

HECKLEGIRTH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

5TH MARCH, 2018

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

We hope you enjoyed your unexpected snow days last week. The decision to close school was not made lightly but, having made the slippery journey from Dumfries early on, I made a travel risk assessment and felt it essential to close the school to pupils in light of health and safety. The school was closed at 7am and texts sent out to families and staff thereafter, with only eight numbers showing that the text had not been picked up. Follow-up calls were made and for those whom we were still unable to contact we have sent letters out today requesting updates of contact numbers and emergency contacts.

Please do not forget to let the school know of any changes to your own or emergency contact numbers so we can get these important messages out to you.



From Mrs Alexander , Headteacher

Reporting to Parents

School Improvement Planning Updates/Staff training

- Mrs Alexander attended a Regional Improvement Collaborative session in Ayrshire last week looking at sharing good practice for the Pupil Equity Funding. Dumfries and Galloway are part of the collaborative with East, North and South Ayrshire.

- Teaching staff are now able to use Charanga, a new music program, following training from Mr Dewar-Riddick.

- Mr Palmer is attending the Headteachers' business meeting next month to share his work on literacy posters.

-Miss Campbell, Mrs Mahon and Miss Tulloch enjoyed a day of outdoor learning training in Glasgow earlier this month. We look forward to exciting times ahead in an outdoor class near you!

Sharing learning

- 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!
- Go onto our school blog to read up to date accounts of learning in your child's class.
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/HecklegirthPrimarySchool/>.
- Open day: April 25th – TBC
- 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.

Water Bottles

Please remind your child to bring a water bottle to school each day to keep him/her hydrated. We have some for sale in the school office for £1.

Learning Council

We have been busy finding out what our pupils want to play in the playground. Last week we ordered new toys and look forward to these arriving. Pupils will be reminded how to share and return the toys to help us keep them for longer this time!



Rotary Quiz

Good luck to Jack, Eva, Poppy and Anna, our P7 quiz team who head to Elmvale primary on Thursday to compete with other cluster primaries.

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Celebrating success outside school- Wider Achievement

Performers

- **Scots Verse** -Congratulations to Eva and Willow who represented the school in the cluster competition. Mrs Alexander accompanied them to the event where they performed with great confidence and gusto!
- **Burns songs**- Joanne, Carly, Grayce, Harli, Roxy and Calise sang at the schools competition in Dumfries to represent the school. Well done!

Sports newsdesk

- **Badminton**-Well done to all our badminton players who took part in the Lockerbie competition this month including medallists Ellie S, Ellie W, Devon, Isaac and Hannah.
- **Cycling**- Conan and Joe were placed 1st and 3rd respectively in the cyclo-cross race held earlier this month.
- **Dance**- Freya, Sophie and Aoife have been dancing their socks off in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom.
- **Cross-country**- Courtney and Scott took part in the cross country run at the Everholm with Courtney taking a second place in her age group.
- **Athletics**- Courtney won another medal at the Emirates, taking part in the 60m sprint, 200m sprint, long jump and shot putt.
- **Netball**- Our school team has enjoyed playing a series of after-school matches with schools round the cluster and area. Well done on your successes.
- **Basketball**- Well done to our school team who just won the schools competition held in Lockerbie this week, beating Newington 2-1 in the final.
- **Gymnastics**- So proud of all our gymnasts who performed at the Annandale and Eskdale competition this month. For many this was their first competition and it was good to see our team rally round to encourage each other. Well done to all , especially to our Primary Level 2 team (Summer, Joanne, Suzie and Ellie) who earned a well-deserved silver medal. Great news!

After-school family sports club

Families are enjoying their weekly club with our PE teacher, Mrs Foster. The club looks at simple skills that promote hand-eye coordination through teamwork.

NSPCC 02 adult workshop: keeping Children safe online -30th April, 6.30pm)

Sadly the February event was cancelled due to lack of interest so we have rearranged this for an evening session on 30th April as we feel this is important information that families need to know. We do hope you can join us.



Nursery News from Mrs Carruthers & Mr Palmer

As our learning begins to focus on the world of work and our local community, we would be delighted if any parents/carers could come in to chat informally to the children about their jobs. Please speak to staff if you can help us with this.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to accompany us on our upcoming visits out to the community. Please hand in the reply slip to staff if you are able to join us as it is helpful to have lots of adults on these outings and you will have a lovely experience with the children. We look forward to visits to Tesco, the fire station and the police station in the next few weeks.

Story and number sacks will be available from Eileen, our Family Learning Co-ordinator, from Thursday March 8th outside Nursery. We hope that lots of families take this opportunity to share these fun learning activities with their children.

Crossing patrol Vacancy

Vacancy becoming available after Easter. This is 9.75 hours per week (8.30-9.00am and 2.55-3.30pm). Anyone interested please contact Nicola Simpson on 01576 205293.



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Parent Council

Next Parent Council meeting is 23rd April at 6pm. Join us for some cake and coffee as we discuss school issues and ideas for the future. All parents/carers welcome.

We are looking at making links with local businesses. On that note, I'm in the process of setting up a meeting with Dan Palmer, Branch Manager at Cumberland BS in Annan. I'll keep you posted! The next D&G Parent Council Forum meeting will take place at 6.30pm on 21st May at Castle Douglas HS. To discuss any ideas please contact me through the school office or via the details below.

Mike Wigham, Chairperson

hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

Entitlement to free school meals/clothing grants- please read and help us help you!

Pupil Equity Funding is an allocation of money to help reduce the poverty and attainment gap across Scotland, ensuring that we are supporting all our young people to achieve their goals. This allocation is based on those in receipt of the grant. As pupils in P1-3 receive free meals already, many families who are entitled do not request the grant which also allows access to a clothing grant. Only by all those entitled to applying doing so is the school able to receive the maximum benefit so please check below to see if your family can claim.

To claim, 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. Office staff are happy to help you complete any paperwork.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE SINGING AT THE MUSIC FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND

WORLD BOOK DAY/BOOK FAIR – Children should bring a book to school tomorrow (6th) and come dressed in non-uniform/pyjamas/onesies/slippers. The Book Fair is open tomorrow for families from 8.45-9.15 & 2.45-3.30. Pupils can also purchase books during the school day.

School Contact Information

Telephone – 01461 202629

Email – gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Dates for the Diary:

March

- 7th Nursery visits to Tesco
- 8th Class Photos; P7 team to Rotary Quiz; Nursery Reading Together Sessions @ 11.35am/2.40pm
- 9th Music Festival; Nursery Reading Together Session @ 11.35am; School Bingo Night
- 13th Nursery visits to Fire Station
- 14th Cross county competition at Lochmaben
- 16th **P3 (Mrs Bell) assembly- parents welcome to attend (1.30pm) - please note change of date!**
- 20th Easter start children visiting Nursery; rearranged Prose festival TBC
- 21st Nursery visits to Police Station @11.35am/2.40pm; P4/5 Pitch, Pulse and Magic visit to class
- 22nd P4/5 trip to Tullie House; Nursery Reading Together Sessions @11.35am/2.40pm
- 23rd P5 (Mr Malin) assembly- parents welcome to attend (1.30pm); Nursery Reading Together session @11.35am
- 29th Last day of term
- 30th First day of holidays – school re-opens on Monday, 16th April