Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and the staff and myself would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We will continue to build on the work of past months and have refreshed drive in setting high expectations for ourselves, our pupils and families.

We have returned to our Vision and our Values and discussed these with the children and among ourselves. The ideals of Honesty, Hard Work, Helpfulness, Respect and Kindness lie at the centre of how we operate and we will all endeavour to live up to them.

High Mill is a school where our intention is to see children flourish, be individuals, feel cared for and supported and to be happy. Our intentions were fulfilled at the end of last Term, which was truly marvellous in so many ways and on so many occasions.

We look now to 2017 as a year when we continue our drive for attainment and achievement and see our pupils thrive as successful learners, responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals. It goes without saying that a strong, respectful and supportive relationship between home and school is essential for this and we look forward to continuing to work together for the good of our children.

Please remember that if, at any time, you have a worry, a query or need to have a talk, I will always arrange for teachers to have time for you or indeed you can have a chat with me. All you need to do is ask at the Main Office or give us a phone (Tel: 772580).

I am blessed to have a lovely family who I spent time with over these last few weeks, but I missed my other family, High Mill, so it’s good to be back and once again a Happy New Year.

Teaching and Learning
All classes will be focusing on on-going work in NUMERACY, LITERACY and HEALTH AND WELL BEING. All children will also be having lessons on SPANISH, COMPUTER SKILLS and P.E. January will see classes working on a SCOTTISH THEME where children will be given the opportunity to study Scottish poems, literature and learn Scottish songs. Art work will also be on a Scottish theme and children will learn a poem for a recitation competition. The best will receive certificates and those who are excellent, a BURNS Federation Certificate. We also will award the Burns Cup to the child judged overall recitation winner. We will be holding a Scottish Showcase on 10th February and all parents/carers and friends are welcome to attend (1.40pm start).

Children will also be studying Science topics and will begin an Interdisciplinary topic in February.

P1/2 - Materials; Children of World War 11
P2/3 - Sun, Moon and Stars; Ollie the Enterprising Octopus
P4 - Forces and Magnets; Romans
Vision Values and Aims
Our Vision and Values were mentioned above and these along with Rights Based Learning form the basis for our reward and behaviour systems. In week one, all children will have the opportunity to talk about these and revisit what our high expectations are for their learning, behaviour and relationships. Many children take self-responsibility for their behaviour and do an excellent job.

It is true to say that almost all our children are well behaved and even when high spirited know what is right and wrong. This is also true of children who may have a diagnosed condition such as Autism. With support and understanding, they too have success at school and should be commended for such. There will be a strong message that any forms of aggression, unacceptable language or name calling is totally unacceptable. This is rare, but if any such behaviour is reported to me, I will contact parents/carers where necessary.

In Week 2 and 3 of the Term we will be running our very popular Credit Shop. Children, by remaining on Green, can earn two credits a day. They can then use their credits to buy things from the Credit Shop. The School Fund has supported the Credit Shop.

At the start of February, we return to our usual Going for Green system and children will receive certificates for February-June at our Going for Green Assembly at the end of session. Homework Diaries should indicate your child’s colour for each day.

Rights Based Learning by Finlay MacKenzie P4
High Mill Primary has a Rights Based Learning Committee. The rights we try to follow are the right to be safe, the right to be heard, the right to play and the right to learn. All our classes have a Charter based on these Rights. We also have a School Charter which has the same Rights. You can see our Charters round the school.

Football
P1, P2, P3 will be receiving football training for 6 weeks. Mr Martin Webb has arranged a trainer to come in on a Monday afternoon to teach our youngest children football skills. These sessions will happen during normal P.E times on a Monday afternoon. Ordinary P.E kit is all that is required. This will last till Feb 27th.

Hand washing
Our P2 children will be receiving Hand washing tips on Wed 1st Feb. This is being delivered by trained health professionals. We are asking if this can also happen for P1 and P3.

Food’s Journey
On the same day P4 will have a lesson on how the food travels through the body. This will be delivered by trained health professionals.

Burns Cottage
Children in P5, P6 and P7 will be going on an educational outing to Burns Cottage on 7th February. The children will be involved in lots of planned activities as well as being able to see round the exhibition, cottage, memorial and local area. Now I was excited when I went with our youngest pupils to see Santa. My hope is that I can go on this outing too. Next to Santa, Robert Burns, for me comes a close second. This outing is being paid for from School Funds and we will likely be able to claim some money back on transport.

P4 Inclusion Project
Before Christmas 3 pupils of Victoria Park joined with P4 for some Literacy lessons. They had their own teacher and helper with them and all the children worked well together. Indeed, with the increased number of staff on hand all the children benefitted. This will continue this term with the children joining P4 for 2 or perhaps 3 lessons a week. Great thanks go to Miss Harrison, Mrs Campbell, Victoria Park staff and of course all the children.

Punctuality, Attendance
As HT, I monitor and track punctuality and attendance. It is totally understandable if children are unwell and need to be off school. We can all sleep in on occasion and it is better for a child to come in late than to miss a full day of learning and teaching. This is a reminder that if your child is off school you need to inform us. A simple phone call before 9.30am is best as this lets us know where the child is and are safe. If we do not have this information their absence is UNAUTHORISED and recorded as such. It may also lead to the school taking further action to ascertain where the child is.
Children need to be in school and to arrive on time to get the most out of their school day and chances for learning. School is where they learn to socialise, take responsibility, become independent and grow as individuals. Hopefully, we will see good timekeeping and attendance from all.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club has started. We have a small but dedicated band of parents who run this and currently we have sufficient volunteers. If you would like to help at Breakfast Club you must be disclosed and if you give your name to Mrs Gault, she will put it on the reserve list. Thank you for your consideration. Breakfast Club starts at 8.15am. Children must be in and registered by 8.25am and Breakfast is served up till 8.30am.

**School Gates**

We are a unique build where our playground is open and parents and carers have a clear view of what is happening. We have nothing to hide and indeed the feeling of community this allows is one which is mainly warm, supportive and feels normal to us. The area round any school at the start and end of the day is always busy. We must ensure that at High Mill children can enter and leave their premises safely.

To allow safe access and clear vision, no adults should block the gate area. Please keep where the barrier is, as clear as possible, as this stops the gate becoming a bottleneck.

In the morning once children are in the gate, they must remain in the playground. We are fortunate to have 3 if not 4 adult supervisors in the playground from 8.45am. However, they are doing their best interacting with the children in the playground and pupils should not be encouraged to stay outside once they have arrived at school. Straight in the gate is the best policy and saves any problems.

The car park is clearly signposted as a drop off and pick up zone please abide by this.

If you need to talk to a member of staff, please enter the Main Building and your inquiries can be dealt with. The area round the school is Non-Smoking. Thank you for your support in all these matters.

**Adverse Weather**

Please make sure we have up-to-date emergency contact numbers. Thank you.

**Enrolment**

The registration of children starting school in August 2017 starts on Monday 16th January. Enrolments can be taken throughout the week, but staff will be mainly available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It must be a parent or legal guardian who enrolls the child and you need to bring a FULL BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCE. We look forward to seeing you.

Marion Girdwood - Head Teacher
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Enrolment week. Only a parent or legal guardian can enrol child. Full birth certificate and two proof of residence required. P.E football lessons begin for P1, P2, P3 - in school time.</td>
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<td>January 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Parents Council Meeting 6.30-8.30 pm. All parents/legal guardians welcome.</td>
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<td>January 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Netball Festival - 10am – 12 noon.</td>
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<td>January 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Carluke High School Pupils - panto performance for our children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>GOING FOR GREEN STARTS.</td>
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<td>February 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>P1 and P7 Dental Inspections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Burns Outing P5, P6, P7 - School uniform (touch of tartan if available). Times to be arranged.</td>
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<td>February 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>SCOTTISH SHOWCASE - Children can dress in Tartan. Parents/families welcome 1.40pm start.</td>
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<td>February 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; and 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>HOLIDAY.</td>
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<td>February 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>IN-SERVICE - children do not attend.</td>
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<td>February 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Uniform.</td>
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<td>March 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>DRESS DOWN DAY £1.</td>
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<td>March 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Bring Parent to School Day-Literacy/Numeracy.</td>
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<td>Spring Break 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; April till 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>Spring Break 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; April till 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April. Children return on 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April.</td>
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