and children of P6/7 and P5/6 hope to run a coffee morning to support McMillan Nurses.

The Ham and Jam week is a real celebration in Carluke and we like to take part. We will be running a raffle stall in Ramsey’s yard on Saturday 1st October. It will be a bottle stall and any donations are welcome e.g wine, spirits, lemonades, sauce, shampoo, olive oil….please hand in any donations to the school office. Thank you for your support.

**Head Teacher’s Comment**

As you can see from our newsletter there is lots going on and coming up in the months ahead. The year has got off to a flying start and we look forward to the coming weeks. In our first assembly of the new session I asked the children about our vision - what should our school be like? They replied: caring, nurturing, hardworking, happy. So far I think we are living up to their expectations!

Thank you all for your support.

Marion Girdwood  -  Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

All pupils will bring home a poly pocket with all annual forms for parents/carers to check over and make sure that we have the correct information, ie telephone/mobile numbers, emergency contact names, address and contact numbers. Please amend any information that may have changed recently and send back all forms as soon as possible to allow the office staff to update records.

Your assistance with these forms is much appreciated.

Please keep for your information the insurance sheet, newsletter, sponsored Wellie Walk sheet and Going for Green sheet.

Also the Tempest Photographer is coming to take school photos on Monday 29th August and we need the order slip back to school asap to let us make up class lists.

Best regards

Aileen Gray  -  School Support Team Leader

Our P1/2 Class are looking for small cars and lego for a project. If you have any at home that you’re willing to lend/give to the class, please hand into the office. Many thanks.
## DIARY

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<th><strong>August</strong></th>
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| **Monday 22nd**     | Meet the Teacher P4 (2-3pm)  
P1 in full day. Last week of Soft Start.  
P.E for all classes (Monday and Tuesday) |
| **Tuesday 23rd**    | Meet The Teacher P6/7.  (2-3pm)  
P.E for all classes |
| **Wednesday 24th**  | Meet the Teacher P2/3.  (2-3pm)                                                          |
| **Thursday 25th**   | Rugby for P6 and P7  (9-10.30am) Bring PE kit.                                          |
| **Friday 26th**     | Dress Down Day (£1 donation)  
Happy Birthday Jaws!!!  21 today.                                                        |
| **Monday 29th**     | School Photographer. TEMPEST order form in poly pocket.                                   |
| **September**       |                                                                                           |
| **Thursday 1st**    | Rugby P6 and P7                                                                          |
| **Tuesday 6th**     | AGM Parent Council 6.30pm start.                                                         |
| **Wednesday 7th**   | P1-P4 Fluoride Varnish                                                                   |
| **Thursday 8th**    | Rugby P6 and P7                                                                          |
| **Wednesday 14th**  | First of 4 Home/School P1 Literacy sessions. 9am start.                                  |
| **Thursday 15th**   | Rugby session for P6 and P7                                                              |
| **Friday 16th**     | Book Fair delivered – pupils will be able to look at the books and buy first thing in the morning. Parents can also purchase books at the Parents Evening. |
| **Friday 16th**     | SPONSORED WELLIE WALK in the afternoon to raise money for the school fund.                |
| **Wednesday 21st**  | PARENTS' NIGHT.  
You will be given an appointment time.  
Book Fair  
Assessment Folders and Personal Learning Plans open to see. |
| **Thursday 22nd**   | Rugby P6 and P7                                                                          |
| **Friday 23rd and** | HOLIDAYS                                                                                 |
| **Monday 26th**     |                                                                                           |
| **Friday 30th**     | Dress Down Day (£1)                                                                      |
| **OCTOBER**         |                                                                                           |
| **Saturday 1st**    | Ham and Jam Festival. We have a raffle stall at Ramsey's yard. Please come along. All money raised to school funds.  
**Ham and Jam joint school choirs.** |
| **Monday 17th-**    | October Break                                                                             |

### Our Values

- Helpfulness
- Hard Work
- Honesty
- Respect
- Kindness