Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the last full newsletter of session 2017-18. We will no doubt have some updates before the end of term.

Looking back over this year we have had a busy time in school. Every year has its challenges and this year has been no exception. In a session when we had hoped for a very settled staff, we have, in fact, seen several of our teachers having to deal with health issues. It has also been a year when Pupil Equity Funding came into play and that has taken careful management and evaluation. Raising attainment and achievement has always been at the forefront of our agenda along with building home/school partnership. As parents, staff and pupils we have continued to meet our challenges, support each other and see our school develop and flourish.

In my time as Head Teacher we have come to a shared understanding of our vision, values and aims. These may change or be adapted but in this final term of the session let’s all work together to see our school characterised by the following-

**Our Motto**
“Aiming High”

**Our Vision**
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 builds for the future.

**Our Values**
Helpfulness  Hard Work  Honesty  Respect  Kindness

**Our Aims**
- To have children believe in themselves
- To give challenge and choice
- To be respectful, fair and honest and care for each other
- To have a school where we can all learn at our best pace.

**Teaching and Learning**
Over these last few months teachers will continue to plan and deliver a broad curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence. They will pay particular attention to moving our children forward in attaining Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks.

Teachers will also be involved in Standardised testing in Spelling in early May. They will also evaluate children’s progress for final professional judgements at the end of term. Some parents may be contacted for review meetings for Additional Support Plans. Our Standardised testing, reviews, class work and teacher assessment and records provide important Transition information for next year’s classes. The formation of classes and passing on of information will take place before the end of term.

The children have lots to look forward to including new topics, Health Week, Money Week, various school and interschool sporting activities, Book Fair and end of term ‘Going for Green’ and Prize Giving Assemblies. All classes will also have Relationships, Sexual Health and Partnership delivered as part of their Health and Wellbeing curriculum.
Curriculum being delivered over the next 10 weeks also includes-

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1/2</td>
<td>RSHP, Spanish, ICT skills, Expressive Arts, P.E</td>
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<tr>
<td>P2/3</td>
<td>RSHP, Spanish, ICT skills, Expressive Arts, P.E</td>
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<td>P3/4/5</td>
<td>RSHP, Spanish, ICT skills, Expressive Arts, P.E</td>
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<tr>
<td>P5/6</td>
<td>RSHP, Spanish/French ICT skills, Expressive Arts, P.E</td>
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<tr>
<td>P6/7</td>
<td>RSHP, Spanish/French ICT skills, Expressive Arts, P.E</td>
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Please note children’s work will be on display on Parents’ Night, including Learning Journeys.

Apps Central
Training for this new communications app took place in school on Wednesday 18th April. Mrs Naismith, Mrs Welsh and Mrs Gray all took part in this. The App is set up ready for use and we will send home information for you. Downloading this app costs you nothing and we will use it to pass on key information. We also have our text system which can be used to contact parents/carers.

Breakfast Club
Our Breakfast Club will continue up till the final day of Term. This service was set up under my leadership when I first came to High Mill and it is regarded by many as an excellent provision. The idea might have been mine, but the parents are the people who have sustained it and seen it develop over the years. My thanks go to all the parent helpers, those who have used this school service, Kitchen and Support Staff.

We hope to see the Club continue but we do need more adult helpers. If you are able to do a morning or more, please contact the school to get a Disclosure form. This process has to be complete for adults to work with children, although if you would like to be a “guest “helper and see what is involved this can be arranged.

A huge thank you goes to Linda Cairns who has been a Breakfast Club helper since the start. She has also been a class helper and member of the Parents Council. This year her daughter leaves for High School and Linda will cease these duties. Thank you for all your support Linda and best wishes to you and Abbie.

School Parent Council
The School Council has two meetings before the end of Term, Tuesday 15th May and Tuesday 26th June. The members would like to extend a kind welcome to any parents/carers including those of our new P1s for next session. Please come along and hear about the work of the Parent Council and the life of the school. Mr McInnes, Chairperson, will be present at next week’s Parents’ Night and if you have any questions or points you’d like to discuss he’d be pleased to listen.

A point raised at last night’s meeting was that a small number of parents had voiced their concern that children receiving certificates for achievement for progress with the 5 Minute Box may in some way have been stigmatised. I have carried out a feedback session with pupils and all children say they really liked getting a certificate at assembly. However, this is a point that will be considered further next session.

After School Clubs
A number of short term After School Clubs will be taking place shortly. These will be run by teachers and I will be taking a Bikeability class with P5. Please ensure you and your child are very clear about the club, day and times they will be involved in. Once slips are returned we will expect children to come to the club each week.

They will remain in class after the bell to get changed or collected and if you decide that your child cannot take part that day you should come to the Main Door to collect them. Children cannot simply decide they “don’t want to go” and leave school at dismissal time. This leads to confusion about where children should be and their safety is our first concern.

Carluke High School Transition
The following are important dates for pupils and parents

- Autism - Four afternoon dates are available for P7 ASD pupils and their parents to attend CHS. The dates are 27th Apr, 4th, 11th & 18th May. 12.45pm-2pm. Parents can collect their children from
school at 12.20. The children will have had lunch and then parents are responsible for taking them to CHS and then home.

- **Parents Information Night** - Held at CHS on Tuesday 29th May - 6.30pm-7.45pm
- **P7 Pupil Induction Days** - Wed 30th and Thursday 31st May. More information will follow.
- There are also other transition events planned but finalised dates have still to be received.

### High Mill Primary 1 Session 2018-19

- Currently Mrs Cairns is visiting Nurseries to gain transition information.
- Induction days at High Mill for new P1 pupils are Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st May

### Charity and Fundraising

A huge thank you to the RotaKids and all who donated to the “Straws for Life” fundraising this year. We have raised £110.00. A new global citizenship project has now been undertaken “Life Boxes”. The idea is to raise funds that can buy emergency materials to go in the life box. These boxes can then be transported around the world to areas in need or suffering from a natural disaster, such as floods or earthquakes. The RotaKids are presently discussing some fundraising ideas and will share these with the children.

On May 14th we will be having a visit from a very special bear called “Paddington”. He is visiting us to help raise funds for Cancer Research. All the children and staff can dress up in their onesies or pyjamas and bring their own special bear to school. We would ask that everyone donates at least £1 and this will go directly to Cancer Research. If you, as a family, decide to do a little collection from close friends and family this can also be donated. All money needs to be in on the 14th. Thank you for your support in these matters.

### Interhouse Events

Our Interhouse Cross Country was delayed due to poor weather but will take place soon. Interhouse Football, Netball and Quiz will also be held over May and June.

### Swimming

Swimming for our P5 children continues this term. Their session is 11am-12am. The last date will be 20th June.

### Wiston Lodge Residential

This was a fantastic outing for all involved. The children enjoyed a variety of activities, tasty homemade food and the fun of sharing a dorm! I myself had a great time and enjoyed every minute. We will all have memories for life and I will long remember our night walk and Rhys Cogdell on the high ropes …… the stuff of “You've Been Framed”!

I visited the Lodge again during the Easter Break and the staff were highly complimentary of our children making special mention of their manners and how they all supported and ensured that everyone felt included. Excellent !!!

### Summer Menu

This commences on the second week after we return from Spring Break. Menus have been sent home for you to consider. Those who pay for lunch please note the price will be £1.65 from the 23rd April.

A great deal of effort is put into ensuring school meals are balanced and nutritious. Special care is taken when considering salt and sugar content.

As a Health Promoting School we also try to offer fresh fruit and juice via our Fruit Basket for break times. Fruit is the best choice for snack and while packed lunch content is at parental discretion, we would ask you to consider the number of items children bring to school and in some cases cut back on the “sweetie element”, if possible.

A new payment system will be coming into place in mid May. This is called Parent Pay and information will be sent out to families this week. School lunches, outings etc will be paid through this system in most cases.
**Free Lunch and Clothing Grants**
Can we also remind parents/carers that applications for Free Meals and Clothing Grants need to be done annually? These applications are available on the South Lanarkshire Website and also at the Q and A Office situated at the Library.

**Head Teacher's Comments**

Nearly 40 years has gone in the blink of an eye. The last 10 weeks are going to be no different and I hope I get time to reflect a little and enjoy my swan song.

I have been a student teacher, class teacher, Assistant Head, Depute Head and Head Teacher. Each job has brought new challenges and great rewards.

I have been blessed with a wonderful, long suffering husband, close family, good friends and colleagues and a career I have truly loved.

At the heart of all of this lies the basic fact that I like children. I love to see them happy and flourishing. They never cease to amaze me with their insight, resilience and humour. If I am remembered as someone who had their best interests at heart and showed them and their families kindness, I will retire happy.

I do hope to do the occasional teaching supply day here and there and this will take me back to my first love, class teaching.

I have been packing a school bag since the age of five so a big change is coming my way and Sundays will take on a whole new look.

I wish to thank the staff, you and your families and especially the children of High Mill a healthy, happy future.

Thank you for having me at High Mill and supporting me so well. It's been a blast!

Marion Girdwood - Head Teacher.

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**GALA DAY**

9TH JUNE - “Art Attack”

If your child would like to take part in this event please return the slip below.

If you have already returned a slip please ignore this.

THIS IS ONLY FOR CHILDREN WHO AS YET HAVE NOT INDICATED AN INTEREST TO THE GALA COMMITTEE. PLEASE RETURN THIS TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

My child would like to take part. .................. Yes/no

NAME OF CHILD: ..........................................................

Class: .................................................................

Signed: (Parent/Carer) ..........................................................
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 20th April</strong></td>
<td>Assembly – Shelter Box presentation from Rotary. This will be our new Global citizenship challenge. Reports Home with parents &amp; parents night times. BOOK FAIR ARRIVES –This will be here for 1 week and will be open on Parents Night.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 25th</strong></td>
<td>Parents Consultations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 27th</strong></td>
<td>Autism afternoons Carluke High School for invited families Bikability 1.15-1.45 P5 children –need bike and helmet.</td>
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<td><strong>Monday 7th May</strong></td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 8th May</strong></td>
<td>IN-SERVICE –no children should attend school</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 10th</strong></td>
<td>P2/3 reports and parent consultation times home.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 14th</strong></td>
<td>Paddington visiting us to day to raise funds for Cancer Research. Every child and staff member to hopefully donate £1 or more if you wish.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 15th</strong></td>
<td>School Board 6.30-8.30pm Parental Consultations P2/3</td>
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<td><strong>Monday 21st</strong></td>
<td>Health Week-events to be finalised. These may include visits to Carluke Primay Muga Pitch and children should bring kit every day.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 22nd</strong></td>
<td>Triathlon ALL P5, P6 P7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 24th</strong></td>
<td>Mrs Girdwood’s –last stroll. As part of health week the children and staff will take a stroll round Carluke. Afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 25th and Monday 28th</strong></td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 29th</strong></td>
<td>School Sports 10am John Cumming Stadium parents and carers welcome. If poor weather we will do events inside school-sorry no capacity for an audience.</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 30th</strong></td>
<td>P7 CHS come to High Mill –walked up by Miss McNeil leaving at 8.40am and will be dismissed from CHS at the end of their school day to make their own way home unless being collected by parents. P1 –new intake Induction –to hall with parents at 1.30pm. Uniforms can be ordered and paid for.</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 31st</strong></td>
<td>P7 CHS-to make own way there and home. Miss McNeil will be at CHS first thing to check on any issues. P1 –new intake Induction –canteen to try school dinners then to class 2.30 pm dismissal. Details to follow.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 1st JUNE</strong></td>
<td>Family Learning Club CHS for parents and P7 children -1st, 8th, 15th 12.30-2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 9th</strong></td>
<td>GALA DAY-good luck to all taking part and especially to Gala Maids Grace Weir and Chelsea Gault.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 15th</strong></td>
<td>Going For Green Assembly –all parents welcome. Doors open 1.40pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 19th</strong></td>
<td>Prize Giving –all parents/carers welcome. Doors open 9.50. 10am start.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 28th</strong></td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSES FOR SUMMER BREAK 1PM</td>
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