Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new session. The newsletter is on our website (www.highmill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk) and you can also have it emailed rather than pupil post. A slip will be supplied with other documents that are coming home soon for you to complete if you wish. We will have this facility ready for our October/November newsletter.

The school will settle quickly to routines and the children are all looking fantastic in their ties and uniforms. We give a special welcome to our P1 pupils and children joining us for the first time.

Our key word this year is “effort”. We want our children to feel challenged, to show effort, not be afraid of making mistakes but to learn from them and to be confident that they will progress. We all have some things that we do not know or cannot do yet, but with effort we can be more successful, feel motivated and move beyond what we thought was our best.

Teaching and Learning
This is always the first item in the newsletter as it is the core business of the school. Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing will be central throughout the year. We aim to support children attain and achieve in these areas, encouraging effort and building their confidence in trying things out. This should increase motivation for all. These priorities are described in our School Development Plan. Anyone wishing to read a full copy of the School Development Plan can get a copy from the Main Office.

This year sees a change in how we present Numeracy and P.E. The aim is to ensure quality P.E and Numeracy lessons for all. Our P3/4, P5/6 and P6/7 will be taking P.E for one of their sessions in an afternoon at the Games Hall in the Leisure Centre. This opens our timetabling allowing our other two classes to have appropriate hall time in school. It also facilitates timetabling to allow for Numeracy Streaming for the three older classes. These Numeracy lessons will take place Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs at 9am-10.30am. Children may have a different Numeracy teacher from their class teacher and there is also some pupil movement. Pupil Equity Funding is supporting this pilot. We hope to start these timetables next week, but must first ensure all forms and Risk Assessments are complete.

All classes will be involved in Numeracy, Literacy, Spanish, ICT Skills, P.E and Expressive Arts. Mrs Hughes will take responsibility for the delivery to classes of most HWB, RME and Science lessons.

Other areas being covered in August/September:-
P1/2 World of Work-School: Local Study
P2/3 World of Work-High Street; Local Study
P3/4/5 World of Work-Food Industry; Local Study
P5/6 World of Work-Hospitals; Local Study
P6/7 World of Work-Entertainment; Local Study
If any parents have particular knowledge of jobs in the areas mentioned above and would like to share their experience with the children, please contact the school.

Mrs Una Cunningham has started music tuition with P5 on Thursday 17th August. Our Weekly Lending Library will begin next week. This will start with P3 pupils. They can borrow a book, for one week at a time, from the school library and read it in their own time at home. They should look after the book carefully and return it on the correct library day (Fridays).

**Homework**
All children will be involved with Homework. This will likely include Reading, Spelling word practice, Numeracy and occasionally research or Home/School projects. If parents/carers need any questions answered, please contact the school or ask at the “Meet the Teacher” session. Friday 25th August 2pm.

**Staffing and School Roll**
We have started the Term with 114 pupils. There has been some pupil movement over recent days and this has led to the need to reconfigure some classes. This was done following guidelines of working groups.

We have a complete teaching staff in place although in reality Mrs Naismith will not be joining us for the start of term as she has a leg boot and crutches. We hope she is able to join us in a few weeks. Our staff is made up from a core of well-established staff, along with Miss Ross and Mrs Hughes who both hold permanent positions at High Mill. They are joined by Mrs Campbell who will relieve teachers from class for one day on a 5-week rota. This will allow teachers to give children quality feedback time and to hold parental meetings, PEF monies supports this initiative.

Our Support Staff also has a strong core of staff remaining and they will be joined by Vari White and Isobel Irving who are appointed to fill vacancies. We also have Mrs Joy McKeever and Samantha MacIntosh, who will be additional support workers afforded to us by use of Pupil Equity Funding. Mrs Angela Patrick will also stay with us, but in a slightly different role.

We may also have students, adult helpers and work experience people who come to work with us. We will ensure that they are PVG checked or the process will be started, with them under supervision from staff.

**Breakfast Club**
Our Breakfast Club is up and running. This is supervised by a group of dedicated, PVG disclosed parents. The food is produced by our school cook, Mrs Angie McFall. Breakfast Club starts at 8.15am with registration at the Main Entrance. Children go for Breakfast, have a quiet play and are then dismissed into the playground at 8.45am. This is when we have our adult supervisors in place in the playground. The cost of Breakfast Club is 60pence or 30pence.

**Wet Weather**
Children should come dressed to school when needed for inclement weather. Our playground is open from 8.30am, but is not supervised until 8.45am and this is also the time children would be taken in if it is raining. At breaks and lunch, if the weather is bad, children are also kept in, but it should be stressed that we do like the children to get some fresh air if possible. If inside, all classes have Wet Weather games and monitors and staff supervise the children. Please note that P3/4, P4/5, P6/7 will be walking to the Leisure Centre for their P.E lessons and should have appropriate kit and outer garments.

**Positive Ethos**
Many things work towards us building and sustaining a positive ethos in our school. Our Vision, Values and Aims set us goals and give us an overview of what we want to be like. As a staff, we set very high standards for behaviour, manners and how to treat one another with respect. We have a Bully Proofing Policy and we work on being a Rights Based Learning School. Children discuss rights and have a class and school charter based on these.

Going for Green is a system aimed to support all the above with children aiming to stay on Green.
This means they are upholding their charter and working for better behaviour, better learning and better relationships. "Effort" is a key word here too. Children can put effort into how they behave towards each other, how they talk to each other, manners etc, as well as lessons. Through this effort, they will have a positive experience and everyone benefits.

Going for Green starts week beginning 21st August and the colour for the day is intimated in Homework Diaries. Please note Homework Diaries will also tell you when P.E days are.

Each child is a member of a House - MILL, MARKET, MOORSIDE, MOOR PARK. Our youngest children will soon be assigned to a House. Pupils can earn House Points by upholding school values.

As a staff, we are doing some preliminary work on Growth Mindset. This is based on the work of an American psychologist called Carol Dweck. Her belief is that pupils with a growth mindset understand that their talents and abilities can be developed through effort, good teaching and persistence. We want the children to think of their brain like a muscle - the more they exercise it the stronger it will become. It is alright not to get everything right, but it is not alright not to try. As parents a first thing you might consider, if you do not do it already, is to praise children for their effort. They might not have got everything right, but even if they did it’s the effort and next challenges which really matter. We will send some ideas home and Mrs Girdwood will be working with all classes on this subject. In the true growth mindset way "We do not know lots about it yet but we are going to try".

Attendance, punctuality, school uniform, indoor shoes, Homework are all areas where parental support is invaluable. Being at school is fundamental and we look for all children to be at school on time for the start of the day. Illness should be reported to the school office before 9.30pm. We look for high attendance rates from all and pupil attendance is monitored regularly. School uniform, including tie, makes our children look proud of their school and makes them feel ready for work. Outdoor shoes are changed to indoor shoes for hygiene and cleanliness reasons. P.E kit should be brought on P.E days - these will be intimated by the class teacher.

We are also considering ways to monitor and celebrate children’s wider achievements. We always have a section at assembly for children to share their successes and we are building a tracking system. More in the next newsletter.

Pupils’ Voice is something we take very seriously. Children’s opinions and ideas are sought through Circle Time, surveys, class discussions, HT visits and the many pupil committees we run. These committees also provide pupils with opportunities to be Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors and Confident Individuals. They take on challenges and fundraising, talk at assemblies and produce displays. We are selecting our committees over the next few weeks.

Our children are very special to us and each is an individual. We recognise that at times they can face personal challenges, friendship worries, home worries. We always work to support our children and look to work with parents/carers to solve any issues or concerns. If you have a worry, concern or simply need to talk through issues affecting your child my door is open. Simply contact the school or ask for me directly and we will get together as soon as possible. Many visitors comment on the “family” atmosphere at High Mill. Any family can have its’ ups and downs, but hopefully work to support everyone. The family of High Mill is something we are proud of and work to maintain.

Fruit Basket
We have a group of children who run our Fruit Basket each day. We sell fresh fruit and cartons of fruit juice. These cost 30p per item and are on sale at break and lunch time. Fresh produce comes in each Monday.

Part of our tracking system to gauge children’s wider achievements will include healthy snacks. We know some days you want to give your child a treat and that is of course your choice, but we would recommend fruit for most break time treats. 30p is a lot cheaper than some bags of crisps or
chocolate bars so please make use of this fantastic enterprise run by the children.

**Credit Union**
The school runs a savings scheme with Blantyre Credit Union. Deposits will be collected on a FRIDAY morning. This can be as little as 50p. You can get an application form at the Main Office or your child can pick one up at the Credit Union on a Friday.

**Tempest Photographer**
School photographs will be taken on 2nd October. Please return order forms which will be sent out soon.

**Christmas Panto**
Last year we all went to Lanark Memorial Hall to see a Christmas Panto and we are doing the same this year. We are going to A Belter of a Cinderella Story. The Parent Council have generously provided us with £250 to help with the cost of buses so only ticket money is required. £5.50 should be paid to school by Friday 22nd September. The Panto visit is on December 8th.

**Gouldings**
The children of P1 and P2 will be visiting Gouldings on Wednesday 20th December. The cost will be £9.00 per child. They will receive a gift from a very important person, visit the play area and have a snack. We would appreciate if this could be paid by the end of November.

**Residential Outing.**
P6 and P7 have been offered the opportunity to have an overnight stay at Wiston Lodge on March 26th. Children will have two full days of activities and return on Tuesday 27th at 2.30pm approx. We have had some replies and deposits already. If you wish your child to attend they can ask Mrs Girdwood for a form and £10 deposit should be paid by Sept 1st. The outing cost to be decided. Deposit is non-refundable. All monies should be in by the end of January 2018.

**Home /School Partnership-Family Learning**
All parents and carers are welcome to come to school on Friday 25th August at 2pm. This will be a time for you to “Meet the Teacher”. You can go into your child’s class meet their teacher and hear about what will be being taught. It is also a chance for you to ask any questions and have a look round. The children will be in the hall with myself and you can collect them on their return from assembly at 2.45pm.

Our parents of children living with Autism will continue to have meetings. This is a self-help group and where possible we invite someone along to talk with us. Mrs Judy Coll will be running a training group for parents called “Early Bird”. These parents have already had invitations. Parents Night will be on Wednesday 20th September. This is an opportunity for parents to hear how their child is settling, how their child’s learning is progressing and the next steps in learning they will be working on. We may also have some pupil groups demonstrating/explaining aspects of school work. We hope to provide other opportunities for parents to learn more about their children’s learning throughout the year.

**Parents’ Council**
Our Parents’ Council will hold their AGM on Tuesday 29th August. This will be held in the school hall between 6.30pm-8.30pm and the meeting will include a report from the present Chairperson, Head Teacher and Treasurer. Parents/Carers may then be put forward for being a committee member for the coming year and new office bearers will also be selected. All parents and legal guardians are welcome and please do not be nervous...no-one is forced into any job.

**Fundraising**
The last Friday of each month is a DRESS DOWN/UP DAY. The children and staff can come in non-uniform and we ask £1 for the privilege. Any money raised goes to the School Fund and it buys "extras" for the children.

The first Dress Down Day on Friday 25th August.
Our sponsored Wellie Walk on Friday 6th Oct usually raises a considerable sum and this will help to support some educational outings, buy enterprise materials and some social studies kits. Please find sponsor sheet in the poly pocket your child/ren will bring home along with all annual forms.

We have 12 vouchers for M&Ds which entitle the holder to a free ride pass for the day. To win a voucher children need to pay 50p and put their name in the Lucky Dip. One person will be very lucky and win 3 vouchers as a bundle. Funds raised will be split between School Funds and our Global Citizen Project.

Some of our pupil committees will also raise money throughout the year for causes. The RotaKids are supporting Global Citizenship by working with Carluke Rotary. Their cause has not been selected yet.

The Ham and Jam week is a real celebration in Carluke and we like to take part. The choir will be starting soon to learn their songs. We will be running a raffle stall in Ramsey's yard on the Saturday. It will be a bottle stall and any donations are welcome e.g wine, spirits, lemonades, sauce, shampoo, olive oil....please hand in any donations to the school office. Thank you for your support.

**Administration**
All pupils will bring home a poly pocket with all annual forms for parents/carers to check over and make sure that we have the correct information, ie telephone/mobile numbers, emergency contact names, address and contact numbers. Please amend any information that may have changed recently and send back all forms as soon as possible to allow the office staff to update records.

Your assistance with these forms is much appreciated.

Please keep for your information the insurance sheet, sponsored Wellie Walk sheet.

**PLEASE PUT CHILDRENS NAMES ON THEIR BELONGINGS, INCLUDING THEIR INDOOR SHOES, COATS AND JACKETS ETC.**

**Head Teacher’s Comment**

I always like to make myself available to parents/carers, but I will be in class most days covering absence especially first thing after lines. However please do not hesitate to leave a message with the main office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

It never ceases to amaze me how much I look forward to a new session. It’s an opportunity to build on what has gone before, change what didn’t quite work and try something new. Seeing the children is my biggest joy and I look forward to session 2017-18 with great relish.

Marion Girdwood - Head Teacher
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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<td>Monday 21st</td>
<td>P.E timetable begins</td>
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<td>Numeracy Streaming begins</td>
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<td>Friday 25th</td>
<td>Dress Down Day £1</td>
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<td>Meet the Teacher-parents welcome to come and meet their child’s teacher at 2pm. Those who have more than one class to visit please move between them.</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29th</td>
<td>School Parent Council AGM 6.30pm -all parents welcome</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>Friday 1st</td>
<td>All deposits in for Wiston Lodge</td>
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<td>Thursday 7th</td>
<td>Football 12.30-2.30pm John Cumming Stadium</td>
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<td>Early Bird ASD group Invitation only.</td>
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<td>Friday 22nd</td>
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<td>Monday 25th</td>
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<td>Ham and Jam -School Choirs</td>
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<td>Ham and Jam – Stall at Ramsay’s Yard</td>
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<td>October</td>
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<td>Monday 2nd</td>
<td>Tempest Photographer</td>
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<td>Friday 6th</td>
<td>Wellie Walk-all monies raised in before Oct break -thank you.</td>
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<td>Monday 16th</td>
<td>OCTOBER BREAK</td>
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**Our Values**

Helpfulness  Hard Work  Honesty  Respect  Kindness