

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

9th October, 2017

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

We have been so very busy this term, settling into our new classrooms and working alongside our new teachers. P1 and P2/1 will be moving round to the tower block next term but until then, continue to line up at the usual door.

Have a relaxing October holiday when it comes and we will see you next term raring to go in the run up to Winter and Christmas!

From Mrs Alexander

Reporting to Parents

School improvement will focus on three major areas this session:

- Raising attainment in reading
- Raising attainment in numeracy
- Developing partnerships to improve wellbeing, equality and inclusion

Funding from the Pupil Equity Fund from the Scottish Government will be used to support improvements and help us close the attainment gap between the most and least deprived pupils, whilst continuing to raise attainment for all.

Family conversations will be held on 28th November between 3.30 and 8.00pm. Meetings with teachers will be held in the hall and allow you to discuss current progress and next steps for your child. A letter will come out early next term with further information and appointment requests.

Benchmarking- Benchmarks shared by Education Scotland allow teachers and pupils to track their progress in relation to the literacy and numeracy experiences and outcomes. Individual progress booklets are currently with the printer and will be completed formatively with pupils from term 3. Staff meet with the Headteacher termly to discuss pupil progress, taking account of pace,

School Uniforms

While uniforms are available online at tesco.com/ues, Carlisle Embroidery will be in school for orders of their merchandise on Wednesday 11th October from 2.30-3.30pm in the Family Learning Room, just off the hall.

Pupil Council relaunched as Learning Council

Congratulations to our two new Learning Council leaders, Sarah Latimer and Tyler Graham. They will organise the meetings and help Mrs Alexander evaluate learning around the school. They are on the lookout for class representatives to help share the ideas of their classmates so keep your eyes peeled for details of a group interview date.

Allergies*** URGENT INFO

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have an increasing amount of pupils with allergies to foods including dairy, gluten or nuts. We requested that birthday cakes not be brought into class as not all pupils would be able to enjoy this treat.

In the interests of your child's health and safety, I have now taken the decision to stop cakes, sweets or treats being sent into classes. Requesting that you keep these wonderful treats for home and parties. For some children, just being in the vicinity of nuts is enough to set off a reaction and, whilst staff are trained in the use of medicines and epi-pens, we would not wish any child to put any child's health in jeopardy. **Please remember not to send in any foods that contain nuts as snacks or lunches.**



House Captains for 17/18

Criffel: Captain- Joanne Grieve; Vice Captains- Aidan Scott and Jannat Choudhury

Burnswark: Captain- Gabi Nolan; Vice Captains- Ellie Smith and Dylan Crawford

Skiddaw: Captain- Kelsie Mossop; Vice Captains- Eva Coupland and Poppy Graham

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Class 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 email school office.

School meals

Free school meals and clothing grants are available to those in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Any income related element of Employment & Support Allowance
- Job Seeker's Allowance (Income Based)
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £16,105
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit (with annual income under £6420)
- Universal Credit with a monthly income threshold that does not exceed £610 per month

Please call into the school office for a form.

Colder weather

As autumn moves into winter, we remind parents/carers to send pupils to school dressed warmly for the weather. We try to get the pupils outdoors for all breaks and so please send a jacket.



P1 Information Session

Thankyou to the parents who dropped into the P1 information session last month. Miss Campbell has created a handout for those who were unable to attend and if you have still to receive this please contact her.

School bell

To help your child start the day in synch with the rest of the class, we ask that all pupils are on school premises in time for the morning bell at 8.55am.

Keeping hydrated

Pupils are reminded to bring a water bottle into school and top this up with the fresh water at the water coolers. Keeping our brains hydrated helps us learn best.

Parent Council

Following our recent AGM, the following parents were elected office bearers:

- Chair person- Mike Wigham
- Treasurer – Amanda Bickett (shared with HFA)
- Vice Chair- Rachel Stott

Many thanks to our outgoing office bearers Gary Coupland, Jodie Smith and Tracy Nolan.

HF

The Hecklegirth Fundraising group held their AGM recently. Our new committee will be:

- Chair person - Stacy Wigham
- Treasurer – Amanda Bickett (shared with HFA)
- Secretary - Fiona McGregor

Our first fundraising event this session will be our popular fancy-dress Hallowe'en Disco on Thursday, 2nd Nov:

N- P2 6.00-7.00pm (accompanied by parents)

P2-P7 7.15-8.30pm

P2 pupils may choose which one to go to. Parents must accompany at the earlier disco. All pupils must be collected at the end of the older session- no children will be allowed to walk home alone.

To make our disco a success we need the help of parent volunteers- please call the school office if you are able to help us at this or future events.

Please add the 7th December in your diary too, for our forthcoming Christmas Fair in the school hall.



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Christmas Plans in School

- *Christmas Show*- dates of our show will be shared in our next newsletter. Oh yes they will!
- *Christmas tree display*- all classes will be asked to decorate a tree for display in and around school. With such a popular scarecrow competition last year, we are looking forward to the entries this year. The winning class will receive a special Christmas treat!
- *Giving Tree*- once again we have a tree to recognise donations made to staff. Donations will go towards the Schiehallion Appeal in recognition of the support they have provided for Reagyn and his family.
- *Whole school cinema* – As a Christmas treat, we plan to take the whole school to see Paddington 2 next term at Lonsdale cinema in Annan– date tbc. Cost will be £2 per child with the rest being subsidised. Letters to follow.
- *HFA Christmas Fair*- 6.30-8pm on 7th December in the school hall.
- *Christmas Holidays*- school closes at 3pm on Friday 22nd December 2017 and reopens at 8.55am on Thursday, 4th January 2018.

Purple Day

Thanks to the generosity of families and staff, we are delighted to say that our Purple Day held last week raised £620. Funds raised will be shared between Reagyn's family and the Schiehallion Appeal. Here's a photo of Reagyn in hospital.



Facebook – School Info page for parents/carers

This page has been started up to provide last minute reminders for parents/carers only. It is not open to those outwith this category.

Nursery news

We had a great response to National Maths Week with children bringing in lots of examples of shapes and numbers that they found in our community. Thanks also for the families who have been out collecting signs of Autumn for our display area. We are looking forward to performing our Autumn songs to you this week. Hallowe'en is the second day of next term and children in Nursery can come dressed in costumes if they wish. We also hope you join us at the HF disco on 2nd November.

Toot flute

P6/5 are learning to play Doods (small clarinet) and Toots (small flute) with our visiting teacher, Mrs Thorne. These workshops include note taking, call and response and Christmas tunes which we hope to present to families in December. A text with the date will be issued to parents. Hopefully pupils will be inspired to continue with music lessons.



School Trophies

If your child won a trophy at prize-giving in June, please return it to school before the holidays. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary:

11 th Oct	School photos (individuals/families)
16 th Oct	HOLIDAY: School closed for two weeks
30 th Oct	School re-opens for Term 2
28 th Nov	Family conversations/Parents' evening 3.30-8.00pm
7 th Dec	HF Xmas Fair
22 nd Dec	Last day of term

School Contact Information

Telephone – 01461 202629

Email – gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk