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.

Our final term of session 2015-16 has started very well. The teachers, children and I have a very clear purpose and that is to ensure we use our time to its best advantage for effective teaching and learning and to plan for next session.

Our school motto is “Aiming High” and we will do that now and in sessions to follow.

Teaching and Learning
Our main focus will continue to be on Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Health and Well Being. All classes will be working on Spanish, Expressive Arts and Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP).

We are stressing with children the continued need for high standards and good efforts in all areas. Other areas to be delivered:

- Primary 1: Sound, Plants, Olympics
- Primary 2/3: Sun and Stars, Olympics
- Primary 3/4: Human Body, Ramadan, Olympics
- Primary 5/6: Life Cycles, Wormery, Olympics, Orienteering, Triathlon
- Primary 6/7: Rocket Science, Plants, Olympics, Orienteering, Triathlon
- P7 Transition: Lego Project

Improving our School
Home and school are the most important influences on a young person's life. They help build a child's learning, attitudes, hopes for the future and even how they feel about themselves. Parents and carers want the best for their children. You want your child to be safe, happy, doing their best. You worry when they are unhappy and your heart swells when they achieve some new skill. Head Teachers and staff are just the same. They want all our children to feel safe and included, treated fairly and listened to. Each child is an individual and we celebrate any achievement small or great.

Home and school working in partnership make a formidable force in ensuring each of our children has the best chances, feels supported, is encouraged, challenged and grows towards a fulfilling future.

High Mill is growing and all parents and carers are welcome in the school. Phone if you have any questions or worries, never feel shy about joining in school life and as Head Teacher I value and welcome your opinions and ideas.

At the end of this newsletter is a short list of some of the areas we hope to work on in school next year. Some people may have read them at Parents’ Night.

Please add your ideas and opinions. They will be taken into account. I assure you. We have great staff at High Mill, the children are fantastic and that is down to you as dedicated parents and
carers. Thank you for your support and remember my door is always open.

**Parents' Evening**
Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Parents’ Night Consultations or who have made arrangements for appointments. There was a very good turnout and teachers and parents have had an opportunity to discuss progress and next steps. We have some points to follow up on and will do so as soon as possible.

**Classes and Staffing 2016-17**
This is a time of year when work is being done on formulation of classes and ensuring appropriate staffing levels.

As yet we have no firm class lists. We are working as a staff to ensure maximum teaching and learning for the last two months. We are collating and gathering information for transition to next year.

There will be composite classes at most and perhaps all stages. This is nothing new in High Mill and means that within a class there may be two age groups. Within any style of class children work in groups for Numeracy, Reading, Writing. Composite classes are no different in this respect. If you wish more information on this subject SLC website is useful or please contact the school and we will give you more information.

We would hope to have our classes and staffing in place before summer break, but please understand that things can change up to and even beyond our start in August.

**Reading**
Reading is a key skill for life and work. It is always a high priority in school and an area where parents and carers greatly support their children. This support can range from doing reading homework, to helping children with their sounds, encouraging children to read and reading to and with your child.

In recent reading tests nearly all children showed progress, but we do need to maintain a high focus in this area. We need to see more children progressing at a greater rate and we will have raising attainment in reading as a key priority in our plans for next session.

All children will be having time in class for Reading for Enjoyment. This will usually be a starter task two days a week and a time will also be set aside on a Friday. Our recent Book Fair was a great success and raised £567. Thank you to all pupils, parents/carers and staff who supported this book fair. We will be restarting our Lending Library for P3 and P4 on Thursday 12th May.

We would also like to ask any children to hand in any books or comics that they are willing to part with. These will then go into a FREE Book Shop where children can choose a book to keep. Please start sending any books in now. The Free Book Shop will be open at the end of the month. All of these measures aim to encourage reading and build interest and skills.

**Attendance and Punctuality**
Attendance is something that is monitored and recorded on a daily basis and from recent Pupil Reports you will have a clear idea of your own child's attendance and number of latenesses. We all understand the need for children to be at school and on time for lines. This practice ensures children have the best opportunities for learning and are not missing out on starts of lessons or the development of skills. It also ensures the smooth running of school especially in the mornings and other children's learning is not affected by interruptions. We always work to help children "catch up" and fully understand that illness or family life can impact on their attendance at times. Thank you to all the parents and carers who keep us informed of when children are going to be absent and for ensuring children come to school ready for learning. I personally monitor children's individual end of month attendance levels and will continue to look for an increase in attendance percentages at all stages.
Percentage Average Attendance End of April 2016:
P1 89.03%  P2 89.68%  P3 91.17%  P4 94.50%  P5 84.50%  P6 91.60%  P7 95.37%

Our overall school average at this point is 90.83%. Our hope is that when reporting on this next year, we have a higher school average indicating an overall increase in attendance. Well done to the sixteen pupils who are currently on 100% attendance.

After School Clubs
Over the coming weeks there will be a number of afterschool activities:

- **Wednesday** Football Club 3pm-4pm  Mr Skelton - Parent Helper
- **Tuesday** Active Club -Tuesdays P1-P3 3pm-4pm  Mr Webb - Active School Co-ordinator
- **Tuesday** Wool Craft - P6 and P7 3pm-4pm  Mrs Campbell
- **Monday** Film Club - P3 and P4 3pm-4pm  Miss McNeil
- **Thursday** Spanish - P1, P2 and P5 3pm -4pm Mrs Welsh
- **Tuesday** Homework Club - P5, P6, P7 3pm -4pm Miss MacGregor
- **Tuesday** ICT Club 3pm-4pm  Mrs Naismith
- **Tuesday** Bikeability Monday 9th and Tuesday 17th MayMrs Girdwood

Teachers will speak to children and seek permission slips. P1-P3 club has already started and if your child would like to join, permission slips are available from the office.

Induction Days - New P1s
June 1st and 2nd are the days for next year’s P1s to come along to school. On both days children and parents should enter by the MAIN DOOR at 1.30pm.

On the first day everyone will go to the hall and parents/carers will have some information sessions and a chance to order school uniform items (payment is required at the time of ordering and school ties are available from the school office - £5). The children will have lessons in their classroom and parents/carers will collect their children at 2.30pm.

On the second day parents/carers should bring children, leave them and collect them at 2.30pm. We are looking forward to meeting you all.

Carluke High School Induction Days
The induction dates for P7 is 1st and 2nd June. Mrs Welsh will be there on the morning of the first day, but children will be dismissed from CHS on the first day and on the second day should make their own way there and home.

Parent Helpers
As always a huge thank you to our parents who run our very successful Breakfast Club. This starts at 8.15 am and children wanting breakfast need to be there before 8.30am. Our Parent Council is going from strength to strength. They have a new constitution, regular monthly meetings and are well underway with Gala Day preparations. The Parent Council are going to buy ties for our P7s and hold a whole school disco on the afternoon of Tuesday 14th June for all ages to celebrate our P7s years at High Mill.

Thank you to Mr Skelton who has recently bought and donated more items of football gear and to Mr McInnes who has bought and donated a beautiful shield to be awarded at Prize Giving to celebrate one of our school values - “Kindness”. If any parent wishes to be a Parent Helper, please contact the school office and arrangements can be put in place.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support of your children and the school in general.

Marion Girdwood - Head Teacher
Diary
These dates and events correct at the moment. Please note change of date for School Sports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5th</td>
<td>In-service day - Children should not attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9th/10th</td>
<td>NEC Photos for P7s</td>
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<td>May 13th</td>
<td>NSPCC talk with P6 and P7</td>
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<td>May 16th</td>
<td>P7s to be fitted for High School Blazer – 9.30am £10 deposit required when ordering (Total cost = £27)</td>
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<td>May 17th</td>
<td>Parent Council Meeting - 6.30am</td>
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<td>To be held in the school</td>
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<td>May 19th</td>
<td>Extra Transition Day for any P7s at 1pm</td>
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<td>May 19th</td>
<td>Football - John Cumming Stadium 12.30pm</td>
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<td>May 24th</td>
<td>Rag Bag Collection - please hand in any clothes to office</td>
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<td>May 25th</td>
<td>Triathlon - Leisure Centre and John Cumming Stadium – All day event for all P5, P6 and P7 pupils.</td>
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<td>May 26th</td>
<td>Dress Down Day - £1 donation would be much appreciated</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27th and 30TH</td>
<td>HOLIDAYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1 and 2nd</td>
<td>Induction Days P7 – Carluke High School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Also Induction Days for new P1 pupils – 1.30pm</td>
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<td>June 6th - 10th</td>
<td>Health Week – events to be decided</td>
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<td>June 9th</td>
<td>Schools Football Tournament at Burn Road 9.30am-2.30pm</td>
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<td>June 11th</td>
<td>GALA DAY - “Star Wars”</td>
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<td>June 13th</td>
<td>Sports Day - John Cumming Stadium from 10am till 12noon - parents/carers welcome</td>
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<td>June 14th</td>
<td>Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm</td>
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<td>June 15th</td>
<td>Inter-House Football match – Moor Park</td>
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<td>June 17th</td>
<td>Going for Green Assembly - 1.40pm</td>
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<td>June 20th</td>
<td>P7 High School Blazers delivered 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21st</td>
<td>Prize Giving Service starts at 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24th</td>
<td>School closes for Summer holidays</td>
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Improvement Plan Priorities 2016-17  
PARENTAL VIEWS MAY 2016-17

This is the beginning of our ideas for next year:

Please tick if you agree OR add any comments you would like to and at the end add any strengths or ideas you have. Many thanks.

To raise attainment in Literacy for all children with attention paid to closing the attainment gap for most disadvantaged children.

To improve the outcomes for children and their families by having a clear and shared approach to Health and Wellbeing which is supported by an inclusive ethos, fulfilment of statutory duties and curriculum design.

Good things about High Mill: ..............................................................................................................................................................................................
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Any ideas for us to try? ..................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................
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Any form returned will earn your child a House Point.

Please remember if you have any concerns or queries, don't wait till next year, contact the school and we will set up a meeting or have a phone discussion.

Marion Girdwood
Head Teacher