Dear Parent/Carer

Our school cares for all its pupils and encourages, supports and challenges them to be the best they can be. High Mill is a school that works to give children best learning opportunities now and for the future.

Dear Parent, Carer

School in December is a wonderful place. There is so much going on. I'm sure the same is true at home. This newsletter will hopefully act as a reminder for some key events happening over the next few weeks. It will also highlight the issue of attendance and lateness.

Teaching and Learning
All classes continue with curriculum work. Work on Science topics is being finished off and Homework will come to a close this week.

Children will continue with their Literacy and Numeracy work and some excellent work has been done in classes on World Book Week and Money Week.

Pupils are also enjoying the drama and music work involved with the whole school production "Cinderella Rockerfella".

Mega Tests will be done and Home Folders and Personal Learning Plans will be sent home this week. Please return them as soon as possible.

ALL READING BOOKS TO BE INTO SCHOOL BY FRIDAY.

Attendance and Lateness
This is an area for improvement. While the general trend is improving we still have a small number of children with very high absence rates. We understand that children may be ill, but most concerning is the school also has a significant number of unauthorised absences where no contact has been made as to why a child is off school.

Our aim is to help children and families improve attendance rates. If there is a problem we can help with or find help for, we can work together to help the child. This may lead to the Attendance Officer being involved. He also has the remit of trying to find out the barriers to attendance and help sort things out. Even where we are being contacted as to why a child is off, if the attendance rate is concerning he may be able to help.

We also have a number of children who are late in the morning. This is being monitored closely and some families may be contacted by the Head Teacher before Christmas to see if there is any way we can improve matters.

Home and school want our children to have best learning opportunities and to do that they have to be at school on time and as regularly as possible.

We also understand that family life can be challenging at times and we want to support such instances as much as possible. This is very much part of the vision we have for our school. Please note that the School Handbook outline about absences has been attached.
**Wonderful Learning**
P6 and P7 had a fantastic experience at the Tramway in Glasgow, P3 and P4 also raved about their visit to the Museum on the Mound in Edinburgh and our visit from the Royal Scottish Orchestra was brilliant for our P5, P6 and P7 pupils. Great learning, great fun and great memories.

**Website**
Our school website is looking great and is regularly updated. Teachers and pupils will increasingly add to their web pages and important documents will also be added. Our *School Handbook for 2016* has been included and is worth a look in its refreshed form.

**P1 Registration**
Those children who will start school in August 2016 should register at their catchment school in week beginning the 11th January 2016. Parents need to bring the child's FULL birth certificate and two proofs of residence.

We will be conducting registrations on Monday 11th January, Tuesday 12th January and Wednesday 13th January from 9.30am-11.30am and 1.30pm-3.00pm. If you cannot make these times, please contact the office and alternate times will be made available to you.

**Breakfast Club**
Breakfast Club will continue to the last day of term and start first day back. We wish to thank Mrs Sezar and our Parent Helpers for all their hard work and commitment. Our Breakfast Club only happens because of them and they show up hail, rain or snow. The children love coming in and again a huge thank you to those involved.

**Parental Involvement**
Along with our excellent Breakfast Club we have a good body of adult/parent helpers who assist the school. They act as classroom helpers, adult supervisors on outings and afterschool clubs e.g football.

Our *Parent Council* has now a full calendar of meetings set up and is keen to see our Gala Day entry organised and supported. List of dates are available in reception area.

Mr Colin McInnes has organised the **BIG RAFFLE**. The funds raised from this will go to buy extras for the school such as cameras with any additional funds going to buy items agreed on by the pupils.

Mr McInnes has done all the leg work and has assured a large number of prizes for both the Adult and Children's Raffles. Prizes include a hotel break, hairdresser vouchers, meals at local restaurants, Farmfoods voucher, Tunnocks boxes, huge teddy, visit to Bubbles vouchers, toys, loom bands, a signed Partick Thistle strip donated by Mr Skelton - the list goes on. The tickets are available from the school office (£2 a strip for adults, 50p a strip for pupils). The draw will be made on the 22nd January at our ‘Going for Green’ assembly when all parents and carers are welcome to attend. Thanks you to all who donated and to Mr McInnes.

To all our Parents and Carers thank you for your efforts and support throughout the session so far. Your support is valued be it from helping with Homework, ensuring good attendance to donations to school funds.

High Mill has the reputation of being a school with a “family” feel and you play a huge part in that.

**Coming soon.......**

**School Choir** - They performed beautifully at Kirkton Church Monday 7th December and will be singing again at Tesco on Wednesday 9th from 10.15am to 11.30am. The Choir will also be visiting the Jenny MacLachlan Centre to perform to the residents there on 17th December.

**Aladdin Panto** - Children and staff will be going to see Aladdin on Friday 11th December.
- Children can bring a small sweetie and drink with them for the interval.
- They should be in school uniform and can wear a Christmas hat.
- Children need to bring a **packed lunch or order a cold lunch from the canteen** as we will not come back in time for canteen hot lunches.
- We will be leaving from school at 9.15am and returning for 12.45 pm approx.

I'm really looking forward to it. Oh no I'm not........... **Oh yes I am!!!**

**Cinderella Rockerfella** - All our children are involved in this production and have worked hard to make sure they have a real treat in store for you. All the teachers have been involved and everyone has practised and practiced.

- **Tickets are going fast and entry is by ticket only. (£2)**
- **We need all children at both the afternoon and evening performance.**
- **Afternoon performance – Monday 14th December, doors open 1.30pm.**
- **Evening performance - Tuesday 15th December - children to be in school for 6pm prompt as the performance starts at 6.30pm**

**School Parties**
- P1-P3 will have their party on the afternoon of Friday 18th December
- P4-P7 will have their party on the afternoon of Monday 21st December

If the man in the red suit is not too busy, he might come along near the end of the parties to visit the children.

**Gouldings**
P1 and P2 are going to Gouldings on the morning of Monday 21st December. They will get to see the reindeer, visit Santa's Toy Shop, pick a present, see SANTA and then get to play in the indoor play area. It would be wise is they all wore trousers as this would be best for the play area.

**Church Service**
- On the morning of the last day we will go to Kirkstyle Baptist Church for an end of term Christmas service.
- Victoria Park will be there too and all parents and carers are welcome to come along and share with the children.
- If you do not wish your child to attend, please let the school know and they will be catered for in school.
- The service will start at 10am.
- **Please note school meals are available on the last day, but only cold lunches will be served**
- School closes at **2.30pm**

**School returns on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at 8.55am.**

During the last few weeks of Term, we hope all our children enjoy themselves, have fun and make good memories that will last.

I hope you have the best of times over this holiday season and wish to thank you for your many kindnesses, support and understanding this session.

**Happy Holidays and a Guid New Year!**
Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th (Mon)</td>
<td>Choir singing at Kirkton Church - 7pm till 8pm approx</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th (Tues)</td>
<td>Dress Rehearsal for ‘Cinderella Rockerfella’ - afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th (Wed)</td>
<td>Choir singing at Tesco from 10.15 -11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th (Thurs)</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th (Fri)</td>
<td>‘Aladdin’ Panto outing to Lanark Memorial Hall - leave 9.15am return 12.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th (Mon)</td>
<td>‘Cinderella Rockerfella’ - afternoon performance - 1.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th (Tues)</td>
<td>‘Cinderella Rockerfella’ - evening performance - 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th (Thurs)</td>
<td>Choir singing at Jenny MacLachlan Centre at 1.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th (Fri)</td>
<td>P1-P3 Christmas Party - afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st (Mon)</td>
<td>Gouldings outing for P1 and P2 pupils in the morning</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st (Mon)</td>
<td>P4-P7 Christmas Party - afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd (Wed)</td>
<td>Christmas Service at Kirkstyle Baptist Church – 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>School closes for Christmas Holidays at 2.30pm</td>
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January 2016

5th (Tues) | School re-opens |

Attendance at School (information from Handbook)

It is important for the school to work with parents/carers in encouraging all children to attend school. All absences from school are required by law to be recorded. Absences will normally fall under two categories – authorised or unauthorised absence. In cases where your child is unable to attend school parents are asked to:-

- inform the school by letter or telephone, if your child is likely to be absent and to give your child a note on his/ her return to school, telling of the reason for absence;
- notify the school first thing in the morning when your child is going to be absent. Let the school know the likely date of return keeping them informed if the date changes;
- inform the school of any change to the following:-
  - home telephone number
  - mobile number
  - emergency contact details

requests for your child to be absent from school to make an extended visit to relatives must be made in writing to the Head Teacher, detailing the reason, destination, duration of absence and arrangements for their continuing education. On these occasions the pupil will be marked as an authorised absentee in the register.

Marion Girdwood
Head Teacher