



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the November 2020 edition of the High Mill newsletter. At High Mill there has not yet been a positive COVID case but we are mindful that this could change at any moment. We will continue implementing the stringent measures we have in place. I am proud of how hard the staff, children and families are working to keep the school as COVID secure as possible.

You can continue to support us by:

- wearing a face covering when coming to the school (please note these are required in the drop off area the car park)
- encouraging your child(ren) to walk to/from school independently
- informing us immediately if anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19
- booking a test if your child develops any of the main symptoms of COVID-19
- keeping children at home if a member of your household is awaiting a COVID test results.

As we head towards the festive period, you will have received a copy of our Christmas guide detailing all the fun events planned for December. Hopefully this much needed Christmas cheer will help everyone get into the festive spirit in these strangest of times.

I hope you and your family continue to keep safe and well and that you have a very Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year when the time comes.

Kirstine McDonald

(Head Teacher)

COVID-19 Tier 4 Restrictions

At the time of writing, South Lanarkshire Council remains in COVID Restrictions Level 4. School and nurseries remain open and we continue to implement the same range of mitigations including:

- children working in class bubbles
- regular and increased hand hygiene.
- staggered playtimes and lunchtimes, with allocated seating
- staff following to 2m social distancing
- staff wearing face coverings in all communal spaces and when unable to maintain 2m when working with children
- parents/carers wearing face coverings in all areas of school grounds
- steps to limit the number of parents/carers in the school grounds.

In addition, Level 4 restrictions include:

- children who are shielding should not attend school (please contact the HT to discuss this if your child is in this category)
- Indoor activities such as PE cannot take place.

Other than the mitigation relating to shielding, all of the measures were already embedded in our routines and practices.

South Lanarkshire School Holidays 2021-2022

The holidays for South Lanarkshire schools in 2021-2022 have now been approved. A copy of these are attached at the end of this newsletter.



Suitable Clothing for Winter Weather

Parents/carers are kindly asked to ensure children come to school wearing suitable clothing for winter. A warm, waterproof jacket, gloves and hats are essential at this time of year, if you require assistance with this please get in touch. Any requests for support will be treated in the strictest confidence.



P.1 Enrolment: Registering Children for P.1 (August 2021)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the process of registering children to start Primary 1 in August 2021 has been changed. Specific details have still to be shared with schools however I am aware the enrolment will be online.



The enrolment week is likely to be **Monday 18th January 2021 to Friday 22nd January 2021** however I am aware that the Team co-ordinating this are trying to have the system ready for Monday 11th January which is the normal week of registration. We will issue the information about how to register your child as soon as it becomes available.

Please share this information with friends and family who may have children starting P.1 next session.

House News – Inter House Basketball

The House Captains and Vice Captains held an inter-house basketball competition on Friday 27th November. The children had a wonderful time and showed good sportsmanship. The winning House on the day was Mossspark (Blue House). The Captains and Vice-Captains organised such a fantastic event that they have persuaded Miss McDonald to buy another basketball stand for the playground.



Once a Week Take a Peek - Head Lice

We have had reports of suspected head lice recently. Please check your child's hair carefully and treat if eggs or lice are found. Even after treatment, regular combing and checking is needed to prevent the return of lice and eggs.



House Captain & Vice Captain – Dress Down Day

Thank you for donating on the dress down day, £48.54 was raised for our school fund.



Staff Career-Long Professional Learning

Here is a quick round up of some of the professional learning staff have engaged in recently.

Coding

Miss Scott recently participated in training on Coding to extend her existing knowledge and skills. Coding is computer programming with Code being the language use to instruct computers. Facebook, mobile phone apps, web browsers and websites are all made with Code.

The aim of teaching Coding is to equip pupils with the skills they need for the world of work, to inspire more young people to pursue careers in computing and help them to problem solve and become logical thinkers. It gives children the skills to be able to actively create the content they are currently engaging with e.g. animations and online games.



Miss Scott has been running a P.7/6 lunch time Coding club over the past few months.

Resilience – Health & Wellbeing

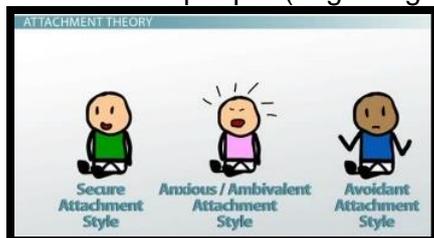
As Health and Wellbeing Lead, Mrs Naismith participated in training with Edinburgh City Council on Resilience. The focus of this was about identifying barriers to children being able to cope when things go wrong and to be aware of their limits in a variety of situations.

This will not only enhance our COVID Recovery curriculum but the Health and Wellbeing curriculum once we are back in 'normal times'. All staff will be trained early in 2021 and we will be implementing a 3 years rolling programme. More information for parents will follow after Christmas.



Attachment

All teaching and support staff undertook further training on Attachment theory. Attachment is the emotional bond between two people (beginning with parent and child) in which each seeks closeness and feels more secure when in the presence of the other. The session focused on understanding the attachment behaviours that adults show towards children including responding sensitively and appropriately to the child's needs. Staff developed an understanding of how the parent-child relationship emerges and influences a child's development. Attachment is characterised by specific behaviours in children, such as seeking to be close to a person to whom they are securely attached when feeling upset or threatened.



Give Us A Break - GUAB



Mrs Naismith and Mrs Richardson are currently training in a programme called Give Us A Break (GUAB). GUAB supports and empowers young people experiencing traumatic loss in their lives. It is an 8 week group work programme, written by South Lanarkshire Council Psychological Services and NHS Lanarkshire, for young people aged 10-14 years who are coping with negative change in their lives. The programme acknowledges that change, loss and grief (including bereavement, family separation or house move) are a normal part of life and are experienced uniquely by each person. It supports young people in managing the emotional consequences of loss. Once training is complete, we will be able to offer this flexible, solution-focused as another wellbeing intervention. If this is something you think would benefit your child, please get in touch and we can provide you with more information.

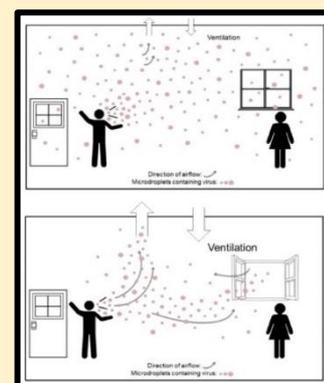
Christmas Arrangements

Our COVID secure Christmas plans were shared with parents earlier this week through the App and as a hard copy for the families who requested this. If you require a further copy please contact the school office.



Ventilation Plan

The current COVID secure arrangements include a ventilation plan where the windows around the school should remain open as much as possible to allow a constant air flow. This results in the air in a room being refreshed regularly and, in turn, reduces the risk of infections. However, as we head into the winter weather period, this brings issues of maintaining the temperature of a room.



While we await further guidance from South Lanarkshire Council, we have put in place a winter ventilation plan at High Mill:

- since mid-November, we have been recording the temperature of each room before the school day starts and then 3 times during the pupil day
- where possible, external windows should be open provided that a minimum temperature of 17°C is maintained
- if the temperature is below 17°C, and staff/children feel cold, external windows can be closed
- windows will be opened in a room when not being used e.g. playtime and lunchtime, during PE lessons etc.)
- internal windows and doors will remain open at all times.

We recommend that children come to school with a long-sleeved cardigan or jumper each day.

Thank You

One of our families has generously donated a selection box for every pupil. These will be distributed closer to the holiday. While they prefer remaining anonymous, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' on behalf of the staff and pupils.



Spotlight on Attendance

The current overall average attendance at High Mill is **90.01%**, with attendance in most classes having improved over last month. The South Lanarkshire and Scottish averages are **95%**.

	Average By Primary Stage (So far in 2020-2021)						
	P.1	P.2	P.3	P.4	P.5	P.6	P.7
Average at September 2020	94.15%	93.24%	88.66%	98.47%	93.77%	90.69%	89.68%
Average at October 2020	91.50%	88.93%	91.86%	95.83%	89.47%	82.81%	88.60%
Average at November 2020	95.28%	94.12%	88.85%	96.46%	85.79%	81.35%	89.46%

	Average By Class (So far in 2020-2021)				
	P.2/1	P.3/2	P.4/3	P6/5	P.7/6
Average in September 2020	92.54%	92.52%	95.18%	91.90%	91.45%
Average in October 2020	85.29%	93.34%	95.10%	88.35%	86.10%
Average in November 2020	93.75%	91.05%	95.97%	83.20%	88.57%

Well done to the 39 children who had 100% attendance in November and especially to the 14 children who currently have 100% for the school year.

Access to Free Sanitary Products

In line with SLC policy, we keep a stock of sanitary products that are available for senior pupils should these be required. They are available in the pupil toilets and are hung in bags on the back of the cubicle doors. We also have supplies in the toilet beside the office. The children are aware that these are available, it would be helpful if you could remind them that they are welcome to take what they need. If they wish, they can speak to a member of office staff about it or may access these independently.

You can read more about the Scottish Governments 'Access to Free Sanitary Products' at <https://news.gov.scot/news/expanding-access-to-free-sanitary-products>

Dates for your Diary

December 2020

Class teachers will choose a suitable date for each class to watch the Panto.

Thursday 10 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Friday 11 th December	P.7/6 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Monday 14 th December	P.4/3 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Tuesday 15 th December	P.6/5 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Wednesday 16 th December	P.3/2 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon)
Thursday 17 th December	P.2/1 Christmas Party/Celebration (Afternoon) Christmas Performance/Celebration Recording shared with families
Friday 18 th December	Santa Dash/Cross Country House Captain Event – House Quiz (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)
Tuesday 22 nd December	Christmas Service School closes at 2:30pm
Wednesday 23 rd December to Tuesday 5 th January	Christmas and New Year Holiday

January 2021

Wednesday January 6 th	School re-opens at 8:55am
Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd January	P.1 Enrolment Week - further details to follow
Friday 22 nd January	Scottish Event / Celebration
Monday 25 th January	P.7/6 Holocaust Memorial Event
Friday 29 th January	House Captain Event (previously Dress Down Day – information to follow)

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Education Resources
School holiday Dates Session 2021/2022

Break	Holiday dates		
First Term	<i>Teachers In-service</i>	Thursday	12 August 2021
	<i>In-service day</i>	Friday	13 August 2021
	Pupils return	Monday	16 August 2021
September Weekend	Close on Re-open	Thursday Tuesday	23 September 2021 28 September 2021
October Break	Close on Re-open	Friday Monday	8 October 2021 18 October 2021
	<i>In-service day</i>	Monday	15 November 2021
Christmas	Close on Re-open	Wednesday Wednesday	22 December 2021 5 January 2022
Second Term			
February break	Close on Closed on	Friday Monday and Tuesday	11 February 2022 14 February 2022 15 February 2022
	<i>In-service day</i>	Wednesday	16 February 2022
Spring break/Easter	Close on Re-open	Friday Tuesday	1 April 2022 19 April 2022
Third Term			
Local Holiday	Closed Re-open	Monday Tuesday	2 May 2022 3 May 2022
	<i>In-service day</i>	Thursday	5 May 2022
Local Holiday	Close on Re-open	Thursday Tuesday	26 May 2022 31 May 2022
Summer break	Close on	Friday	24 June 2022
Proposed in-service days	August dates to be confirmed		

Notes

- ◆ Good Friday falls on Friday, 15 April 2022
- ◆ *Lanark schools will close Thursday, 9 June 2022 and Friday, 10 June 2022*
- ◆ Schools will close at 2.30pm on the last day of terms 1 and 2 (Wednesday, 22 December 2021 and Friday, 1 April 2022)
- ◆ Schools will close at 1pm on the last day of term 3 Friday, 24 June 2022)

*Two in-service days proposed for August 2022 to be confirmed.