



### A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

Welcome/Witam! It was lovely to see so many of you at our meet the Teacher event this term. We have some follow up information events planned for the coming months based on feedback so we hope you can join us for those too. Parentzone Scotland are launching a new School information dashboard with facts and figures about your school. To find out more go to <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> and click on the 'Primary Schools' tab.

*From Mrs Alexander , Headteacher*

### Reporting to Parents

#### School Improvement Planning Updates

1. *nurture*-staff training on nurturing approaches; review of promoting positive behaviour policy has begun- let us know if you would like to be involved in this; schemas from Education Scotland to be shared with staff and families across Nursery.

2. *raise attainment in literacy and numeracy/digital technologies*: All classes have begun to engage with Pie Corbett story mountains and using tests to motivate writers; baselines of numeracy have been recorded; staff groups developing holistic writing assessments to share and moderate across cluster; Lego therapy training took place for staff.

3. *Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)*: purchase of 12 i-pads (awaiting apps being loaded by technicians and Windows 10); plan for IT safety project in conjunction with NSPCC next term; staff trained in use of saving to the One Drive

#### What is my child learning in school?

We are looking to invest in a school app which you can download to your phones. The teachers will update regularly with pupil progress to help you find out more about your child's learning. The cost is approximately £300 per year and will be solely for our parents/carers. Our Facebook page survey showed that almost all parents/carers were interested so we will go forward with this over the coming months and keep you updated on our progress.

#### Pupil Equity Funding

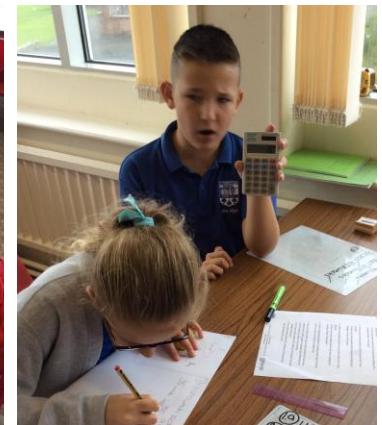
The school has received funding to support equality and equity and this is linked to the Free School Meal allocation. We are interested in your suggestions of different ways in which we can use some of our funds to provide equity across school to close the poverty gap – please share with the Parent Council or Headteacher.

### 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! The new app will be a great source for sharing learning too so watch this space! (Please avoid sending private messages to the admin on this page outwith school hours as they will be unable to address any comments from home.)

### Maths Week Scotland

Well done to all the classes who were solving problems and building number skills last week. Thanks also to the parents/carers for trying out our number puzzles on the Facebook page!



### New House Captains

We were proud of all our P7 pupils who took part in the presentations in the hall in front of an eager audience. Congratulations to our new House Captains and Vice-Captains, as voted for by our pupils. These pupils will be leading events throughout the year and inspiring our younger pupils to Aim High in all they do.



*From left to right: Mya (C) & Oliwia (VC) from Criffel; Courtney (C) & Iona (VC) from Skiddaw and Corey (VC) and Amy (C) from Burnswark.*



### NYCOS National Boys Choir 2019

A residential course is available to boys who are 10 years old by Easter holidays to provide an opportunity to sing at national level. Please see leaflets and posters in the school foyer for more info.

### Book Sale

Our book sale continues in the front hall to raise some funds to purchase plants for our planned community garden. Paperbacks are 50p hardbacks are £1. All donations of unwanted books are welcome – send in any books that are appropriate to share in school and our new House Captains and Vice Captains will add them to the book tables.

### Uniform/Clothing

- Uniform Sale - Carlisle Embroidery will be in school on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> October from 2-4 pm.
- Uniform can also still be ordered from [tesco.com/ues](http://tesco.com/ues).
- Annan Recycling also has items organised through the School Uniform bank project.
- To avoid searching, label all your child's clothing and shoes!

### Absence

If your child is to be off school please contact the school office before 9am.

### International Peace Day

To mark International Peace Day, our assembly was all about Peace last week. We talked about the importance of working together at home, at school, in our community and with other countries to ensure we resolve problems. Thank you to Ava W (P5/6) who designed this wonderful poster to mark this special day.



### Health and Wellbeing

#### Named Person

Our Headteacher, Mrs Alexander, is the Named Person for primary pupils in school. In Nursery, the named person will be your health visitor. A Named Person is a central point of contact and will be available to listen, advise and help a child or young person and their parent(s), provide direct support or help them access other services. They will also be a point of contact for other services if they have any concerns about a child's wellbeing.

#### First Aid

- In school we have trained first aiders who care for pupils and staff. These are Mrs Roberts, Mr Nicholson and Miss Kerr. Staff are also undertaking voluntary training on the use of epi-pens to help any child who may go into shock as a result of an allergic reaction.
- Sadly we had to cancel the First Aid training session for parents in school this month due to low numbers. If you would like us to attend this event in the future please contact the office and leave your name.

#### Allergies

- If your child has any food allergies and you completed a form for the kitchen, you may be contacted by the doctor to review your care plan as part of DG First's review of health care.
- We are still finding snacks and packed lunches containing foods with traces of nuts. Be vigilant and check all food labels carefully as allergies are serious.
- As per the letter you will have received last week, please advise the school of any illnesses your own children have to ensure we inform Reagyn's family. He is recovering from Leukaemia and his immune system is low so we must all be careful and remember to wash our hands to reduce the germs around school.

#### Mini triathlon

Last week P4- P7 pupils took part in a mini triathlon organised by Active Schools. Pupils were encouraged to swim at the pool, cycle round a set course at Annan Academy and finish with a run. There were a lot of exhausted but happy faces after the event!

### Community Garden Project

Any more volunteers who would be willing to plan, dig or donate plants for our community garden project? Names to the office asap to help us get started before the frost!



### Gold Award for Sports

Congratulations to Hecklegirth on earning a Gold Award in Sports Scotland scheme for promoting a wide range sports in school. Thanks to our many volunteers we are able to run clubs during and after schools throughout the year including tennis, golf, gymnastics, badminton, running, football, rugby, parent and child activity sessions, lacrosse, basketball and netball. If you enjoy a sport and are able to help us run a club or wish to start up a new club, please contact Mr Palmer. The more the merrier!

We will be organising a big fun day later in the session to celebrate with our school community!

### New Lego Club

We are starting a small Lego Club to help build relationships and develop skills such as sharing, turn-taking and simple communication. Thank you to the Hecklegirth Fundraisers for their donations towards our set up.

Initially this club will be aimed at pupils with a learning need and those pupils with whom we aim to close the attainment gap. The club, if successful, will then be opened to other pupils during the year. This club will be run by Anne Holliday and Mrs Alexander and details will be issued early next term.

### Hecklegirth Fundraisers

Donations of:

- £150 towards the set-up of new Lego Club
  - £50 to complete garden work at school entrance
- Our next event will be the Halloween Disco on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Ladies that Lunch – watch this space – we are working on an event for the new year.

Christmas card designs are all completed and sample cards for ordering should be with us soon.

Contact information: Chairperson – Stacy Wigham, Secretary – Fiona McGregor or email [hecklegirthfundraisers@gmail.com](mailto:hecklegirthfundraisers@gmail.com)

### Parent Council

Upcoming online events provided by Connect - formerly SPTC

27 SEPTEMBER

Social Media for Parent Councils and PTAs  
<https://connect.scot/events/social-media-parent-councils-and-ptas-27-september-online>

2 OCTOBER

Anti-Bullying Behaviour Workshop for Parents with respectme  
<https://connect.scot/events/connects-anti-bullying-behaviour-workshop-parents-respectme-2-october-online>

3 OCTOBER

Constitutions for Parent Councils and PTAs  
<https://connect.scot/events/constitutions-parent-councils-and-ptas-3-october-online>

Final draft of Parent Council FAQs document to be approved at meeting on 2nd October. Copies will be available to all thereafter, including a version in Polish. In talks with Connect to deliver Parent Council Essentials session in School. Update will follow once finalised. Next PC meeting on Tuesday, 2nd Oct at 6pm to 7.30pm  
Chairperson : Mike Wigham  
Vice Chairperson: Rachel Stott  
Email: [hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com)

### Dates for the Diary

#### October

- 1<sup>st</sup> – P7 to Operation Safety
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Road Relay Event
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Tag Rugby Event
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Individual & Family Photos; Carlisle Embroidery
- Uniform Sale 2-4 pm
- 15<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> – School holidays
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Return to school
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Hallowe'en Disco; Samson and Mastery of Maths drop in session for parents during disco

#### November

29<sup>th</sup> - Family conversations 3-7pm; lantern making workshops

#### December

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Annan Christmas Lights switch on
- 10<sup>th</sup>- P1-4 Christmas carol concert
- 13<sup>th</sup>- P5-7 Christmas carol concert
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Last day of term

### School Contact Information

Telephone – 01461 202629

Email – [gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)