

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

August 2016

Welcome/Witam!

I am delighted to be able to write my first newsletter as the Acting Head Teacher of Hecklegirth Primary School. All the staff and children have made me feel very welcome and I feel privileged to be joining your school community.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns.

The information here provides our school community with reports on school developments, updates on learning and teaching, information about staffing, notifications of forthcoming events and much, much more. To help us reduce our carbon footprint, you can receive this newsletter by email if you provide an address for us. The newsletter and other school reports are also to be found on the school blog (hyperlinked below for those reading by email/online: mouse click on link, press CTRL plus mouseclickagain:) <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/HecklegirthPrimarySchool/>

New Primary 1 Pupils

Our Primary 1 pupils have settled in well and will continue with the morning settling in sessions this week and start full time on Monday 5th September.

Hecklegirth Parent Council

There will be a Dumfries and Galloway Parent Forum meeting at Castle Douglas Community Centre from 6.30-8.30pm on Monday 26th September. This is an opportunity to meet with other parents from across the area to look at ways in which we can reach the wider school forum.

Representatives from the Education Authority will also attend the Regional Parent Forum on the 26th September, to provide an update on the learning support allocation.

Our next Parent Council meeting in school will be on Monday 3rd October 2016 from 6 - 7pm. Any new members are most welcome to come along.

From Gary Coupland, Chairperson

hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

H.F.A. News

The HFA AGM will be held on Monday 29th August at 6pm. A new Chairperson is required - so if anyone is interested please contact me via the school office Our next fundraiser is a bingo/karaoke evening to be held on Thursday 8th September.

More information to follow.

From Fiona Latimer, HFA Chairperson

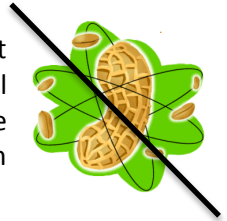


Staffing

We welcome Mrs Bell who is teaching Primary 5 this session.

Nut-Free School

We have pupils in school with a nut allergy. No products are allowed in school that contain nuts or traces of nuts. Please check your child's snack and packed lunch ingredients are nut-free.



Extra Curricular Clubs

A letter about clubs for Term 1 will be issued in due course.

Nursery News

The building work is now under way and hopefully our lovely new nursery will be ready for action after the October holiday.

Reminders

Water bottles- Send these in daily to help keep our brains and bodies refreshed.

Dinner money- School meals are free for P1-3 pupils. P4-7 pupils who wish to order a hot meal or from the milk bar can order for £1.75, payable in advance.

Packed lunch- Please help us encourage healthy eating by sending in a healthy packed lunch.

Milk money- P1-3 pupil can order milk from their class teacher at a cost of £1 per week. P4-7 pupils wishing milk can pay for this daily at the dinner hall at playtimes.

Tuck Shop- the dinner ladies run a fruit, veg and cake tuck shop at playtime. Drinks are also available.

Absence

The school day starts at 8.55am and we ask that all pupils are in school grounds prior to the bell ringing to ensure we get the school day off to a prompt and effective start. You may find doors locked if arriving late and are then asked to enter by the main door and check in with the office.

If your child is unwell please contact the school to give a reason for absence. This will ensure you do not receive a text / phone call.

In line with regional and national policy, we request that family holidays be taken outwith school times to avoid disrupting your child's learning. If you are unable to do this, permission for absence must be put in writing as holidays taken during the school term are recorded as unauthorised.

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Wider Achievement

At Hecklegirth, we celebrate achievements and events that happen in pupils' lives in *and* out of school. Please let us know if you have any family news you wish to share in case your child has not let us know! Due to the large number of items, we will be recording these on our school blog and invite you to go online and celebrate with us there!

Additional Support for Learning Update

Prior to the summer holidays there were concerns raised about the allocation process for this session and how staff were reorganised. To address this, the Supporting Learners Area Teams will be reviewing planning for children and young people with additional support, to ensure the information on levels of Additional Support Needs identified by schools and used for allocation, have provided an accurate picture of specialist and targeted levels of need.

In the interim and prior to the conclusion of the review, the allocation of Learning Support to schools and partnerships at the end of last session stands. However in order to mitigate the loss of Classroom and Learning Assistants the Authority are providing transitional relief for those primary schools where the loss has been most significant – Hecklegirth being one of them.

All parental concerns raised with the Supporting Learners Service are being reviewed and letters will be sent out on an individual basis.

The school will continue to update parents when further information is available.

School Office Contact details:

Tel: 01461 202629

E: gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

(note- no h at end of Hecklegirth!)

Meet the Teacher

This is an opportunity for parents and carers to come into school to have an informal chat with the class teachers to put a face to the name! This will take place on **Tuesday 6th September** between **3.00 and 4.00**. I will also be available so please say hello!

Sharing Learning

At Hecklegirth we welcome Parents as active participants in the life of the school. To allow the children to share their learning we are having an **Open Afternoon** on **Monday 19th September** between **1.30 and 2.30**. Parents will then be welcome to join me for a tea or coffee in the dining hall until the children are all dismissed at the usual time of 3.00.



Staff will also use the blog to share further information on class activities and their achievements. The teachers are currently preparing a curricular newsletter to give you information about what they will be learning in term1.

Dates for the Diary

Aug

29th HFA Meeting at 6.00

Sept

6th Meet the Teacher 3.00 – 4.00

8th Bingo / Karaoke Night 6.30 – 9.00

14th Mini Triathlon festival P4 – 7

19th Open Afternoon 1.30 – 2.30

20th Super 4's race 1 P5 - 7

26th Road Relay at Everholm P6 -7

Oct

3rd P7's to Operation Safety and Parent Council 6.00

8th Tag Rugby at Annan Rugby Club P5 - 7

11th School photographer in school

17th October holidays, school reopens on Monday 31st October

Thank you
Caroline Carlyle