Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to our November/December newsletter. We are fast moving towards the end of Term 1. We are busy, as always, working hard and also preparing for various Christmas events.

**Teaching and Learning**

Our focus continues to be on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Some other things children will be working on include:

- **P1/2** - Pets and Vets; SAFE, Bully proofing, RME, Baboushka
- **P2/3** - Houses and Homes; Materials; SAFE; Bully proofing, RME, Baboushka
- **P4** - Water; Glasgow; Bully proofing; RME, Baboushka; SAFE
- **P5/6** - Japan; SAFE; Bully proofing; RME; Baboushka
- **P6/7** - Japan; SAFE; Bully proofing; RME; Baboushka

All classes will conclude their study of a Roald Dahl book and also be involved in activities for Book Week. All classes will also be involved in social dancing and learning traditional party games. They will put these into practice at their end of term parties. The children will also be learning songs and working on their Christmas production of ‘Baboushka’.

All our children have learning targets as outlined and shared in their Personal Learning Plans, SMART targets or Additional Support Plans. They return to these regularly to evaluate how they are doing and to consider next learning steps. These will be evaluated over December and new targets will be shared in January.

Our Family Learning morning went very well and thank you to all who were able to come along and share in the learning and teaching of Literacy and Numeracy.

**Roll and Staffing**

We have had a few new children join us recently and our current role stands at 121. We also have to congratulate Miss Ross who was successful in a recent interview and is now a permanent teacher in our school. Having a larger core of permanent, high quality teaching staff is all to the good for our children.

We have to also say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Fachie who has been replaced by Mrs Lamont. Mrs Lamont is teaching P5/6 for two days releasing Mrs Naismith for managerial responsibilities.
Christmas Events

• Baboushka
  This is our whole school Christmas production for 2016. We have a morning and evening performance. Please ensure your child returns to school at 6pm for the evening performance as we need all the children to take part. They are certainly very enthusiastic about it and enjoying practising and learning their parts. It’s going to be a great performance. Tickets are limited to 150 for each performance.

  TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW from the school office and cost £2.50 each. All proceeds go to the School Funds.

  We are holding a Raffle at the Baboushka performances and the prize will be a lovely Christmas Hamper. The tickets cost £1. Good Luck!

  Please remember that you can only take photos of your own child and would need the permission of other parents/carers to take pictures of their children or to upload these to Facebook.

• Going for Green Assembly and Showcase.
  Friday 16th December 1.45pm is our Going for Green Assembly. Parents and carers are welcome. Children who have remained on Green since August will receive GOLD certificates. This is a fantastic achievement. Those who have been off Green up to 5 times will receive Silver and those up to 7 Bronze. We also have a small number of children who have Health and Wellbeing targets in ASPs or SMART targets. Their target evaluations will inform what certificate they achieve. Children will also share some of their learning from the last few months at this assembly.

• Choir
  Our school choir will perform at St John's Church on Sunday 27th November. This is a joint community choir occasion and starts at 7pm. (Permission Slips given out today). The children will meet Mrs Gray and Mrs Vecino outside High Mill Primary at 6.20pm and then everyone will walk down to St John’s Church from there. Parents/Carers must make sure that their child/ren know who is coming for them at the end of the service (8pm). The Choir will also sing at Tesco on Friday, 16th December from 10am till 11.30am with a short break in between. The last visit will be to the Jenny MacLachlan Centre on Tuesday 20th December from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

• Parties
  Our P1-P3 children will have their party on the afternoon of Tuesday 20th December. Our P4-P7 pupils will have their party on the afternoon of Monday 19th December.

• Panto.
  All our children will be going to Lanark Memorial Hall on the morning of Tuesday 13th December. Children should wear school uniform and Christmas hats or head
novelties if they want to. We would ask any family who have still to pay for the Panto to bring their money (£8) into the school office by Friday 25th November.

- **Gouldings**
  Our P1 and P2 children are going to Gouldings on the morning of 14th December and I’m going too! Yippee!! Again any outstanding payments (£9) for this outing would be gratefully received by Friday 25th November as we’re due to pay Gouldings the full amount now.

- **Christmas Lunch**
  Christmas Lunch is on the Thursday, 15th December. Many of the staff will join the children for this. Please note children should return an order form so the Kitchen staff can place their order for the lunch.

- **End of Term Service**
  All our pupils and staff, along with Victoria Park’s pupils and staff, will be going to Kirkstyle Baptist Church on the last day of term (Thursday 22nd December). Parents, carers, friends and families are welcome to join us. The service begins at 10am. **School closes on this day at 2.30pm.**

- **Security**
  I have recently attended an important training session on the practices and procedures we should have in place with regard to emergency evacuations of the school. We are well under way with these and at all times the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff is paramount. Thinking of this, I feel it necessary to return to some procedures and remind everyone of expectations we have to ensure the safe and appropriate running of our school.

  - No adult should enter the playground. If you have a concern or question, please come to the Main Entrance. Adults entering the playground can alarm some children and, of course, other parents may quite rightly be concerned by this.
  
  - Please keep the pavement around the gates clear. Children need to be able to see who is collecting them and if there are too many bodies around again children and parents can become concerned.

  - Breakfast Club starts at 8.15am and children can register up till 8.25am. Breakfast will not be supplied after 8.30pm. The playground is open from 8.30am, but adult supervision does not start till 8.45am. The doors of the school will only be opened by the janitor or adult on duty. We have a programme of activities for each morning Mondays - Reading for enjoyment, Tuesdays - Board Games, Wednesdays - Dodge Ball, Thursdays - Board Games, Fridays - Computer. Thanks to all parent helpers for supporting this valuable service.

  - Photographs/Videos - the school seeks permission from parents/carers to take photos of the children and these may appear on displays or the website. Can I remind you that while you might take photographs of your own child, you need to seek the permission of any other child’s parent/carer before you take their photograph. Many families do not want video clips etc on Facebook, so be very careful with children’s images.
• The staff have ensured that the drop off area is clear of staff cars. The signs are up marking it as a "drop off" area only. Please do not "park up" for any longer than is needed to drop your child off or to collect them. Thank you.

We have a marvellous school full of great children who are supported by loving families. Can we be perfect all the time? Probably not, but we can try and I want to thank all the parents and carers who support the school, take care in and around the school to act in an appropriate fashion and show children a good model of manners and care.

Diary Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th Nov</td>
<td>Boys and girls football festival 12.15-2.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 25th Nov</td>
<td>Dress Down Day – donation of £1 appreciated</td>
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<td>Sunday 27th Nov</td>
<td>St John’s Church – choir singing from 7pm – to meet at High Mill at 6.20pm then walk down to Church</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30th Nov</td>
<td>P6/7 Sports session at Carluke High School am</td>
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<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>Baboushka Performance starting at 10.00am. Evening performance of Baboushka starting at 6.30pm. Children to be at school for 6pm prompt</td>
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<td>Monday 12th Nov</td>
<td>PANTO – ‘Wizard of Oz’ at Lanark Memorial Hall am</td>
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<td>Tuesday 13th Nov</td>
<td>Flu Vaccinations - Whole School — P1 and P2 outing to Gouldings am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14th Nov</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
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<td>Friday 16th Nov</td>
<td>TESCO – Choir singing am</td>
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<td>Friday 16th Nov</td>
<td>Going For Green Assembly - parents welcome</td>
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<td>Monday 19th Nov</td>
<td>P4-P7 Christmas Party pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th Nov</td>
<td>P1-P3 Christmas Party pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22nd Nov</td>
<td>Church with Victoria Park - 10am start. Parents and families welcome</td>
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<td>School closes at 2.30pm</td>
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School re-opens on January 9th. Breakfast Club will be on.
Enrolments for new P1 children for session 2017 - January 16th and 17th - 9.30am - 2.30pm both days and any other afternoon during this week. You need two proofs of address and a FULL birth certificate.

Have a wonderful Christmas and festive season.

Marion Girdwood
Head Teacher