

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

April 28th, 2016

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

Term 4 got off and running at quite a pace as there is always so much to do in this final term of the school year. We are printing off this newsletter as the final hard copy being issued and will be emailing from May – we have still to receive some email addresses so please ensure you let us know your details as to ensure you do not miss out on all the goings-on here at Hecklegirth!

From Mrs Alexander

Reporting to Parents

- An Open Day is planned for Wednesday 4th May when parents can look at the progress their child has made in relation to the previous targets. Classes will be sharing their learning during the day through presentations and performances – see back page.
- Final reports of pupils' learning will be issued in May with family conversations taking place after school on Tuesday 31st May in the school hall. A request for appointment slip will be included with your child's report. We hope to meet with all families, especially those who were unable to attend previous open days and family conversation events.
- Cluster working: The Annan Cluster teaching staff and Headteachers have been developing the following work over session 15/16:
 - **Sexual Health and Relationship Education (SHARE)**- developing a common approach to the vocabulary and teaching of SHARE
 - **Scots Language**- Cluster rationale for Scots language in place. Inaugural Scots language annual competition held at Hecklegirth.
 - **Numeracy**- Mastery of Maths cascaded across cluster. Each school has a Numeracy Champion (Hecklegirth- Mrs Lindsay) and all staff have attended a development session on the resource. Each school taking forward to meet own needs: we have created resources and weekly development time was set aside last term to enable Mrs Lindsay to support staff and develop resources. An application for £10,000 of funding to develop numeracy further has been submitted to the Scottish Attainment Challenge Fund.
 - **Modern Languages in the Primary School (MLPS)**- Working group created to develop planning and resources which have been shared with schools. Our rep is Mrs Mahon.

Polish Translation facility

To embrace our inclusive school community values, we have identified time each Monday between 2.30 and 3.10 pm for

any of our Polish families to meet with our Polish-speaking member of staff, Lydia Glok, to share any concerns they may have about their child's education and/or to translate any school letters. We are lucky to have this service and urge you to make use of it.

Przypominamy Panstwo, ze mozecie przychodzic do szkoly z pytaniami i problemami i omowic je po polsku z pania Glok w poniedzialek miedzy 2.30 a 3.10.

Nursery News

We welcomed three new children to Nursery this term as well as new staff member, Mrs Shaw who will be in school on a Friday during Miss Awde's maternity leave. The Sunshine Room visited Rev McGougan to learn about what happens in his church. As a result of the children's interest in his Noah's Ark, Rev McGougan will be coming into Nursery to tell them all about this on May 4th during Open day- why don't you join us?

There will be lots of transition experiences for our pre-school children this term in their last few months before P1. The afternoon nursery children experienced their first school assembly a few weeks ago. Individual P6 buddies have been chosen for our pre-school nursery children and they will be writing a letter shortly to introduce themselves to parents. Buddies will accompany the children on a visit of the school playground over the next few weeks.

On Friday we will be having a 'Transition Day' with all pupils attending Hecklegirth next year visiting Miss Campbell and Mrs Lindsay in the P1 and P1/2 classrooms. The children will join in with class activities. Further transition days will be on 20th May and 10th June before the moving up day on 23rd June.

Family Learning

We will be organising Nursery sessions on Monday 16th and Thursday 19th May to celebrate national "Share a Story" month. Please add your name to the list in the cloakroom if you wish to attend. All Nursery families welcome!

Blogs

Please go onto our blog to read updates about school and classes:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/HecklegirthPrimarySchool/>.

To update us on your child's wider achievements for the blog, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Water in Schools

In line with schools across the region, we continue to promote the drinking of water to keep brains and bodies hydrated for learning. A new water cooler has been installed on the top floor causing much excitement! To promote the work of Childsmile (the school dental unit) please avoid sending in high-sugar content juices and cordials and save yourself an extra trip to the dentist! We thank you for your support. We have water bottles for sale in school at £1.00 each.

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

April 28th, 2016

Parent Council

We are still awaiting on the Council giving us some clarity and info around the family centre/ community hub proposed for this area and we will hopefully get someone to attend our next PC meeting to answer any queries directly – 9th May at 6 pm. I travelled to Galashiels to visit a family centre based in an Early Years and Childcare Centre, with Mrs. Johnstone, our Family Learning Co-ordinator and Mrs. Alexander. I will be happy to share our experience with you at the meeting.

G Coupland

Email: hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

HFA-fundraising group

Thankyou to all who helped make our H Factor talent show such a huge success. We are most grateful to Mr Latimer and Mr Smith for help with lighting and sound, to the dinner ladies for helping with the hot snacks, to our volunteer bar staff and ticket sales team, to our singing coaches, judges and compere. What wonderful talent was on show and we were very proud to have been part of this special show. Congratulations to all entrants, especially our winner, Isla from P7. Our other amazing singers: Ellie S, Roxy, Gabi, Edan, Jannat, Oliwia, Courtney, Katie, Sarah L, Suzie, Neve, Conlay, Joe, Darci L and Grayce. Over £700 was raised on the night.

Please join us on Tuesday, 10th May at 6.15 pm to help organise our annual family BBQ which is planned for Friday, 27th May. We desperately need helpers to make this event run smoothly so if you cannot make the meeting but can still help please let the office know.



Visits to Church

Pupils enjoyed a walk to the church on the last day of term to meet with members of the church. Displays were used to share the Easter story with groups of learners.

K'Nex

Well done to Millie and Marlena from P6 who represented the school at the cluster K'Nex competition held earlier this month at Cummertrees Primary. Mr Callaghan accompanied the girls to the event and reported that they had come up with original ideas and worked well together as a team. The champions of the day were Newington Primary.

P5 residential trip

P5 pupils are heading to Carlingwark today for a residential trip and two days of watersports today (28th). The bus will return on Friday 29th at 4.30pm. A letter with last minute reminders was issued earlier this week and a copy has been posted onto the blog.

Changes of Personal Details/Circumstances

To keep our records current, please ensure that any changes to the address or telephone numbers of you or your emergency contacts are shared with the school office.

Please also share any changes to your personal circumstances at home, including separation or loss.

Information will be kept in confidence, as appropriate, but will allow us to support your child during this time of change.

The Big Pedal

Well done to all who scootered and cycled to school last week to take part in the Big Pedal. Pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 were invited to take part in the event which included skills workshops and a Big Breakfast. Did you see the super coverage in the local newspaper and D&G Standard? Thankyou to Katie who is our i-bike leader and to the Annan Youth Cycling Club and volunteers for running a day of fun-filled activities to help our young people become more confident on two and four wheels. Many thanks also to staff and parents who helped organise an early breakfast in school to welcome our pupils.



Hecklegirth School Newsletter

April 28th, 2016

Named Person

As previously shared, the Named Person is the individual within maternity, public health nursing and education who carries professional responsibility for your child's wellbeing at different stages of their life:

- Pre-birth to 10-14 days old: Midwife
- 10-14 days old until primary school age: Health Visitor
- At Primary School: Headteacher
- At Secondary School: member of Senior Management Team

A new display has been set up opposite the main hall to illustrate the role of the Named Person, which in Hecklegirth Primary's case is Mrs Alexander. The role includes responsibility for liaising across partner agencies, supporting families to help improve a child's wellbeing, listening and encouraging all involved to set targets to support a child's development, being a single point of contact to avoid duplication of communication and to record and report progress as required. Mrs Alexander has responsibility for overseeing your child's wellbeing in partnership with you and your family and through effective communication we can help your child access the appropriate support they need when they need it.

Mrs Alexander's secondment will involve the training of other Named Persons in schools around the region to ensure we are able to provide a standard of expectations to help all our young people feel safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

As mentioned in the newsletter over the past few months, GIRFEC promotes an integrated and common approach to understanding and developing children's wellbeing. The eight indicators of wellbeing focus on children's fundamental rights to be SAFE, HEALTHY, ACHIEVING, NURTURED, ACTIVE, RESPECTED, RESPONSIBLE and INCLUDED (SHANARRI). In classes we have been reviewing what the indicators mean to our learners. This month- "How do we make sure we are ACHIEVING?"

Pupils' responses:

- "Remembering our homework packs." (P5/4 pupil)
- "I'm good at drawing because I draw lots of pictures." (Nursery pupil)
- Certificates and medals to celebrate success
- Winning trophies and prizes inside and outside school
- "You know you've done something good- people tell you." (P2 pupil)
- "If you achieve something they put you on the school blog." (P7/6 pupil)
- "You have to listen." (P2 pupil)
- Spending time on your work
- Learning to swim
- Going to clubs and entering competitions

Staff and adults added:

- Encouragement to do your best
- Effective use of praise and points to reward progress

- Tracking pupil progress
- Assessments during learning including tests, discussions and observations and adapting teachers' plans to take account of strengths and next steps for learning
- Additional support for learning input, as required
- Developing health and wellbeing of all pupils
- Family conversations/reports to share progress
- Requests for assistance from multi agency partners eg School Nurse, Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Social Work etc

Sad News

It is with much sadness that we share with you the news of the passing of Vicki Gordon, a supportive mum and member of our school community. Our thoughts are with Zach and his family at this sad time.



Dates for the Diary

April

- 28/29 P5 to Carlingwark
- 29 Nursery/P1 transition event

May

- 2nd School closed
- 4th Open Day
- 9th Parent Council 6 pm
- 10/11 Ditch the Stabilisers-P1-2-3.00-3.45 pm (details to follow)
- 10th HFA Meeting 6.15 pm
- 11th P7 Sports Transition Day to Annan Academy
- 16th Walk to School Week; Family Learning-Share a Story Month in Nursery Sunshine Room
- 17th Football Competition at Lockerbie 12.15 pm; Roots of Empathy Celebration for families of P3 pupils 2 pm
- 19th Family Learning-Share a Story Month in Nursery Rainbow Room; Sprint Relay Competition
- 23rd Nursery Rainbow Room to Library
- 26th P3/4 Visit to Vindolanda
- 27th HFA Summer BBQ
- 31st Family Conversations 3-7 pm

June

- 3rd School closed for in-service
- 9th Sports Day
- 10th P1 and P1/2 Assembly 1.30 pm
- 24th Scottish Opera afternoon performance for families of pupils in P5-7