

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

June 30th, 2016

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

Well another year has come to a close. Is it just that I am getting older that time really does seem to fly?! Thank you to all who have sent their good wishes for my new venture next year - I really do appreciate your support and encouragement at this time of change! I will miss this school community terribly especially the children who make this job of mine one of the best in the world. However it's good to go on and challenge yourself and I want to provide a good model of learning for life to everyone - 'the more you know, the more you grow!' I know I leave you in the very capable hands of Mrs Carlyle who is so looking forward to working with you all.

Have a wonderful summer break, be it spent at home or abroad. I'm looking forward to reading some books and enjoying long lies in the morning!

Good luck to P7 as they move onto secondary school- we'll all be thinking of you at the start of term! ☺

From Mrs Alexander



Parent Council

Family Learning Centre Update-The proposed survey of all families at the school and nursery regarding the potential to locate a Family Centre at Hecklegirth School and Nursery will now be circulated by the Council following the summer break.

Additional Support for Learning- A number of parents have voiced concerns regarding the provision of additional support for learning within the School and the apparent reduction in the hours of staff support being provided, from the start of the next school year. The Parent Council have written asking for more clarification around this and are awaiting a response from the relevant Council Departments and leads. Any responses received will be circulated around PC members and those parents who have already raised concerns on receipt. Any other parents wishing an update should contact the PC chair at the email address below. In the meantime, all schools received a letter yesterday (29th) from Mr Hew Smith, Integration and Inclusion Manager with the following information to help address some of the concerns: "Having recently come into post, it has very quickly become apparent that for some schools the combined effect of the loss of Classroom Assistants and the transitional arrangements for Supporting Learners Locality Teams, has resulted in a significant reduction in support. While I am

confident that the process has been transparent and based on the information supplied by schools, we need to urgently mitigate the impact during this transitional phase. To that end, I have secured support from Gillian Brydson, Head of Service, to access the ASL Service Review Contingency Fund and we are working on a transparent approach for allocating support from this fund. Unfortunately, it is not going to be possible to have these agreements confirmed to you before the end of term, but please be reassured that the Supporting Learners Team will be fully focussed over the summer on ensuring that any additional allocation will be ready for the start of next session.

I will also be reviewing this year's allocation process to consider whether the use of the matrix is still effective as a means of allocating support within the context of the new Supporting Learner's functions; and will be looking to work with all stakeholders next session to consider options.

It is important to note that there will be no funding available to allow us to return to the previous levels of support, the role of the Classroom Assistant has gone, and the financial position for our Council is more challenging than in 2014 when the Service Review was agreed. However, I recognise that some schools are experiencing a disproportionate impact.

I would ask for your support through this process and most importantly ask that we are all very careful not to further raise parental anxiety."

(A copy of the letter in full is available from the school office.)

The Parent Council would like to wish Mrs Alexander well on her secondment to the post of GIRFEC Support Officer and look forward to working with her temporary replacement Mrs Caroline Carlyle who will be our Acting Headteacher, from the start of next term.

G Coupland

Email: hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

Nursery News

We all move into the Rainbow Room at the start of the new term as the building works start to help us prepare for this super special Nursery room we are being built! A letter with further information on the building works is being sent home. Happy holidays from all the Nursery staff!



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.

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Confirmed Staff for 16/17

Acting HT- Mrs Carlyle

DHT- Mr Palmer

Nursery – Mrs Carruthers (Nursery staff: Miss Kerr, Mrs Kirkpatrick, Mrs Gray, Ms Paterson, Mrs Stott, Ms McVicar, Mrs Hamer, Mrs. Shaw (until Miss. Awde returns from maternity leave)

P1- Miss Campbell

P2/1- Mrs Lindsay

P2- Mrs Mahon

P3- Mrs Gordon (M, T, F) & Mrs Vivers (W, Th)

P4/3- Mrs Menzies

P4- Mr Stevenson

P5- Mrs Bell

P6- Mr Callaghan

P7- Miss Dennis

Additional Support for Learning teacher- Mrs Murray (M, T)

Learning Assistants- Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Holliday & Mrs Roberts

Clerical Asst- Mrs Robson

Janitor- Mr Nicholson

HFA-fundraising group

Well done to the HFA who ran another successful disco for the P7 Leavers on Tuesday night. In spite of the heavy rain, we all enjoyed our beach party indoors! Happy holidays to everyone. Hope to see you all our events next term and to welcome any new members into the group who meet termly.

Well done to Tom Vivers on his winning entry of naming our new shelter 'The Cove.' Here he is cutting the rope at the official opening on Sports Day.



Uniform Sale – Carlisle Embroidery: Mon, 5th September – 2-4 pm. Tesco.com/ues also available to provide parental choice.

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

Over the past few months we have been raising awareness of GIRFEC, 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). This month - "How do we make sure we are ACTIVE?"

Pupils' responses:

- PE outside
- "You don't be too lazy."
- Doing exercise
- Walking to school
- Daily Mile
- Move at play time and go on the timber trail
- Go to after school clubs
- Running around
- Sports Day
- Beat the Street
- I-bike
- Going in for the triathlon
- Getting my brain involved

Staff and adults added:

- 2 hours of PE per week
- Active learning
- Learning outdoors
- Being involved in setting learning goals
- Sharing my learning at open days and assemblies

AROM Quiz

Well done to Isla, Ewan, Cerys M and Ben from P7 who represented the school in the annual AROM Quiz. Well done to Newington PS who came out top on the night.

Netball Success

Congratulations to our netball team who won the large schools netball competition for Annandale and Eskdale: (from left) Keira, Holly, Isla, Hope, Cerys, Tyra & Marli. Missing from picture is Sarah.



Outstanding Opera

What an amazing experience it was to watch P5-7 pupils at work with members of Scottish Opera, performing 'Fever.' Well done to all for learning all the words and actions to put on a spectacular show to an appreciative audience.



See all pupils on 18th August for the start of the new school year!