Dear Parent/Carer

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.*

Welcome to our March/April Newsletter and hopefully the arrival of Spring.

Our major challenge this session and for the future is raising attainment and achievement. We aim to see every child work at their best pace and make progress. We all have our part to play in ensuring our children are able and willing to take up the opportunities school affords them and we all share the same desire to see our children do their best. Our focus is that pupils achieve the appropriate levels in Numeracy and Literacy.

Teachers are currently producing attainment levels and beginning to think about reports. These serve to highlight the range of attainment within each year group and across the school. We have very able learners, those on the expected level for their age and several children who are operating below that.

Our task is to challenge the able, ensure that children are all progressing at their best pace and where there are barriers to learning help children overcome these and be the best they can. Every child is an individual with their own strengths and challenges along with their own family background. Some children are very fast learners, others need lots of planned support. Some are great at sports, others love reading or singing. Some children find it easy to make friends others are shy and can feel overwhelmed.

Families are all different too, but all our families and children have the same right to flourish.

Together we have built and continue to build a caring community in High Mill where all our children are valued for who they are. Parents/Carers, children, staff, teachers, partners and myself will continue to aim high, work hard, want the best for our children and strive to see them attain. Together we are “Aiming High” and a force to be reckoned with.

Teaching and Learning

- Attendance

To get the most out of learning and teaching children need to be at school. Good attendance and punctuality are essentials. Currently I am involved in contacting families where children have concerning attendance levels or are frequent latecomers. Parents/Carers have a key role and responsibility and while we understand that illness or family circumstances may have a part to play, the message is clear if fit children should be at school.

Well done to all the children with excellent or perfect attendance.
Core subjects

Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing continue to be at the centre of our teaching and learning. All classes will continue to devote most time to these areas.

Staff have worked tirelessly to develop these areas and updated Position Statements on Literacy and Numeracy are available on the website or you can get a hard copy from the Main Office. These tell you about the main teaching in these areas. Newly designed HWB and Religious and Moral programmes are also available.

All pupils will be involved in our annual standardised Reading tests in March and on-going assessment in Writing, Spelling and Numeracy. We hope to report in our next newsletter how we are progressing as a school.

Pupil Reports will be sent home on 19th April, just after Spring Break and Parents’ Night is on Wednesday 26th April.

Other areas of teaching and learning coming up.

P1/2 Children of WW11; ABC Music; Bible Stories; Pancakes!
P2/3 Ollie the Octopus; ABC Music; Sun, Moon, Stars; Easter Customs
P4 Romans; ABC Music; Places of Worship
P5/6 Titanic; ABC Music; Buddhism; Living Things;
P6/7 Tudors and Stuarts; ABC Music; Easter; HWB; Know the score; Living Things

Scottish Theme.
Our Scottish Theme covered in January was a great success. Pupils at all stages were engaged with Scottish Literacy, song and Art. The Scottish Showcase on Friday 10th February was fantastic. There was a great turnout from parents/carers and friends and they enjoyed the recitations, songs, dancing and music.

Burns certificate winners - Eilidh Kerr, Oliver Scollan, Jamie Martin, David Connacher, Kheya Aitken, Lexi Black, Tyler Dewar Harvey, Aiden Scollan, Kayleigh Park, Demi Cronin, Sophie Walker.

The winner of the Burns Cup, as voted for by adults at the showcase, was Lexi Black.

P5/6/7 all enjoyed an educational outing to the Burns Exhibition in Alloway. They learned lots about the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns, his works and way of life. This was fully paid for from School Funds.

Health Week
Our Health Week in January was a great success with all classes involved in various activities centred on a healthy lifestyle. Activities included hand washing, tooth brushing, foods journey, keep fit, special visits for football and use of Carlukel Primary’s Muga Pitch, Internet Safety and other various class lessons.

RotaKids
The RotaKids will be attending a convention at Livingston on Wednesday 1st March. They will need to bring a packed lunch and will be leaving at 9.15am returning to the school at 2.00pm. They have been successful in raising funds for “Straws for Life” which is our global citizenship project. So far they have raised £40.45.

Pupil Council
The Rights Respecting School and the Pupil Council have been discussing various aspects of school life. They will also be organising a charity day for Red Nose Day on Friday 24th March. Children can wear red and/or red noses to school and everyone is asked to make a small donation that will be sent to the appeal.
**World Book Day**
World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March. All pupils will be given a £1 voucher which can be used to buy books. Children can come to school dressed as a favourite book or comic book character. They can also bring their favourite books to school that day and if they have any books they no longer want, these will go into our free book Swap Shop. Teachers will read to the children from their favourite books and there will be a quiet reading hour. Teachers are also organising other activities such as paired reading and reciprocal reading.

**Swimming**
P5 start swimming lessons at Carluke Leisure Centre on Thursday 23rd March and will need to bring their swimming kit and towel on Thursdays. The swimming lessons last for 12 weeks.

**Football Festival**
There will be a football festival on 23rd March for Boys and Girls teams. Permission slips coming soon. Either bring a packed lunch or order a cold school lunch. Leave at 12.15pm

**Basketball**
P6 and P7 will attend Basketball training at Carluke High School on Wednesday 1st March. They will need their P.E kit that day.

**Lunch Club Football**
Children in P4 to P7 have been given permission slips for this. As it will be popular, groups will be selected to take part e.g starting with P7 and P6 for a time then give others a chance. If involved children need their kit on Wednesdays and the club takes place at Moor Park.

**Badminton Club**
The Afterschool Badminton Club has started on Thursdays. We still have a few places so if any P6 or P7 pupil would like to take part, please write a short letter to that affect to Mrs Girdwood.

**Pupil Survey 2017**
All children worked with the HT on considering aspects of their school experience. The survey was very positive with almost all children feeling they were progressing and achieving. They all felt supported in their learning and had someone to talk to if they had problems. Of those who felt they had been bullied, all felt these problems had been dealt with.

**Results in full are on display within the school**
An updated Bullyproofing and Security Position Statement has been formulated and are available on the school website or hardcopies are available from the Main Office.

**Pupil Equity Fund**
The school has been awarded a sizeable sum of money from the Scottish Attainment Pupil Equity Fund. This is based on our number of registered free dinners and is strongly aimed at raising attainment and ensuring fair opportunities. More information will follow as plans become clearer. This is a great opportunity.

**Tesco Challenge**
I recently contacted Tesco to update us on our bid for funds to support a sensory garden and mud kitchen. They will be in contact in due course. Thank you to everyone who supported High Mill and Victoria Park in this venture.

**Family Learning**
The aim of Family Learning is to help parents/carers understand teaching and learning and to support parents/carers in their effort to help their child/ren with their learning. Again, raising attainment lies at the heart of this. The more you understand the more you can help your child on their learning journey.

Parents/Carers have already had several opportunities to meet the class teacher e.g at the beginning of the session teachers explained various aspects of classroom teaching and learning
and expectations. This was followed by “Settling in Reports”. More recently we had a morning when parents/carers could observe Literacy and Numeracy teaching as it happened. The feedback from this was very positive so we have provided another opportunity on Wednesday 8th March from 9am-10.30 am when you can come to class to observe teachers delivering Numeracy.

**This is NOT an open afternoon type activity, but very much a time for you to see what and how your child is being taught. If you feel the need for a discussion with the class teacher an appointment can be set up at a later date.**

We are also holding the second of our self-help groups for parents/carers of Autistic children. This is by invitation only.

Very soon some parents/carers may receive an invitation to meet with our Extended Team Teacher, Mrs Judy Coll, to discuss ways in which they can help their child with Literacy. We will be giving all families a Numeracy Handbook which outlines and explains Numeracy development and how we teach children various sums etc. Sometimes parents/carers are unsure about how to show their child how to do a sum in case their way is different from how their child is being taught. This booklet will hopefully help with that. These will be issued to “oldest child” at Parents’ Night.

**Carluke and District Gala Committee - Race Night**

The Carluke and District Gala Committee have organised a Race Night being held in St Athanasius Hall on Saturday 25th February opening at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 each or £10 for a family of 4. You can also pay at the door.

**Parent/adult/student helpers**

A huge thank you for your support. You are highly valued. An updated advisory note is available on the Parents’ Board.

**Dress Down Days**

We have got a bit out of our normal routine. This is to help you. NO Dress Down Day on Friday 24th February, all pupils to wear their school uniform as usual.

Dress Down Day will be Friday 3rd March and pupils can pay £1 to dress down or simply come to school as normal. All funds go to School Funds.

Friday 24th March will be our Spring/Easter Service in school. School uniform to be worn. EASTER BONNETS CAN BE WORN.

Friday 31st is a Dress Down Day - £1 donation to School Funds. The school closes at 2.30pm.

Thank you to all staff, parents/carers, pupils and partners for your continued support.

**Marion Girdwood**

**Head Teacher**
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 24th</td>
<td>School Uniform</td>
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<td>February 28th</td>
<td>5pm-6pm  Self Help Group ASD          Parents Council - 6.30pm-8.30pm</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>RotaKids Rally Livingston</td>
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<td>P6 and P7 CHS Basketball</td>
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<td>March 3rd</td>
<td>DRESS DOWN DAY £1</td>
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<td>March 8th</td>
<td>Parent to School - Numeracy 9-10.30am</td>
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<td>March 9th</td>
<td>Rag Bag Collection - any old clothes, please bring in to the school</td>
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<td>March 22nd</td>
<td>Netball Tournament - all day event</td>
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<td>March 23rd</td>
<td>P5 Swimming at Leisure Centre</td>
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<td>Boys and Girls Football Festival - pm</td>
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<td>March 24th</td>
<td>PLPs/ Home Folders - please return asap</td>
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<td>All money for Wiston Lodge to be paid by today. Many thanks. Red Nose Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30th</td>
<td>Spring/Easter Assembly - parents/carers/families welcome</td>
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<td>Swimming lessons for P5 - 11am – 12 noon</td>
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<td>March 31st</td>
<td>Dress Down Day</td>
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<td><strong>HOLIDAY FROM MONDAY 3RD APRIL. School re-opens Tuesday 18th April</strong></td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19th</td>
<td>Reports to be sent home</td>
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<td>April 26th</td>
<td>Parents Night</td>
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