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 for the future.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our October/November Newsletter. It contains some reports on what has been going on in school and in our diary we look forward to what's happening soon. We hope you find it both informative and entertaining.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning is our core business and always comes first. Children at all stages have been working hard and taking their learning forward. Our main focus is raising attainment and achievement in Literacy and Numeracy. Our focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing will see all classes continue working on these areas. They will also all work on Spanish, ICT skills, P.E and this month all classes will also be working on ABC Music and the songs for our Christmas Production "Baboushka".

Some other things children will be working on include:

P1/2 - Pets and Vets; SHANARRI
P2/3 - Houses and Homes; Materials; SHANARRI
P4 - Water; Glasgow; SHANARRI
P5/6 - Enterprise - "MacMillan Coffee Morning"; Japan; SHANARRI
P6/7 - Enterprise - "MacMillan Coffee Morning"; Japan; SHANARRI

SHANARRI refers to Safe, Healthy, Achieving; Nurtured; Achieving; Responsible; Respected; Included. These indicators should be areas our pupils understand, feel supported in both at home and school and can work on. All our children have learning targets as outlined and shared in their Personal Learning Plans, SMART targets or Additional Support Plans. They return to these regularly to evaluate how they are doing and to consider next learning steps.

First Minister’s Reading Challenge

You may have heard this mentioned on the news. There is a national drive to ensure our children attain the best possible levels in reading. Literacy attainment is also one of our key priorities as outlined in our Improvement Plan. We have been working in past sessions as well as this to take our general attainment levels forward. Here are some examples:

- refreshed Reading Programme and planning
- Book Banding which allows children to consolidate skills
- embedding reading strategies aimed at higher order reading skills
- greater focus on reading for enjoyment
- weekly lending library for P2 and P3
- Home/School Partnership Project for P1 which has been a great success
- new core resources, resources for Support for Learning and reading for enjoyment
- Reading Passports
- Scholastic Book Fair
Whole class novels
Film House Visit
P1/2 visit to local library, 29th September - other classes will visit the library throughout the year
P1, P2 visit to library to meet author Matthew Fitt

At this point we have to say a huge thank you to all the children and families who supported our **Book Fair**. You spent an amazing £651.22. This gave us £326.48 Rewards to spend on books and all classes were given an equal amount to spend. This is hugely appreciated by all.

We should also mention here that our **Wellie Walk** raised £477.20. A fantastic total!! £300 of this money is being spent on books for reading for enjoyment with the remainder in School Funds for any other extras for the children. £300 will also be spent very soon from the School Budget on reading materials.

A huge thank you to all parents/carers for their donations and support. Your generosity is quite overwhelming standing to underline that not only do the families of High Mill care for their own, but have warm hearts that reach out to others.

**Parents' Night**
Parents' Night was a great evening with the school busy and vibrant. We had a 95% turnout with a few other Parents making alternative appointments. Once again another example of how well families support their children and the school. If you have any future concerns or need a chat with the teacher, please contact the school and an appointment will be set up.

At Parents' Night there was an opportunity to voice your opinion on **Homework**. From the returns it would seem that nearly all parents/carers were in favour of Homework. One or two people find it a real challenge though and if this is the case, please let me know and we will do our best to help.

Some parents/carers liked the idea of Homework being given out on a Monday and written Homework being handed in by a Thursday, as this gave you the chance to work Homework round other commitments. Also making models did not seem very popular. Finally, a few parents/carers thought it would be of benefit to have sessions on Literacy and Numeracy.

I worked with P5/6 children using them as a focus group and asking them similar questions. They were very much in agreement with what parents/carers had said and regarding model making some liked doing it, but felt that it should be up to them and not put out as a task. They also liked getting all their Homework out at the same time because they felt on a Thursday they could practice their Spelling if they need to or have a night off!! Teaching staff will now consider these points.

**Going For Green**
This is well underway and children will bring a slip home at the October Break to let you know how they are doing. There will be one significant change. I intend working with children who have Health and Wellbeing ASP targets to design a model just for them. Their new model will begin after the October Break and will be tied to them achieving targets. This will be a much more inclusive practice giving them the chance of success. When we mention the word inclusive there is an opportunity here to remind ourselves that High Mill is a non-denominational school, which can have children of different religions and ethnic backgrounds. It also has children of differing social and economic backgrounds and children who have particular diagnosed medical, educational, social and communication challenges, e.g Autism, ADHD, family difficulties, disability, allergies etc.

Our aim is to help children meet and have strategies to manage or overcome these barriers to learning and to be happy and productive in mainstream school. We also recognise that some children can have short term barriers such as a family crisis, moving house, friendship problems and if the school can help in any way, please let me know. This would be true of nearly all mainstream primaries. Please find attached a leaflet on Autism which you may find of interest.
Also can I remind everyone that this is a NUT FREE SCHOOL.

**Quick March Playtimes**
We are starting to do some playtime exercise with our classes. Each class will have one playtime a week when they do a brisk walk round the school perimeter. They will not cross any roads and be supervised by staff and helpers. They will get toilet time and time to eat their snack. This will start after the October Break.

**Jam and Ham Festival**
We all enjoyed being part of the joint choirs performing on 30th September. There was a very large audience and our choir was simply marvellous! They sang their little hearts out and I have to admit to having a little tear of pride in my eye. Well done children!

"It was really fun. We had a great time and we sang really well." Brooklyn McSeveney P4.

These children will perform at Tescos before Christmas and some of them at St John's Church on 24th October. **They will also sing for us at our assembly on 14th October. This assembly will have all classes sharing their learning. Parents/Carers and families are welcome to attend. Doors open at 2.00pm.**

Mrs Gray and I ran a Tombola Stall at the Jam and Ham Festival on Saturday 1st October which was held in Ramsey’s courtyard. We raised £116 and this money will buy certificates and a few things for the playground. Thank you to Staff and Parents/Carers who donated or supported the event.

**P5, P6, P7 Film House**
The pupils of our older classes visited the Film House in Edinburgh on Thursday 22nd September. It was an early start for everyone but they enjoyed a very informative and entertaining day. They heard about Roald Dahl, discussed and watched "Fantastic Mr Fox" and compared it to a Scottish text - "Sleekit Mr Todd".

"I found it very funny and we read a book in Scots too", said Kayleigh Park. "The book and the film are quite like each other and I liked the bit when the rat drank the beer!!" Jamie Miller.

**P6 and P7 Rugby**
P6 and P7 have just completed 5 weeks of rugby skills training. They really got involved and enjoyed this opportunity immensely. They are going to have two lessons at Carluke High School soon for sports taster sessions.

**P1-P3**
Our younger children were delighted to attend the Panto "Little Princess". This was in school and at the invitation of Victoria Park. It just got them in the mood for "The Wizard of Oz" which is the Panto we are all going to see in December.

**P4**
Our children from P4 went to The Leisure Centre in late September. They had taster sessions in a variety of sports. "There was gymnastics, rugby, basketball and football. “I liked doing basketball,” said Finlay Mackenzie, P4.

**Classroom Support**
As you will know we have a number of School Support Assistants who are timetabled to do supervisory duties and to work in the classrooms. I am delighted to say that we also have some CHS pupils who are doing work experience, a number of adults also doing work experience as they prepare to hopefully do teacher training and some fantastic parent helpers working in classes. All these adults are disclosed and although not trained support assistants, provide another form of support for us. Thank you to them all.
**Adverse Weather**

We are fast approaching the time of year when the weather can be both unpredictable and more severe. We have several teaching and support staff who stay in walking distance and they always make a great effort to come to school. If we have staff, the janitor can open the building. During any bad weather spells, please listen to the radio or look at the SLC website for any closures. These are rare and if you decide that your child is not coming to school first thing in the morning, please remember that conditions may improve and as long as the school is open you can send your child/ren to school later in the day.

Our adverse weather plan comes into play when the conditions are of concern. In snowy or icy weather, the Janitor has to first open up the school, then clear the path to the Main Entrance. When it is unwise or we are unable to open the gates children will enter by the Main Door. Children need to be dressed suitably for the changing weather and please write their names on jackets, jumpers etc. Many thanks as this makes it much easier to identify clothing.

Marion Girdwood  
Head Teacher

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**DIARY**

**OCTOBER**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10th</td>
<td>Football Coaching P2/3 am</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11th</td>
<td>ASD Meeting 3.30-4.30pm - relevant parents have already been invited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th</td>
<td>Football Festival – Boys and Girls teams  John Cumming Stadium 12.15-2.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 14th</td>
<td>PANTO Money to be in if possible or after October week holiday. Many thanks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17th-21st</td>
<td>OCTOBER HOLIDAY</td>
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| Monday 24th| Return to school  
St John’s Church - Choir - 7pm                                  |
| Monday 26th| P6 and P7 CHS Sports am.  
Netball Festival 10am-12noon                                       |
| Friday 28th| Dress Down Day  
Talent Show 1.40pm - Parents welcome  
Halloween Party Leisure Centre 6.30pm-8.30pm Ticket £1.50 on sale from office  
Run by Parent Council. |
| Monday 31st| SSPA lessons with all stages  
"Wild About Animals"                                                 |
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<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st</td>
<td>Deadline for Shoebox Appeal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th</td>
<td>Bring Your Parent to School - see your child at work. Learn more about Literacy/Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th</td>
<td>Football Festival – Boys and Girls 12.15pm-2.30pm</td>
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<td>Monday 21st</td>
<td>In-service Day-no pupils to attend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd</td>
<td>P1 – Matthew Fitt, Author at Library</td>
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<td>Friday 25th</td>
<td>Dress Down Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 5th</td>
<td>St Johns Church – Choir – more information to follow</td>
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<td>Monday 12th</td>
<td>‘Babushka’ – morning performance - 9.30am</td>
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<td>‘Babushka’ - evening performance 6.30pm -children to be in school for 6.15pm</td>
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<td>Tickets: £</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th</td>
<td>Panto outing to Lanark Memorial Hall - Ticket: £8.00</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14th</td>
<td>P1 and P2 trip to Gouldings £9.00</td>
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<td>P1 – P7 Flu Immunisation</td>
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<td>Friday 16th</td>
<td>Going For Green Assembly-parents welcome</td>
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<td>Monday 19th</td>
<td>P4-P7 - Christmas Party pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th</td>
<td>P1-P3 - Christmas Party pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22nd</td>
<td>Church with Vitoria Park 10amstart. Parents and families welcome School closes at 2.30pm</td>
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<td>January - Monday 9th</td>
<td>SCHOOL RE-OPENS</td>
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