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.

Dear Parent, Carer

Welcome to our newsletter for November. It comes to you from a busy, vibrant school. We continue to aim high, work to uphold our values and endeavour to provide a quality service to pupils and family.

We hope you find this newsletter informative. If you need further information, advice, have a worry or idea you wish to share, please contact the school.

Teaching and Learning
The core work of teaching and learning is always high on our agenda. As outlined in our October newsletter classes are working on a broad curriculum, with care taken to plan for progression, depth and challenge.

Throughout November we will be involved in a series of monitoring and tracking exercises based on how well we are progressing with building our rationale for the Curriculum and aspects of our vision.

- Learning Conversations between the HT and teaching staff to evaluate progress in class, share good practice and highlight next steps.
- HT classroom visits monitoring teaching and learning including key points from our vision and curriculum rationale.
- Pupil Focus Groups, where pupils will share their opinions on what is going well, what needs more work and any fresh ideas.
- Assessment and evaluation of progress, attainment and next steps for children with ASPs, SMART targets and Behaviour Books.
- Moderation of Writing for all pupils.
- Individual Maths Profiles for all pupils
- P1 Phonic testing
- Big Maths Mental Agility testing

This will add to the information from our Parents’ Survey conducted in September. It will give us rich data to consider as to how we are doing and most importantly the impact on learning.
Our curriculum rationale - what our teaching and learning is all about......

"At High Mill Primary we have a shared understanding that our curriculum is designed to promote learning and enjoyment for all our pupils.
It provides breadth, depth, progression and elements of personalisation and choice. It promotes progression and works to meet the needs of learners. It takes into account prior learning, interests and provides challenge. It allows for fresh ideas, makes use of local circumstances and local and national guidelines."

A great deal of work has been done on Reading Strategies, Art and Music planning. We plan to pilot our Art and Music planners in Term 3.

On the Open Afternoon of Thursday November 19th classes will be involved in working on Reading Strategies. We hope as you go round the classes you gain some insight into how the children are working. The afternoon runs from 1.30pm-2.30pm. We hope you enjoy it.

Please find attached to the Newsletter a full outline of our three year strategic plan aimed at school improvement. The HT would be pleased to discuss this with anyone who wishes further information.

Our School Budget is currently being allocated to buying some Art, Maths, Assessment and class materials. We are also buying a small fridge for medical supplies, display cabinet for our growing amount of trophies and two playground bins.

£500 is also being spent on novels.

The School fund is buying £200 of musical instruments. This money was gifted from The Parent Council. Other monies in the School Fund are being used to support travel costs for school outings and to buy sporting kit items. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Skelton for their gift of sports kit and football trophies.

The Wellie Walk raised £297.59. Thank you very much for your support!

Breakfast Club
Our Breakfast Club continues to be popular. This starts at 8.15am and children are dismissed into the playground at 8.45am. Thanks to all our parent helpers supporting this. If you have any good condition board games you no longer need, these would be well used at Breakfast Club and for Wet Weather Intervals.

Afterschool Football
We hope to run a regular afterschool club for P5-P7 girls and boys for football skills. Mr Mutch, Mr Tervill and Mr Skelton make up our team of coaches. PVG checks have been completed or are in process for these gentlemen. Our children are delighted about this opportunity and between new strips, trophies and coaches are feeling very positive and happy.

Parent Helpers
If you would like to be a Parent Helper please contact the office and Mrs Gray will sort out the appropriate paperwork with you.

Thank you to Mrs Wardropper for “volunteering” to run our lending library on Thursdays.

Pupils’ Voice
Pupils have a very important and recognised voice in school. All our pupils have opportunities to discuss school and particular groups represent the body of pupils. They seek children’s opinion and do a great job in supporting their fellow pupils and the work of the school. All children with a post of responsibility have been voted for by their peers.
RotaKids - President - Ryan Higgins.
The RotaKids are a fantastic group of children who are leading our Global Citizenship drive to support the Steadfast Project in Kenya. They will present a film at an assembly in a few weeks to help us understand who we are trying to help. The pupils also hold monthly meetings with Carluke Rotary. Ryan chairs the meeting. Morgan McMillan as secretary takes minutes and keeps the diary and Hayley Hunstone gives a Treasurer's report. The children learn a lot from this experience.

School Pupil Council
We have representatives from each class on our Pupil Council. At the moment they are discussing their remit and will soon conduct a pupil survey on key issues. They also keep a record in class of issues children want to raise.

JRSOs
Aaron Rieley and Rebecca Reynolds are our Junior Road Safety Officers. At the moment they are trying to organise a “Be Safe Be Seen” fashion show to promote the idea with children that they have to wear something bright to be seen when near or crossing roads.

Buddies
The Buddies do an important job supporting some pupils who feel the need for a special pupil friend. They will also help the HT doing a Bullyproofing survey at the end of November.

House Leaders
The House leaders held a very enjoyable Talent Show on 30th Oct. This involves a lot of skill and hard work and the contestants also showed lots of talent. Fantastic, confident pupils took the stage and really entertained their audience. We all had FUN. Good job everyone and a special congratulations to Felicity and Taylor Browning-Walker, this year's winners. “C” is for Cookie is still ringing in our ears!!

Head lice
We have a number of leaflets outlining how to tackle head lice. These are situated in the Parents leaflet stand and we have put some at the desk. It is wise to check your child's head regularly and if you need further advice the School Nurse at the Health Centre will also help.

Open Events
Parents and friends are welcome to attend our Remembrance Assembly on Friday 6th November 1.45pm start. P6/7 are taking this assembly. They have also included some Victoria Park children. We wish them good luck.

The 19th November is an Open afternoon running from 1.30pm-2.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to see the school at work. We hope to see you then.

Attendance
Attendance monitoring at the end of October showed a continuation of excellent attendance an upward trend for everyone else. We will really be looking at lateness this coming month.

Adverse Weather.
Winter is approaching and we all know that can mean some challenging weather conditions. When it is a snowy or icy morning, the Janitor's duty is to ensure gates are open and there is a pathway at the front of the school. He will salt these and, if possible, a pathway from the gate to the school door. When it is not possible to enter the playground children will come in the main entrance. We know the roads round the school can be difficult so caution should be taken if driving or walking.

Fortunately a number of our support staff and teaching staff live in Carluke and they would most likely walk to school taking into account the extra time needed. Schools are only closed in very serious conditions. Keep an eye on weather alerts, SLC website and radio.
You may delay the start to the day to see that conditions are safe and children can come safely to school. Better a little late than off for a complete day. We fully appreciate that it can be difficult first thing in the morning especially if you have work or other commitments. Parental discretion is very important and we know you will make wise choices.

Children love the snow and when in school they may still be going out in it so being dressed for the weather is important. Please put names on jackets.

PLEASE ENSURE WE HAVE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT PHONE NUMBERS AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS.

**Three Years**

On a personal note I have now been in High Mill for three years, originally as Acting HT and then Head Teacher. My role to lead High Mill as its Head Teacher is one characterised by responsibility, challenge, resilience, hard work and devotion. I both relish and cherish this post. Building partnerships with staff, parents/carers and other agencies has been a central task. We are all on a journey together, aiming to make High Mill the best it can be. My greatest reward is in the interaction I have with the children. To have their trust, share in their achievements, smiles and laughter is my true joy. I thank you for the privilege of being part of your children's lives.

Marion Girdwood - Headteacher

### DIARY DATES

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<th>NOVEMBER</th>
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<td>2ND (Mon)</td>
<td>In-Service Day - pupils do not attend</td>
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<td>5th (Thurs)</td>
<td>Bonfire Theme Day Menu (see separate sheet for choices)</td>
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<td>19th (Thurs)</td>
<td>Football Festival - John Cumming Stadium - 12.15 – 2.15pm</td>
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<td>27th (Fri)</td>
<td>Open Afternoon in School - starts 1.30pm - parents welcome</td>
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<td>27th (Fri)</td>
<td>Dress Down Day - £1</td>
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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>10th (Thurs)</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch (date to be confirmed)</td>
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<td>11th (Fri)</td>
<td>‘Aladdin’ Panto outing to Lanark Memorial Hall - leave 9.15am return 12.35pm</td>
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<td>14th (Mon)</td>
<td>‘Cinderella Rockerfella’ - afternoon performance - 1.45pm</td>
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<td>15th (Tues)</td>
<td>‘Cinderella Rockerfella’ - evening performance - 6.30pm</td>
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<td>18th (Fri)</td>
<td>P1-P3 Christmas Party - 1.30pm start</td>
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<td>21st (Mon)</td>
<td>P4-P7 Christmas Party - 1.30pm start</td>
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<td>23rd (Wed)</td>
<td>School closes for Christmas Holidays at 2.30pm</td>
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