

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

11th December, 2017

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

Thankyou to everyone for their messages of support following the break-in at school. Lap-tops, I-pads, hard drives and walkie-talkies were among the items taken. Every room was entered and items were removed using the green recycling bags, of all things! The locked doors in the staffroom and Headteacher's office were broken down to allow them further access. Our records show that 249 texts were sent and delivered at 7.40am by the school office with only 7 not receiving this, mostly due to signal problems and old mobile numbers being on record. Thank you for your support and understanding at such short notice - it was very much appreciated during what was a stressful and hectic time. If you did not receive a text please contact us to help us clarify why and ensure you are contactable should a future emergency or school closure occur.

We are most grateful to our local police and CID for their support throughout the day, their quick retrieval of many of the stolen items and subsequent arrest of the culprits. Two of the hard drives have been retrieved but we wanted to reassure you all that the information stored on our hard drives is encrypted and can only work on our own server so are of no use to others.

Our pupils and staff are still very angry at the intrusion of the school and the theft of our resources, some of which were purchased through fund-raising. However our school community is united in not allowing the poor decisions of others affect the positive futures of our young people! Aim high, Hecklegirth!

From Mrs Alexander , Headteacher

Reporting to Parents

Open Afternoon

It was lovely to see the school so busy during our open Afternoon, celebrating our pupils' learning and achievements. We are collating the feedback and will share this with you in due course.

Family conversations

School was busy again last week during our Family Conversations event when parents/carers and pupils

met with teachers to plan the forthcoming learning targets. A copy of these targets will be sent home with your child this week. We ask those who have a shared parental responsibility to make sure both homes have sight of these to help us all work together to help your child achieve their goals.

School Improvement Planning Updates/Staff training

-All teachers have attended the Excellence, Equity and Equality training provided by Education Scotland, where staff had an opportunity to engage in professional dialogue around closing the poverty gap.

-Mrs Alexander has gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Inclusive Education.

- Moderation is the sharing of agreed expectations and good practice to enable schools to provide a consistent and fair approach to marking. Mrs Lindsay is overseeing the moderation of assessment in maths using our Mastery of Maths teamed with Strong Maths, while Mr Palmer is overseeing the moderation of writing assessments using the Scottish Criterion assessment tool.

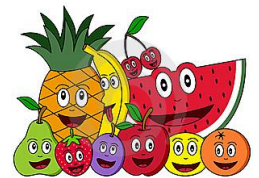
-Mr Palmer and Mrs Johnstone (Family Learning Coordinator) attended a two day course on Sleep Therapy and will be delivering an information workshop for parents/carers next term.

-Mrs Mahon, Miss Campbell and Mrs Bell are currently out of class for part of the day on a Thursday to work on a small step of change in relation to closing the attainment and poverty gaps. Classes are being covered by Music teacher, Mr Dewar-Riddick.

Healthy Eating

We are going to be involved in a project with the health Initiative team next term to look at healthy eating and ways of reducing our intake of sugar. To promote healthy eating across

the school, the Kitchen will offer healthy snacks and drinks during the week. Sweet treats e.g. cakes, muffins etc. will be available for sale on a Friday. You can help us in this venture by offering providing your child with healthy snacks and packed lunches. More info to follow! PS- please don't send in cakes/treats



Hecklegirth School Newsletter

11th December, 2017

from home for the class to ensure we avoid food allergies.

News from NHS Health Improvement Team: Healthy Lifestyle Support & Let's Cook initiative

Would you and your family like support to make small, achievable changes to your lifestyle? The Health Improvement Team (HIT) provide fun, friendly sessions, either on a one to one basis or as part of a group covering topics such as portion sizes, healthy snacks, food labelling, the Eatwell guide, menu planning and cooking healthy nutritious food on a budget. In Partnership with 'Let's Cook' the Team are now delivering group programmes within the local schools with parents/carers/ grandparents and young people, encouraging families to prepare and cook meals and snacks together. It's about planning, budgeting, shopping and cooking tasty affordable meals and making mealtimes enjoyable! Taste what you've made and take it home to share and enjoy with your family and friends. These sessions are relaxed, friendly and fun, cooking either in groups or on a one to one basis.

If you would like to take part in some practical hands on sessions, would like some support to take steps to get a bit healthier or would like further information please contact the Health Improvement Team:

- Yvonne McGregor, Health Improvement Worker – Tel: 01461 204741, e-mail: Yvonne.mcgregor@nhs.net
- Louise Johnstone, Community Food Worker – Tel: 01461 204741, e-mail: ljohnstone4@nhs.net

Learning Council

Our LC has met to agree their role in school:

- To encourage fair, safe play and friendships
- To keep the school tidy
- To gather ideas on making the school better
- To represent the views of their classmates
- To represent the school within our community and tell others about what happens at Hecklegirth

This week we are heading to the charity shops to share out the donations left over from the Christmas Fair. We are also dropping by the police station to hand in a letter of thanks to the local police.

Hecklegirth Fundraisers

Hecklegirth Fundraisers - Purpose

We are a growing group of parents who all come together around four times a year to raise money for the school, helping to buy extra resources over and above what the school are able to provide. This is to enrich the school environment for pupils and teachers.

Recent Fundraising Activities

- Christmas Cards - Raised £401.77
- Christmas Craft Fayre - Raised £1708.11

Thank you to everyone for helping us to raise the above funds, especially to all the volunteers who organised, ran stalls, collected tickets etc. (you know who you are) as without your help these events would not be able to happen. However if we cannot continue to grow the list of volunteers it may mean cancelling future events...which we do not want to happen! The more helpers we have the more events we can run so please contact us if you can help out in any way.

Upcoming Events

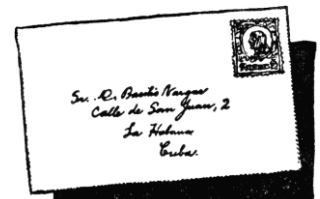
- Monday 15th January 2018 - 6-7pm - Committee Meeting
- Thursday 9th February 2018 - Bingo Night (time TBA)

WATCH THIS SPACE - Hecklegirth fundraisers will be launching a new email address in 2018. In the meantime, for any information or to get in touch with ideas/suggestions on how we can continue to raise funds for the school please do not hesitate to contact

Stacy Wigham or **Fiona McGregor** via the school office or on our Facebook Page 'Hecklegirth Fundraisers.'

Christmas Post

P5 will be delivering Christmas cards within school from tomorrow (12th). We encourage pupils to use this free service and to write the receiver's name and class clearly on the front of the envelope.



Hecklegirth School Newsletter

11th December, 2017

Parent Council

What is a Parent Council for?

The main job of a Parent Council is to represent the views of the parents at the school. Your school's Parent Council should help to create an environment where all parents know that their views matter, and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward. This link between parents and the school can really help to ensure that these make a real difference to the work and life of the school.

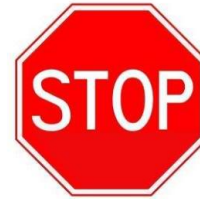
What does a Parent Council do?

The duties of a Parent Council are not laid down in legislation so it is up to the parents and carers at each school (their Parent Forum) to decide what they want their Parent Council to do. There are lots of things a Parent Council can get involved in, including:

- Supporting the work of the school, for example, by advising the school on its policies, contributing to the school's handbook and development plan
- Promoting contact between all parents and the rest of the school community
- Organising social and fundraising events
- Discussing anything that's of interest to parents
- Being involved in the appointment of senior staff

Our next meetings are on 22nd January & 23rd April at 6 pm.

For more information about the Hecklegirth Parent Council, or to discuss any ideas, please contact the Chairperson, Mike Wigham, on hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com.



Thanks for remembering
this is a



Peanut/Nut
Free School

Class Blogs

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/HecklegirthPrimarySchool/>.

Don't forget to drop us an email with photos to let us know of your child's wider achievements and we will share these with the school community. Updates include success at the Cycle X Championships for Conan and dancing in Paris for Kelsie, Keira, Roxy and Jessica W.

Entitlement to free school meals/clothing grants

Are you entitled to free school meals and a clothing grant? If you are, you can claim financial support and help the school claim Pupil Equity Funding. To claim this, you must be in receipt of just *one* of the following:

- 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

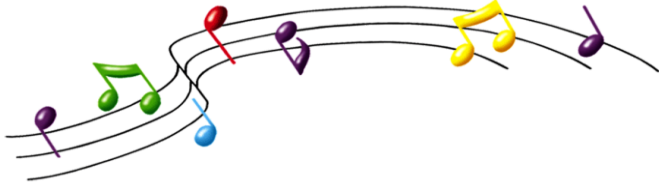
Please call into the school office for a form.

Hecklegirth School Newsletter

11th December, 2017

Baby news

- Congratulations to Reuben and Louie on the arrival of baby brother Jude.
- Happy news for Mr Callaghan and Tom as the family welcomes baby Rose.



P5/6 are making music

Families of P5/6 are invited into school on Friday, 15th December at 11.15 am to hear a live performance of the pupils taking part in Toot Flue.

Nursery News

We have had visits from the new January children who will start in the Rainbow Room and tomorrow four new two year olds will visit in preparation for their January start in the Sunshine room.

Children are singing on Monday, 18th December at 11.20 am and 2.20 pm for families.

Nursery parties take place on Tuesday, 19th December. Parents are invited to see Santa visit at 11.15 am and 2.20 pm.

Christmas Party Dates

11th December pm – P5 and P5/6 party

13th December pm – P3/4 and P4/5 party

20th December pm – P2/3 and P3 party

21st December pm – P1, P1/2 and P7 party

Please come to school in uniform and bring party clothes to change into.

Christmas Concert- Bethlehem, the Musical

Our concert is on Tuesday 19th Dec at 1.30pm and 6.30pm. This is a ticket-only event. All pupils should arrive back in school in the evening at 6pm (please do not come before). The John Bell car park and back gate will be open for both performances. Tickets are limited to two per family per performance initially but any unsold tickets will become available for general sale from Wednesday 13th on a first come, first served basis.

Water Bottles

Please remind your child to bring a water bottle to school each day to keep him/her hydrated.

We have water bottles for sale in the school office for £1.

Dates for the Diary:

Dec

14th Choirs to visit Annan Hospital

15th Toot flute presentation by P5/6, 11.15 am

19th Christmas Concerts - 1.30pm and 6.30pm
(advance ticket sales only)

21st Last day of term, choirs to visit Lydiafield.

Jan

4th Return to school

School Contact Information

Telephone – 01461 202629

Email – gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk