Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the first 2018-2019 edition of the High Mill newsletter. I hope you had a wonderful summer break. It is lovely to see the children looking very smart in their school uniform and sharing their news about the holidays. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely welcome I have received and extend a warm welcome to all new members of the school community; pupils, staff and parents/carers. Already I am proud to be Head Teacher of our wonderful school.

The beginning of term is a time of change and new experiences. While most pupils will make these transitions smoothly, please speak to a member of the team if you have any concerns about your child. We are here to help.

It is very important to me that every member of our school community; pupils, parents and staff alike, feel their voice is heard in matters of school life and school improvement. As part of this, staff participated in self-evaluation activities during the In-service days. Pupils will be participating in a range of school evaluation activities during assemblies and as part of Pupil Voice groups. We will be introducing a range of ways for parents to share their views, including the feedback slip at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Kirstine McDonald
(Head Teacher)

Staffing Update

In addition to myself, Mrs Heather Naismith (Principal Teacher) is part of the Senior Leadership Team. Our staffing structure for this session is:

Primary 1: Mrs J. Cairns
Primary 2/3: Mrs A. Wilson
Primary 3/4: Mrs J. Welsh
Primary 5/6: Mrs H. Naismith (Monday and Tuesday morning)
  Mrs L. Hughes (Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday – Friday)
Primary 6/7: Miss S. McNeil
CCC & PEF: Mrs L. Hughes and Mrs S. Lavery

We welcome Mrs Sinead Lavery to High Mill. She will be teaching in school on Mondays and Tuesdays until November. Both Mrs Lavery and Mrs Hughes will be covering class teachers’ non-class contact time and will also be teaching targeted pupils to help us close the attainment gap and support inclusion. They have already been following guidance issued by Occupational Therapy to identify pupils who would benefit from resources to support their sensory needs and promote emotional wellbeing through nurture. This work is being funded by the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF).

We are ably support by our skilled Support Assistants:
Mrs A. Gray (Team Leader) Mrs L. Vecino
Mrs A. Patrick Mrs. S Butler
Mrs I. Irvine Mrs V. White

We welcome Mrs Carol Jackson to High Mill and are awaiting start dates for Mrs Liza Cairney and Mrs Hazel Richardson. These three additional Support Assistants are funded through PEF and will be supporting targeted children and helping to ensure inclusion.
Important Allergy Information

Members of our school community have severe allergies to some food items, therefore the following are not allowed in school:

- any type of nuts such as peanuts, hazelnuts and almonds etc.
- products which may contain nuts

*Please note that this includes most chocolate spreads, Nutella products and Kinder Bueno.*

This applies to all pupils, staff and visitors

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No Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted in school buildings or on school grounds.

Within High Mill we have several children with medical conditions which affect their breathing and lung health. To help us in protecting the health and wellbeing of children, we kindly ask parents/carers to avoid smoking in the area surrounding the school gate.

Thank you for your support.

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Sickness and diarrhoea

Children experiencing these symptoms should not return to school for 48 hours following the last period of sickness/diarrhoea.

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Lost Property

Please assist in preventing items of school uniform being lost or misplaced by labelling all items of clothing, footwear, bags and packed lunches with the child’s name.

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Communication - Keeping in Touch

We value communication with parents and carers and strive to use a range of Tools to support this. This session, acting on parents’ feedback, we aim to make increased use of electronic communication.

Our main methods of keeping parents as informed as possible are:

- publishing a monthly newsletter
- sending home letters via ‘pupil post’
- uploading information to the school App, Mrs Naismith will issue separate information about downloading our App
- sharing news and information on our website www.highmill-pri.sch.uk

Due to circumstances out with our control, the website is undergoing maintenance. We will update parents when this will be live again.

Text Messaging will continue to be used to inform parents/carers of important information and attendance. Please inform the office if your mobile phone number has changed.

The teachers escort the pupils to the school doors at the end of the day, but this is not always the best time to speak with them as they are supervising the pupils. If you wish to speak in person to a member of staff, please contact the office to arrange a mutually suitable appointment.

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Water

We encourage all children to bring a full water bottle to school each day. This will enable them to drink fresh water throughout the day. Bottles can be refilled at our water cooler. Plain water only, no juice please

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Welcome Tea

We had a fantastic turn out at my ‘Welcome Tea’. This was a great opportunity for us to start building our partnership. I plan to hold a ‘High Mill Haver’ each term where parents can drop in and enjoy tea and cake while we discuss ways improve the school.
Dogs
A reminder that only guide/assistance dogs are allowed into the school grounds to ensure the safety of all members of the school community.

Cycling to School
We encourage children to cycle/scoot to school but stress the importance of wearing a suitable helmet and reflective clothing. Children must dismount their bike/scooter in the playground and push it to the bike rack. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to bikes or scooters while on school property. Electric scooters and ‘hover boards’ etc. are not permitted.

Annual Data Check
In the coming days, Annual Data Check forms will be sent home. Please check that the contact details and emergency contacts are up-to-date. All forms must be signed and returned, with any changes noted on them. It is important that the school holds the most up-to-date information for the children in case of emergency. Please also complete and return the photograph consent form which will allow us to start sharing photographs of children as they work and learn.

Medical Information
Please inform the office staff of any medical conditions that may affect your child in school. If your child requires prescribed medication during the school day, please discuss this with a member of office or management staff. Children are not permitted to have any medication in school without the completion of a medical administration form. Medicines should not be sent to school in pupil bags.

Parent Pay
If don’t have a ParentPay account, please contact Mrs Gray in the office who will help you access it. This system makes paying for lunches and school much easier for parents and carers.

Pupil Pickup and School Gate
The area around our school gate is very busy, we ask that parents who meet children on the pavement support us in ensuring all pupils exit the playground safely by standing clear of the gate.

To help ease this congestion, parents of children in P.1 are invited to come into the playground but are asked to wait well back from the pupil doors.

Please ensure your child knows where to meet you at the end of the day or what the arrangements are for walking home.

High Mill Primary School - Comments/Suggestions
We would be delighted to hear your ideas, questions and comment about how we can make High Mill an even better school than it already is. Please do not hesitate to contact the school using the details below or complete this tear-off slip and pop it in your child’s homework diary.

Comments/Feedback:

Name: ___________________________ Pupil Name: ___________________________ Date: __________

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