

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

From Mrs Alexander , Headteacher

Reporting to Parents

Open Days- We had a busy school during our open sessions earlier this month. Visitors were asked to comment on what they had enjoyed seeing and feedback was very positive. Comments included:

- ❖ Seeing them learn and knowing what they find challenging at the moment
- ❖ I liked the atmosphere in class, nice and calm.
- ❖ Reading teacher comments
- ❖ Nice to spend time with him discussing his work and what he enjoys
- ❖ Seeing him in his school environment. He was really excited to show me his work. Was very relaxed and inviting.
- ❖ All the hard work being done.
- ❖ Nice to see children who love school.
- ❖ Seeing the big change in her learning.
- ❖ Liked the project model.
- ❖ How proud she is of herself as we are of her.
- ❖ Progress from last visit. Lovely atmosphere in class. Her teacher is the best!
- ❖ Class projects and information on the walls.
- ❖ Healthy eating info in the foyer was very interesting.
- ❖ Good teaching.
- ❖ Seeing all his work as he says they do nothing! ☺
- ❖ Seeing the way the classroom is set up and where my child sits

For a full list of feedback go to the school blog or see the posters in the display boards around school.

School Improvement Planning Updates/Staff training

- Information was sent out at the start of this week regarding the school's progress with the School Improvement Plan. Any feedback should be with us by Thursday to allow us to collate within the returns to the Region and can be sent in via email or by responding to the post on the school's Facebook page.

-Congratulations to Miss Kerr in Nursery on receiving her long service award for 25 years' service with D&G Council.

- Mr Stevenson and Mrs Menzies attended a Science Fair in Dumfries earlier this month. They plan to lead some developments in school next session to help build confidence in staff across Science and Technology

-Mrs Mahon will be attending a Digital Technologies course in Edinburgh this week to find out more about

how technology can impact on Additional Support for Learning.

- Staff training: Child Protection

Keeping In Touch- It has come to our attention that some contact details for families are not up to date. Please ensure that any changes to your own or your emergency contact details are updated, in case of emergency! When you receive an update form, please take time to check this through and update as appropriate, including GP contact details.

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!
- 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.

Events for parents

We have been asked to provide workshops for families outwith the school day to try and engage more of our families. We have recently organised two such events and whilst they were enjoyed by those in attendance, numbers were very low so please let us know how we can best get more people involved.

- A group of parents attended the school's workshop on online safety led by Mrs Alexander and PC Irons on 30th April. They said they were now feeling more informed about the ins and outs of children being online after learning how they can stay up to date and keep their child safe in today's digital world. For more information on the age restrictions and appropriateness of apps your child is using go to

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

- Mr Palmer and Mrs Johnstone held a drop-in session last week on our 'Amazing Brains'. There was practical advice and guidance on how you can support your child's brain development in order for them to be 'Fit to Learn'. Information on the session will be sent out to everyone shortly.
- We are planning to hold a First Aid training session for parents in school on Wednesday 12th September from 6-8pm. This will cost £5 per

head and will provide you with some basic first aid tips. The session will be led by Gemma Flett.

Festival Successes

Sarah from P7 won the P6-7 girls' prose class and Kelsie was second. This was a large class where all had to read a prepared text from a novel. We are very proud of all the girls who took part including Niamh, Jessica and Ellie.

Miss Dennis and her choir also enjoyed success at the music festival and we congratulate her singers who sang with confidence and gusto! Joanne from P7 won second place in the P7 girls' solos and the choir came second in the Scots Singing and second in the Pupil Conducting.

Allergies

Please inform school of any allergies your child has. Currently we have pupils with allergies to nuts. In the interests of health and safety, we ask that no child brings in any snack or lunch item that contains nuts. Please read the labels of all foodstuffs.



Nursery News from Mrs Carruthers & Mr Palmer

- Health Week- The nursery have enjoyed participating fully in a range of events during Health Week. This culminated in a great Fun Day where the sun shone on us.
- Learning new things- We have also been watching the life cycle of a butterfly developing before our eyes. Our caterpillars are now at the cocoon stage and we are awaiting the emergence of some beautiful butterflies.
- Transition- Those moving to Hecklegirth Primary in August have enjoyed their visits to Miss Campbell

and their new classroom as have those moving to other local schools. There will be a school lunch for those moving to Hecklegirth on the 19th June. Details will follow.

- Next week- We are expecting little visitors from local playgroups who will be our pupils next year.

Wider Achievement

Dylan and Jack H (P7) are part of Annan Athletics' Under 13's team, who were placed first in the D&G league this year. Both boys were presented with a medal at the weekend to mark this success.



Parent Council

Our next Parent Council is on Monday 4th June from 6-7pm. All parents are welcome and we will be joined by the Chairperson of the Regional Parent Council Forum. To discuss your ideas please contact me through the school office or via the details below, come along to our next meeting, or catch me at the school BBQ.

Mike Wigham, Chairperson

hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

Uniform/Clothing

- Unless otherwise announced, school uniform is expected to be worn daily. Please avoid sending in sports tops/hoodies.
- As the hot weather continues and clothing is discarded left, right and centre, please can we ask families to label ALL items of their child(ren)'s clothing. It is almost impossible to reunite unlabeled clothing with the owners!
- Thankyou to all who donated old clothes for those occasions when a pupil requires a change in school. Can we remind the borrowers to wash and return any items of clothing on loan.
- Now that summer has arrived, please send your child(ren) into school with a cap/sunhat and water bottle to help them keep cool.

Teaching Staff for 2018/2019

A letter with your child's class for the new session will be handed out this week.

Nursery- Mrs Carruthers

P1- Miss Campbell

P2- Mrs Mahon

P2/3- Mr Stevenson

P3/4- Mrs Gordon & Mrs McCutcheon

P4- Mrs Lindsay

P5- Mrs Bell

P5/6- Miss Dennis

P6 – Miss Smith

P7- Mrs Menzies

Mrs Roberts, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Stott and Mrs McKinnell will be returning as Learning Assistants, carrying out a range of support for learning activities.

Health Week

Mr Palmer organised an action-packed week of healthy activities in school. Many thanks to all who came in and shared their expertise and enthusiasm with our school community: Terry from Solway Spartans Boxing; Mark from Annan Tennis Club; Nicole from Ankle Biters; Gary from Annan Rugby Club; Yvonne McGregor from the Health Improvement Team; Jacqueline Bell, Dental Health Office; Edith from Tesco; Katie Robinson, i-bike officer; Zoe from Compass; Maureen Smith's dancing club; Andy and Eric from Annan Athletic; Alistair from Borders Shotokan karate club; Liam from Little Tigers Taekwando; our own Mrs Menzies teaching Zumba; P5/6 and P7 and their teachers Mr Stevenson and Miss Dennis. Thanks also to Aldi for donating bottles of water. You all helped to make the week a great success and we hope to see progression for some of our children in to a new sport or club and in some of the healthy choices that they make.

Cycle Checks

Katie was in school last month checking bikes are road-worthy and helping us organise another successful Bike Breakfast. **Please remember- no helmet, no bike!**

School Trips

Thank you to all our staff for organising and running school trips throughout the year for pupils. These take time to plan and can often involve using staff's own time, which they give free of charge. Thank you- we could not offer these amazing learning opportunities

without you. If you would like to volunteer to help on a future school trip please call at the office.

P5 Outdoor Learning Fun

P5 pupils took part in an overnight stay at the D&G region's Carlingwark outdoor learning centre in Castle Douglas. They experienced sailing, kayaking and canoeing. Due to a day of windy weather on Carlingwark Loch some got to climb Scrael which took great determination – and they all made it to the top! Thank you to our helpers Mr Malin, Mr Scott, PC Leggett and Mrs Alexander for accompanying the pupils.

P6/7 Up for the Challenge of Winmarleigh

A great time was had by all who attended the four day trip to Winmarleigh outdoor centre. Pupils took part in activities including abseiling, raft building and canoeing. The site manager complimented the group on their excellent manners and enthusiasm to challenge themselves. Many thanks to the adults who gave up their own time to accompany the group - Miss Dennis, Mr Coupland and Mrs Stott. Well done to all.

Swimming Success

- Mrs Kirkpatrick's swimming team have a busy few weeks. On 2nd June at the ROM competition, 6th June at the Scottish Championships in Edinburgh and 7th June at the Dumfries Guid Nychburris competition.
- Well done to those pupils who went to swimming lessons during the school day to build their confidence up in the water. We hope families are able to build on this work by attending the pool in the evenings or at weekends so they can continue to progress.

Sports Day

The sun shone on our Nursery and Primary Sports day events. Many thanks to all who came to cheer us on and to the secondary pupils and parents who helped us run the events. A great time was had by all!



Royal Wedding Party

Many thanks to our wonderful kitchen staff who put on an amazing lunch to celebrate the Royal Wedding. Staff and pupils dressed for the occasion and enjoyed a buffet lunch of sandwiches, shortbread, sausage rolls and cake. All pupils received a Royal pencil and home-made tablet as a wedding favour. Thank you to all who took part in the 20p draw to see which member of staff was to wear the tiara or crown. Mr Nicholson won! Proceeds from this went towards a thankyou gift to the dinner ladies.



Out and About

Senior pupils went out to visit the Afternoon Club at the Annan Old Parish Church today. They entertained through music, poetry and prose and were well received by a very appreciative audience.

Prize-Giving

We will be holding an end of year prize-giving assembly in school on the second last day of term, Thursday 28th June at 1.15pm. This is a time to celebrate our successes over the year and recognise some group and individual successes. If you would like to attend you must call and reserve a seat as space will be at a premium.

Dates for the Diary:

May

29th May – Young Citizen Presentation at Annan Town Hall

June

1st School closed to pupils- staff training

8th - 1.30 pm , P2/3 Assembly; School BBQ. Volunteers needed – please leave name at office if you can help!

11th - Football comp, Lochmaben

13th - P3 & P3/4 trip to Drumlanrig; Annandale & Eskdale netball comp here

15th - P7 leavers' assembly, 1.30pm

18th P- 7 to secondary schools (Annan Ac from lunch)

19th - P2/3 trip to Cocoabean

21st - Move up afternoon; AROM quiz at Newington

22nd - P4/5 assembly, 1.30pm

25th - AROM Principals' visit; AROM football comp

26th - P1 and P1/2 to Drumlanrig

27th - Nursery graduation; Leavers' disco 5pm

28th - Prizegiving 1.15pm

29th - Last day of session

Hecklegirth Fundraisers invite you to attend the annual family

BBO

Friday 8th June. 6pm - 8pm

£2 entry includes sausage, burger or vegetarian option

Bouncy castle, licensed bar, Tombola, Raffle, Tuck and more

Stalls also by Mable Farm Park, AYCC and Active Anklebiters

School Contact Information

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