

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

Welcome back to our final term of the school year! We have a busy term planned as usual and we hope to see you at some of our events that help us celebrate success, recognise achievements and help us share information with you as parents and carers. Watch out for your child's report card coming out later this month- please take a moment to return the feedback sheet and let us know if you wish an appointment to discuss your child's progress further at our open evening. Nil returns are required so please do not ignore the letter!

We thoroughly enjoyed our end of term Daffodil Assembly where senior members of our school community were invited to come along and celebrate the many talents on offer at Hecklegirth. The audience were most appreciative and donations of daffodils were delivered to Lydiafield.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any concerns, ideas or successes- we love to hear all the good news too!

From Mrs Alexander , Headteacher

Reporting to Parents

We report to parents and carers in several ways including newsletters, letters, texts, school blog and social media. To enable you to see your child's classwork we are holding open day sessions. The first session is during the school day and the class teacher will be working with the other children so we ask you to drop into class, collect your child and find a quiet place to sit and look over work together. The second session is after school and the class teachers and Additional Support for Learning Teacher will be available should you wish to discuss any particular concerns you may have about your child's learning or wellbeing following the open day and report card being issued - please add your name to the list on the classroom door when you arrive, if you wish an appointment. Dates are:

Friday 20th April: Report cards issued- please check your child's bag.

Friday 27th April: ALL feedback forms from report card due back in school.

Wednesday 9th May, 9am-12pm- open morning: school open between 9am and 12pm to families to look through classwork

Monday 14th May, 3-6pm- school open between 3pm and 6pm to families to look through classwork and/or to see the class teacher/Additional Support for Learning teacher.

School Improvement Planning Updates/Staff training

- Staff will be reviewing progress made in our School Improvement Plan. We will share this with you and ask for your feedback on next steps to help us continue to provide quality learning experiences for your child(ren).

-Mrs Alexander will be attending a cluster meeting next week regarding the allocation of Learning Support

-Mrs Alexander has received her long service award for 25 years' service with D&G Council.

-Mrs Moore has attended nurture training in Dumfries.

- Welcome back to Mrs Gordon who returns after maternity leave. She is currently developing resources to improve learners' memories, which is proven to raise attainment.

Sharing learning

- Please join us on our Facebook page 'Hecklegirth Primary School News' for instant updates and school news- open to all parents/carers of Hecklegirth Primary and Nursery. We are using this more and more to update families on what's on in school so join us today!
- Go onto our school blog to read up to date accounts of learning in your child's class.
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/HecklegirthPrimarySchool/>.
- Open afternoon: Wednesday 9th May from 9am-12pm & Open evening: Monday 14th May 3- 6pm
- Drop us an email with photos to let us know of your child's wider achievements and we will share these with the school community.

P5-7- Residential Trips

Staff and parent volunteers are involved in organising and running school trips that involve staying over. At Hecklegirth we offer outdoor learning experiences that promote an understanding

of environment, inclusion and collaboration. Costs are kept to a minimum through fund-raising and negotiations!

- P5 are heading to Carlingwark in Castle Douglas next week to take part in a range of water sports (weather permitting) and will be accompanied by Mr Malin, Mrs Alexander, Mr Scott (parent volunteer) and PC Leggett. The P5 pupils will be divided into two groups and each group will attend for two days and one night, either Mon/Tues or Thurs/Fri. Trained leaders will be running all the events and equipment will be provided. Trained first aiders will be in attendance at all times.
- P6 and P7 leave for Winmarleigh near Preston on 8th May for four days and will be taking part in a variety of outdoor activities including zip wire, den building and climbing. The emphasis is on 'challenge by choice' where pupils will be encouraged to set goals and to give things a go. Pupils will be accompanied on this trip by Miss Dennis, Mrs Stott and Mr Coupland (parent volunteer). Again, skilled leaders will be running the events and trained first aiders will be in attendance at all times. Families enjoyed an informative evening at the end of term where they watched a video about the resort and received an information pack as well as being able to ask any questions about the trips. May we remind you that pupils' mobile phones are not allowed on this trip as explained at the meeting.

These trips take a great deal of organisation and we are most grateful to those who take the pupils away for committing their own time to offer these excellent learning opportunities as well as round-the-clock supervision whilst away from home. In case of emergency we provide a school contact number to call during the time away and we will forward any information required.

Some parents have enquired about planning a trip to London. As teachers plan and lead excursions, we discussed this at a staff meeting and it was felt that this would not be viable for a number of reasons including cost implications for families, concern over safe travel in the Capital, cost of staff cover while staff away for pupils who do not participate, adhering to teaching staff's 35 Hour Working Time Agreement and staff's own family/personal commitments during a period away from home. These are not complaints, just

considerations which can often be overlooked. If you have ideas for school excursions and/or grants to support travel costs then please let us know. As always we continue to seek parent volunteers to accompany classes on trips.

Learning Council

New playground equipment has been purchased and the Learning Council have been out in the playground this week sharing these with the rest of the pupils. May we remind all pupils to look after the new toys and return them to the back door.



Wider Achievement

- Good luck to Niamh, Sarah, Jessica D, Ellie and Kelsie who take part in the rearranged Prose Festival in Dumfries on Friday 20th.
- Thank you to our holiday gardeners who have been busy clearing paths and creating flower beds and pots.
- Congratulations to Evie and Darcy on being flowergirls at mummy's wedding in Tunisia.
- Freya and Aoife enjoyed their flowergirl roles at their uncle's wedding a few weeks ago.



Nursery News from Mrs Carruthers & Mr Palmer

As part of transition, children who are coming to P1 at Hecklegirth in August will get to know their P6 buddy this term. The buddies are already working well to build relationships with our Nursery children. We will also be inviting P1 teachers from other schools to visit their children and local schools will be in contact during the term to invite their children to be part of their transition programmes.

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting was arranged for Monday 23rd April but is postponed as we are waiting on a date from the Chairperson of the Regional Parent Council Forum who would like to come and talk to parents.

Mrs Alexander and I met in the school holidays to discuss issues and plans including creating a business link with the Cumberland Building Society, sponsorship, the crossing patrol, careers week and the recurring flooding in the car park. We have created some plans for moving these forward and would love to hear from any parent who could help us with any one of these points. To discuss your ideas please contact me through the school office or via the details below, come along to our next meeting, or speak to me at the Parents' evening where I will be at a stand in the hall.

Mike Wigham, Chairperson

hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

World Book Day

Thank you to all who took part in our reading activities on World Book Day and to the volunteers who dropped in to help with story reading. Thanks to Miss Campbell who ran the Scholastic Book Fair where we made over £600 in free books which will be donated to the school library. Having not spent last year's money at the fair, Mr Stevenson used this money to purchase books for the Accelerated Reading Scheme for senior pupils.

Egg Competition

Thankyou to all who took part in our Easter egg competition last term. The entries, as always, were spectacular thus making the judging very difficult for

the dinner ladies. Congratulations to our winners Bethany (Nursery-P1), Aoife (P2-4), Devon (P5-7) and Mrs Hamilton (Staff/parents/carers).

Pinneys

With the sad news last week of plans to relocate Pinneys in Annan, may I remind those who find themselves in a difficult financial position to apply for the entitlement to free school meals and uniform. School will also be able to support the cost of school clubs and trips during this period so please call to discuss further with Mrs Alexander. All information shared will be handled in the strictest of confidence.

Entitlement to free school meals/clothing grants-please read and help us help you!

Pupil Equity Funding is an allocation of money to help reduce the poverty and attainment gap across Scotland, ensuring that we are supporting all our young people to achieve their goals. This allocation is based on those in receipt of the grant. As pupils in P1-3 receive free meals already, many families who are entitled do not request the grant which also allows access to a clothing grant. Only by all those entitled to applying doing so is the school able to receive the maximum benefit so please check below to see if your family can claim.

To claim, you must be in receipt of just *one* of the following:

- Income Support
- Any income related element of Employment & Support Allowance
- Job Seeker's Allowance (Income Based)
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £16,105
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit (with annual income under £6420)
- Universal Credit with a monthly income threshold that does not exceed £610 per month

Please call into the school office for a form. Office staff are happy to help you complete any paperwork.

School Contact Information

Telephone – 01461 202629

Email – gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Request for old clothes

We often require to issue spare clothes to pupils who may get them dirty during the school day. We are running out of items as often these are not returned. If you have any spare items at home which your child has grown out of then we would be pleased to take them off your hands! In particular we need socks, school trousers and pants!

Hunt the Medals

Do you have a blue-ribboned medal at home? Pupils are presented with these for one week during assembly but many are not being returned which means the next pupil can't receive their well-earned medal. Any spare medals can be left at the office.

NSPCC 02 adult workshop: keeping Children safe online -30th April, 6.30pm)

This info session for Parents/carers has been rearranged for Monday 30th April from 6.30-7.30pm. Mrs Alexander and PC Irons will deliver an online presentation to raise awareness of what our young people are getting up to online and how we can help them to keep safe. Please show your support as we are increasingly dealing with problems that occur through online gaming and on social media.

Child care is available if required and they should bring a book/game.



Reagyn

Good news! We have heard from Reagyn's mum that he is doing well and staying in Marian House whilst attending the hospital for Day Care for 10 weeks. Hopefully he will be home for the summer and is planning to visit school soon.

Dates for the Diary:

April

20th – Dr. Bike in school checking bikes

23/24 & 26/27th – P5 at Carlingwark

23rd – start of Big Pedal Fortnight

23, 24, 26th – Curriculum Swimming continues

26th – P7 trip to Edinburgh

30th – Online Safety Event at 6.30 pm

May

3rd – Uniform Sale 2-4 pm

8th till 11th – P6, P7 at Winmarleigh

9th - Open Morning 9 am – 12 pm

10th – Sprint Relays

12th – Gymnastics Competition

14th – Open Evening 3 – 6 pm

18th – P1/2 Assembly 1.30 pm



Hecklegirth Fundraisers invite you to
attend the annual family

BBQ

Friday 8th June. 6pm - 8pm

£2 entry includes sausage, burger or
vegetarian option

Bouncy castle, licensed bar,
Tombola, Raffle, Tuck and more

Stalls also by Mabie Farm Park,
AYCC and Active Anklebiters

