

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

May 26th, 2016

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

Welcome to our first online newsletter. We thank you for your support in helping us reduce our carbon footprint by cutting back on photocopying. One small step towards a greener planet! If you have not yet provided an email address please do as a matter of urgency.

From Mrs Alexander

Reporting to Parents

Family Conversations

These will take place in school on Tuesday 31st May. Appointments have been issued but please call the office if you require a reminder.

Open Day- Feedback

Thank you to all who came along to Open Day on 4th May. The school was bustling with activity as pupils shared and celebrated their learning with family and friends. We welcome your feedback and below is a summary of things people enjoyed seeing and some ideas for future improvement.

We enjoyed:

- Seeing my child's work and how she is progressing.
- Such a big improvement in his work and he seems a lot happier.
- The different topics covered.
- Busy, engaged children.
- The slideshow of what the children have been doing.
- How far my son is coming on and more confident.
- Feedback from teacher.
- All the lovely displays and the school.
- All the great work being done.
- How well behaved everyone was.
- I can't believe how much work and progress my son has made since the last open day.
- Amazed at how much work my son has managed to complete-was lovely to be able to catch up on this.
- Listening to the children taking part in class activities.
- The kids together in class and how they were being taught.
- The excellent teaching methods.
- Taking part in the big writing games.
- Looking through my child's jotters.
- How happy all the children are to show us their work. Glad there was a timetable to say what was happening too.
- P2s French songs were amazing.
- The healthy bit in the hall.
- Neat work, good effort.
- Focussed children working
- Really pleased with the volume of work my child has completed
- How happy the children are to show you their achievements. They are all so proud and happy to see visitors.
- Open days are a great idea. Long may it continue.
- The class has a happy atmosphere.
- Being able to come and join them during their learning.
- Happy kids.
- I always love seeing my son play in the nursery. It's great to read about his progress in his book.
- Good interaction between staff and children. Excellent questioning.
- The friendships he is making and how his confidence is growing.

Ideas for change/improvement:

- Different times to come in outwith school day
- More maths homework
- Speak to the teacher more
- Not have as many open days
- More space to look over work
- More opportunities to join in
- Someone at main door all day to check who is coming in.

School security

- May we remind all visitors to come to the main door for entry.
- The school is locked at all times during learning. To respond to feedback from open day, office staff were in the office all day to monitor entry and a signing in sheet was in place. However, to reassure parents, all doors will be kept locked and entry and exit will be by the main door only (Nursery doors will be locked too) so please be patient as the office is always busy.
- Nursery visitors are reminded that they may be approached by office staff if they are unfamiliar to us - please do not be offended if asked to clarify who you are and the purpose of your visit.
- Following the recent calls to school threatening security, all schools have been asked to review their Lockdown and Evacuation procedures. Please see blog for update.

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

Thanks to all who turned up for sports day this week. It was chilly outdoors but at least it stayed dry for all our young athletes!

Our transition visits to P1 are going well. We have one further transition day on 10th June before the moving up day on 23rd June. A lunch trip to the dining hall is organised for 21st June.

Letters for those enrolling for Nursery will be issued next week. These will contain information about visits.

Parent Council

Family Learning Centre Update- Thanks to those who came to the meeting with Education Services to discuss plans and proposals. Hecklegirth School was identified as it has some spare classrooms at this time but concern was raised that we have an increasing roll and that the need for the services potentially on offer would not be required to any great extent in this area of Annan. The engagement process with parents has been pushed back to provide more time for the development of ideas at the Centre. We will keep you updated of any progress.

G Coupland

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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.

HFA-fundraising group

Many thanks to those who gave up their Saturday morning to assist in the setting up of our new pagoda. The Pupil Council are organising a naming competition and we will have a grand opening day on Sports Day for this quiet place for reflection. We are most grateful to Mr Andrew Whiteside and staff for their attention to detail in the construction of this wonderful addition to the school grounds. We welcome parents to come in at collection time to shelter in our new seating area - your support with fundraising events has helped us purchase this for the school!

Leavers' disco is planned for Tuesday 28th June from 6.30pm-8.00pm. This is open to all Primary pupils and a tuck shop will be available. Any Nursery pupils attending must be accompanied by an adult during the event. Tickets are priced £1 and are available at the door (Free to all Hecklegirth P7 pupils!).

See you tomorrow (27th) at the school BBQ: 5.30-7.30pm. Tickets are priced £2.50 and include your first burger. Still looking for adult helpers if you have a spare hour?



Classes for 16/17

Letters will be issued for next session on Monday 30th May. Please check schoolbags!

Sexual Health

We will be delivering our body awareness section of the cluster's HWB programme in June. One of the increasing concerns schools have is children's misuse of digital technology and social media. It is imperative that you make yourself put family controls in place to monitor your child's online activities. Please also note that Facebook should only be accessible for those over the age of 13 years, thus excluding all primary-aged children.

"Creating an account with false information is a violation of our terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13." [Facebook](#)

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 NURTURED?"

Pupils' responses:

- My family look after me
- They read stories to me
- I get help when I need it
- Holding hands with our family
- Having friends and playing together
- Looking after people
- Having rules helps us feel nurtured and looked after
- Teachers listening to us
- Being cared for
- Being nice to someone else who needs our help
- I can talk to my friends
- If you're bad they help you learn from your mistakes

Staff and adults added:

- We know our pupils
- We share information that will help us get the help we need
- Strong relationships
- Personal care
- Praise and encouragement
- Support staff team sharing information from the playground
- Partnership working with Health, Police and Social Work
- Named Person
- SHANARRI homework

Reminder- School is closed on 3rd June!

Due to In-service training for staff, schools are closed to pupils on Friday, 3rd June.

Dates for the Diary

May	
27 th	HFA Summer BBQ
31 st	Family Conversations 3-7 pm; P2 trip to Hoddom
June	
2 nd	National fish and chip day lunch; P3/2 trip to Hoddom
3 rd	School closed for in-service
10 th	P1 and P1/2 Assembly, 1.30 pm
15 th	Netball festival 3.15-6pm at Hecklegirth
16 th	Sports Day; Annan ROTM quiz
17 th	Pupil Council Assembly, 1.30pm
21 st	New P1 entrants' lunch
23 rd	Moving Up Day
24 th	Scottish Opera afternoon performance for families of pupils in P5-7
27 th	P7 trip to M&D's
28 th	Leavers' disco - open to all 6.30-8.00pm
30 th	Prize-giving and P7 assembly