

HIGH MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Market Road, Carluke ML8 4BE

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018



Dear Parent/Carer

A Happy New Year from everyone at High Mill and Best Wishes for 2018.

We look forward to this new year and new term with renewed vigour and direction. We have a busy term ahead and everyone's best efforts are required to ensure the continued success and wellbeing of our pupils.

Our values of hard work, honesty, kindness, helpfulness and respect lead the way. Good attendance and time keeping are essential and our motto of 'Aiming High' will be our guide regarding best behaviour, attitude, effort and participation.

For children to have their best learning opportunities they need to be attending school, participating to the full, behaving well for their own sake and that of others, be in receipt of effective teaching and learning opportunities which are engaging, well planned and fun and for school and home to work well together supporting children and their learning.

We continue to work on the principles of Growth Mindset. This has the message that through effort and perseverance we can do better than we think and even better than what we think is our best. There is room to make mistakes because we can learn from them and although we might feel we don't know or understand everything, this is a matter of "yet". We might not know everything "yet", but we can do so much better by continuing to work hard and challenge ourselves.

December 2017 was a fantastic month in so many ways. It demonstrated the hard work of staff and children and the support of families and friends for the school. More of that later.

Teaching and Learning

Our focus over the coming months will be to continue aiming to raise achievement and attainment in Numeracy, Literacy, Health and Wellbeing. This is guided by our School Development Plan Priorities and the next month will see children tested in Numeracy. This will take place on 6th February, with Spelling, Reading and Scottish National Assessment happening later in the year.

All stages will be involved in studying Scottish poems in January and every child will have a poem to learn for recitation. These will be judged by me and the class teacher. A Scottish Showcase will be organised open to parents/carers, family and friends on Friday 2nd February at 1.45pm.

All stages will also be having Spanish and ICT lessons from their class teacher. Mrs Hughes will continue to deliver areas of the curriculum to classes. Other key lessons to be taught include:-

P1/2	Materials, Katie Morag
P2/3	Materials, Special People, Native Indians
P3/4/5	Materials, Bar Mitzvah, India
P5/6	Materials, David Livingstone, Australia/Aborigines
P6/7	Materials, Creation, America

Primary Seven also will continue their transition work with Carluke High School.

Dazzling December

December got off to a fantastic start with a **Careers Fair** held on the 5th and 7th. Pupils circulated round various stations in the school hall to hear about a variety of careers and the skills needed to fulfil these. The younger classes were also visited by various individuals who explained their jobs and answered questions. Thanks go to Mrs Hughes for organising this event and taking forward the children's understanding of DYW - Developing Young Workforce.

The **Panto** at Lanark on the 8th was a great favourite with the children and we all enjoyed the performance.

'**No Room for a Baby**' was our sell out Christmas Production for 12th December 2017. Both performances were brilliant with full audiences enjoying the singing, acting and instrumentation from the children. Thanks go to all teaching staff and support staff who supported this event and especially to Mrs Naismith who was the producer /director. The money from tickets goes towards costs of putting the show on and any left over to School Funds. Thanks also from the RotaKids who raised £65.50 for Water Aid from your kind donations.

Our **Christmas Lunch** was it's usual busy affair on the 13th. Thanks to our canteen staff who always do an amazing job and excelled themselves on the day.

Our **School Choir** performed three times throughout the month. They sang at Miltongrange Nursing Home, the Jenny MacLachlan Centre and on the 22nd at Tesco's, where they raised £100 for School Funds. I and Mrs Vecino trained the choir, but thanks go to Mrs Vecino and the support staff for supervising at these events. We have some really beautiful singers and I am sure they will continue to represent the school over the next few years.

Parties were exciting and lively on the 18th and 19th with children having refreshments and prizes supplied courtesy of School Funds. Again, thanks to all staff and senior children for ensuring these ran smoothly. The hall was full of handsome boys and beautiful girls.....for that thanks go to you!

The Children's Christmas Fair was the surprise gift in our Christmas stocking. Children made and sold their own craft work and a tombola stall, bring and buy stall and refreshments were all organised by staff and children. It was a lovely time in school, lots of happy faces and a real Christmas feel to the event. We say a huge thank you to all the children for their efforts and to all those who donated or bought items. The grand total we have raised for School Funds is a magnificent **£573.30**. There may have been a lot of preparation work, but we raised this money in one hour.

Our term came to an end at **Kirkstyle Baptist Church**. The children of Victoria Park and High Mill shared a lovely service together, which again was well attended by our parents/carers, family and friends. In amongst all of the above, teachers taught lessons, naughty elves kept appearing and Micky and Minnie Mouse even visited us. What a wonderful time to share and remember. We managed to get an article in the Gazette which includes much of the above. I and my staff would like to thank all the children for the lovely cards and gifts we received. We would also like to thank all the parents/carers, families and friends who supported the school throughout December. You helped make it truly "dazzling".

Going for Green

Our Going for Green assembly was held on the 15th December 2017. Our next one will not be held till June 2018. Going for Green is a strategy we use to help support Better Learning, Better Behaviour and Better Relationships. Children have always to be on Green to achieve GOLD, up to five times off to achieve SILVER and up to and including seven times off to achieve BRONZE. These are high expectations, but if children follow their class charter, uphold school values they are on the road to GOLD.

We also have careful management of children who have Additional Support Plans for Health and Wellbeing and they are looking for all targets to be Green to achieve GOLD. In January, we will have the first week to settle children back into school and to allow time to re-visit expectations, set targets in PLPs and ASPs. Teachers may also set up meetings with some parents/carers to

ensure that home and school have the same expectations.

For the last two weeks in January, we will run a CREDIT SHOP. Children will earn a credit if they abide by the class charter and school values. They can earn two credits a day and up to 20 in total. They can use their credits at the Credit Shop to buy a small item.

Any child who displays behaviour worthy of a yellow or red will have a letter home. This keeps you informed of unacceptable behaviour and also underlines to the child that there are consequences for behaviour where they are not showing respect to school staff, property or other pupils. The message has to be clear and fair to all. Going for Green in its normal sense will start on 29th January 2018.

After school Clubs

Our Active Schools Co-ordinator met with me at the end of December to discuss some sports after school clubs. There is going to be a variety of courses on offer and all ages will have an opportunity to participate. Letters will be sent home soon. Some taster sessions are also being set up. The first is for Rugby for P5/6 and P6/7. This will happen for 4 weeks at normal P.E. times on a Monday beginning 8th January.

P5 Music

P5 have had some intensive music lessons with Mrs Una Cunningham. These will come to an end on Thursday 11th January.

Pupil Groups

We have several pupil groups which contribute to the life of the school and have an important role to play regarding Pupil Voice. The Fairtrade Committee, Rights Based School Committee, School Board Committee and RotaKids will be meeting this week.

P1 Infant Registration

Children who live in this catchment area and who are due to start school in August 2018 should register week beginning 15th January. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30am and from 1.15pm to 4pm. If these dates and times are not suitable, then Wednesday and Friday morning may be an option. The registration will be done by myself, Mrs Gray or Mrs Naismith, depending on availability.

Staff Absence

Unfortunately, we begin the year without Miss Ross who is suffering from back problems. We have managed to get some cover teachers for the first few weeks and I will also be teaching in class. We will make sure the children's teaching and learning progresses unhindered.

Indoor Shoes

All children should have indoor shoes to wear during class time. If you wish your child to bring their shoes home to check for fit and condition, please write a note in the Home/School Diary.

Attendance/ Lateness

New style attendance letters will be used this term. Most of our children have excellent attendance and are always punctual. However, some children's attendance and constant late coming is of concern. Everyone had an individual letter for their child in December to ensure they are informed. If your child is off school you MUST phone (772580) prior to 9.15am to let us know. If we cannot contact you, this is an UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE and we have to ask the question, "Do we know where this child is and are they safe, do we need to contact the Attendance Officer or the police"? Also, it is very understandable that at this time of year children may catch cold or flu like bugs. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea they should be off school till this clears up. We will be ensuring that there is plenty of soap, towels and paper hankies in class to contain the spread of germs. We will also buy in some anti bacterial hand gel for us to use.

Diary

January	
Monday 8th	P5/6 P6/7 start 4 weeks of rugby at P.E times in school Week to settle/revisit Class Charters/Values Homework Club –for invited children –Lunchtime Mon, Tues, Wed
Tuesday 9th	Parent Council 6.30pm-8.30pm-All parents and guardians welcome
Thursday 11 th	Letters home to P1-P4 children re after school club P5 last day of music
Friday 12 th	P7 Transition letters home
Monday 15 th	P1 (2018) Registration week-2 proofs of residence and FULL birth certificate
Friday 26th	DRESS DOWN DAY - £1
February	
Friday 2 nd	Scottish Assembly - all parents/carers welcome 1.45pm start. No cost. Dress up in Tartan/Scottish.
Monday 5 th	P1-P4 Fluoride Varnish application in the morning.
Thursday 8th	Girls and Boys Football Festival - 12.15-2.30pm Mrs Girdwood will pick the teams.
	Monday 12th Tuesday 13th - Holiday
Wednesday 14th	In-service Day. Children do not attend
Friday 16th	P7 pm - CHS Transition Rugby/ Football
Wednesday 21st	Netball Festival – 10am to 12noon at Carluke Leisure Centre
Friday 23rd	DRESS DOWN DAY - £1
March	
Monday 12th	Rotary Quiz being hosted here am. No P.E in the morning as hall being used
Wednesday 14th	RotaKids Rally - Carmondean Centre at Livingston. All day
Friday 16 th	P7 Transition to CHS - Softball
Wednesday 21st	Netball Festival - 10am – 12noon at Carluke Leisure Centre
Wednesday 21st	P5 Swimming Session and each Wednesday till 20 th June 11am-12noon
Thursday 22nd	Girls and Boys Football Festival - 10am to 12noon Carluke Leisure Centre
Friday 23 rd	P7 Transition CHS Rugby
Monday 26 th	Residential Outing - Leave school at 9.30pm
Tuesday 27th	Residential Outing returns - children can get picked up at 2.30pm
Wednesday 28th	Swimming Session P5 - Carluke Leisure Centre - 11am – 12 noon
Thursday 29th	Dress Down Day. School closes at 2.30pm and Return Monday April 16th

Thank you for your continued support.

Marion Girdwood
Head Teacher