Dear Parent/Carer

The session has started well. Timetables have been agreed, work is underway and staff and pupils are settling to routines. It promises to be a great year.

**Teaching and Learning**

**Literacy** - all children are involved in lessons in Writing, Reading and Spelling with our younger children working on Phonics.

Reading is an essential life skill and has a high focus. Regular reading practice to promote fluency and decoding is underway and supported by Homework and Personal Learning targets. We are in the process of buying further resources to support reading especially for our younger pupils. The Lending Library has also started for pupils in P3 and P4. Teachers are also developing the use of reading strategies to promote comprehension and higher order reading skills at all stages. Mrs Naismith is leading development in this area.

Writing lessons are also planned and we have emphasis on the tools for Writing. This is done through VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Opening and Punctuation).

**Numeracy** - all children are in ability based groups with daily Numeracy Practice. Miss McNeil, our Numeracy Ambassador, is leading development work with staff in Big Maths. This aims to see measured development of essential menial maths skills. Most classes are working on understanding number and the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Teachers will also be working on Problem Solving with their pupils. Teachers regularly assess progress and parents/carers will be able to see how their child is doing in their Home Folders.

**Spanish**

Mrs Welsh, our lead teacher for Spanish, has ensured all classes have a programme to follow and has also been involved in teaching sessions with classes.

**IOL - Local Study**

We have been learning lots about our local area and children will be sharing their knowledge at assemblies.

**Junior Road Safety Officers**

Aaron Rieley and Rebecca Reynolds are this year’s JRSOs. They have already visited classes to give them details about this year’s Road Safety Calendar Competition. They will also be working with the Head Teacher and Travel Plan Co-ordinator to look at issues about Road Safety and Safe Access in and around the school.

**RotaKids**

Our RotaKids Committee is made up of Ryan Higgins (President), Aiden Scollan (Vice President), Morgan McMillan (Secretary), Hayley Hunstone (Treasurer) and Committee Members Oliver Scollan, David Connacher and Adele Balanda.

They have had their first meeting with members of Carluke Rotary and discussed potential projects for this year.
**Going for Green**

Going for Green is a system aimed at promoting best learning chances for all. Class Charters have been devised with this in mind. Children upholding these stay on GREEN. Teachers have a responsibility to ensure all pupils are supported to remain on GREEN, but where pupils continue to choose not to follow their Class Charter, they will move from GREEN to YELLOW or RED. These colours will be intimated on a daily basis in their Homework Diaries or in the case of Primary 1, in their ‘Going for Green’ Booklet. Parents/carers have shown excellent support for this system and home/school working together ensures High Mill Primary has a very positive and productive ethos.

**Residential Outing – P6 and P7**

This year’s Residential Outing is to Wiston Lodge, which is outside Biggar. Letters of interest have been sent out with places being awarded on a first come basis. This will be a two day, one overnight trip taking place on Wednesday 30th March to Thursday 31st March 2016. The cost is £84.00 and if any other P6 or P7 pupils are interested, please let us know. A deposit of £16.00 is due to be paid by Thursday 24th September 2015.

**Jam and Ham Festival**

Our choir has begun practising for the Jam and Ham Festival. Our songs this year are - ‘Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious’ and ‘Bare Necessities’. The children will perform at Lifestyles on Friday 2nd October and on Saturday 3rd October, we are having a High Mill Tombola Stall. This will be part of the festivities held at Ramsays. The theme is ‘Food and Drink’ and we would welcome any donations for our stall, e.g. bottles of soft drinks, wine, vinegar, sauce, jars of jam, honey, beetroot etc and food products which are obviously within their sell by date. All money raised will go to school funds.

**School Uniform**

I have to commend all our families for ensuring all children look so neat and well presented. They are fantastic and well done in ensuring children also have P.E. kit and soft shoes. Thank you.

**NOTE TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS – CAN YOU PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD’S NAME ON ITEMS OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, BAGS AND LUNCH BAGS/BOXES.**

This would be much appreciated by school staff and would help to track items to the correct child. Many thanks for your assistance.

**Photograph Money**

All orders and money to be in to the school by Monday 7th September as the school order is being picked up on Tuesday 8th September. After that any orders must be sent direct to Tempest Photographers by the parent/carer. The class photographs have been delivered separately and can be ordered from today. Orders along with the payment to be back to school by Friday 11th September. Many thanks.

**Up-to-Date Information**

Children will be bringing home very soon all the annual forms for parents/carers to check all information for school records. Please ensure that we have up-to-date addresses, contact numbers, emergency contact numbers, and any medical conditions. If any of these change throughout the session, please contact the school office so records can be updated.

**Fruit basket**

The pupil group running our daily Fruit basket is made up from - Emily Searle, Amyleigh Sadler, Kayleigh Park and Kye Adam.

Fruit and fruit juice is sold daily at 30p per item. The motto for the Fruit Basket is ‘Health is our Business’ and the idea is to promote healthy snacks.

**Certificates**

We are also delighted that we have received a beautiful certificate from the National President of Rotary Great Britain and Ireland to mark the excellent work done for Mary’s Meals. Mary’s Meals, themselves, have also sent the school a ‘thank you’ certificate. These are on show in the school.
**House Captains**
The children will be choosing their House Captains next week from Primary 6 and 7 and these pupils will be required to prepare a presentation for the post of House Captain and the school pupils will vote.

**Rag Bag Collection**
There will be a Rag Bag collection on Friday 2nd October and bags will be issued nearer the time. Meanwhile, if anyone has items of clothing they wish to donate to the Rag Bag collection, please bring in to the school anytime. Only wearable clothing, any age group, paired shoes, handbags, belts is acceptable.

**Panto outing**
The whole school will be going to Aladdin panto in Lanark Memorial Hall on Friday 11th December. If anyone still has to pay their £8.00, please hand in to the school by the end of September.

**Flu Immunisation**
Flu immunisation forms will be collected on Monday 7th September and the vaccinations will be carried out on Wednesday 7th October.

**Fluoride Varnish**
Letters for fluoride varnish are being picked up on Tuesday 8th September and the fluoride varnish will be carried out on Monday 14th September for P1-P4.

**September Weekend**
Just a reminder that Friday 25th September and Monday 28th September are holidays.

Marion Girdwood
Head Teacher