

A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

What a busy start we have had to 2018. We have had ukuleles, toot flute lessons at the Academy, outdoor learning walks in the community, building works meetings for the Nursery, snow, dental checks for P1 & P7, Scots verse competitions and community police visits to name just a few. We look forward to sharing even more learning with you for the rest of the term.

From Mrs Alexander , Headteacher

Health and Safety

- Emergency school closures- Ensure the school has the current contact details for you and your emergency contacts in case of a school closure eg heating failure, extreme weather etc. Updates will be text out, added to the school Facebook page, D&G Council website and local radio.
- John Bell Car park- We are very lucky to have access to this large car park with access to the back gate and urge families to use this with care to ensure the safety of all users. Please avoid parking outwith the allocated spaces.
- Staff car park – This car park is for staff. A serious accident involving two parents' cars last week reinforced our concerns that this is being used unnecessarily for drop-offs and pick-ups. Please do not take offense or get upset at staff if reminded not to use the car park as we are doing so for your safety and that of the others within our school community. Pedestrians are reminded to use the path around the car park between the primary and secondary schools. For after-school clubs this car park can be used as the John Bell will be closed but again we urge to use it with caution.



Reporting to Parents

Open Afternoon

Thankyou for the feedback received during our open day last term. We were pleased to see a wide range of things you enjoyed seeing during your visits and a few ideas for further improvements which we will address in due course. These included:

Families were tickled pink to see....

- How she interacts within the class. The new classroom looks good.
- The creativity and colourful artwork around the school.
- The progress all the children have made.
- Seeing how good my daughter has adjusted to school.
- How excited my son was to show his work and we were pleased with all that he is doing.
- How everyone was so friendly and helpful.
- My daughter's jotters and good to see her improve in areas of maths where she has previously found tricky.
- The way she has settled into the new term with ease.
- Great to see my child's work and talk about it.
- Loving the interaction with his peers.
- Wow, my son has come on leaps and bounds.
- He loves counting and it is great to see so many maths problems.
- Very welcoming and glad we could come.
- My son showing me and explaining all his work he has achieved over his start in P6.
- The different ways used to learn.
- All the schoolwork dotted around the school.
- Seeing which part my daughter was proud of.
- All the encouragement and suggested comments from the teacher are so positive.

Some ideas for improvement:

- Writing- gets confused with some letters.
- He is finding maths difficult during homework.
- Need to focus on spelling.
- To have proper workbooks instead of sheets but I understand it can be expensive.

- More places to sit to look over the children's work.
- None – keep up the good work.
- None - I am very happy with how well she is doing.

A full record of feedback is displayed in the school foyer.

School Improvement Planning Updates/Staff training

-Some staff are currently out of class for part of the day on a Thursday to work on a small test of change in relation to closing the attainment and poverty gaps. Classes are being covered by Mr Dewar-Riddick and Mr McCall. Projects include a talking, listening & questioning project, focus on phonics, pace of recalling number bonds and nurturing approaches.

-Mrs Alexander and Miss Tulloch attended an engineering twilight session as part of the region's focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths education).

- Mr Malin and Miss Tulloch continue with their traineeship and recently undertook training on interview skills.

- The school has purchased the Charanga music program which Mr Dewar-Riddick will demonstrate to teaching staff during INSET.

-The Nursery have begun reading sessions with families to promote reading enjoyment.

Communication with school

Please ensure you inform school when:

- **Your child is absent.** (If you do not call us we will send a text to request you contact us- please reply!). May we remind you that family holidays taken during term time will be recorded as unauthorised.
- **There is a change of contact details for yourself or your emergency contacts** (including new mobile numbers)
- **There is a change of plan for collection of your child**
- **Your child has a medical appointment to attend**

Keeping in touch

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.

Developing resilience in our young people- promoting positive behaviours

Using our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) we will be trialling a small test of change with P3/4 and P4/5, training staff and pupils in a positive and motivational approach to help them feel more content and confident from the inside out.

Pupils will work with Colette McQueen from Bespoke Minds in class on 9th February. This will be followed up by the teachers leading practise sessions for 21 days, using techniques learned in the workshop. A review of the progress will be made at the end to help us measure the impact of the project. If it successful we will be rolling it out to some other classes.

This is just one approach we are using in school to promote positive behaviour and create a safe and positive learning environment for all. Other solutions we are using include the use of praise and encouragement, stickers and certificates to recognise success, staff training on de-escalation skills and developing a nurturing approach, extra support in the playground contact with home, behaviour charts and a successful whole school traffic light system. In some cases we also employ additional staff to deliver an enhanced curriculum through 1:1 sessions outwith the classroom enabling all learners to achieve their goals without disruption, advice from the Inclusion team on behaviour support, the development of a child plan to support individual needs in partnership with other agencies, as well as adaptations to the school day to support inclusion. We are currently reviewing our school policy on Behaviour and request any parents/carers interested in becoming involved in the review to get in touch with the Headteacher.

Water Bottles

We encourage all our pupils to keep hydrated throughout the day but are quickly running out of polystyrene cups which are not good for the planet! 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.

Class topics

Please 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/>.

Topics this term are:

P1 & P1/2 Fairyland

P2/3 Penpals

P5 Titanic

P3 Scotland

P5/6 Africa

P4/3 Egyptians

P7 WWII

P4/5 Vikings

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.

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

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. This is an amazing, free club for families and we cannot believe no one has taken up the offer yet!

If you would like to take part in some practical hands on sessions about planning, budgeting, shopping and cooking tasty affordable meals and making mealtimes enjoyable 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 been out and about in the community raising the profile of Hecklegirth Primary. Left-over donations (books, bric-a-brac etc) from the Christmas Fair were donated to local charity shops and we also visited the police station to hand in a letter of thanks we wrote following the break-in at school. We meet tomorrow (30th) to organise a survey of pupils to find out which new playground games to order.

Great Christmas Fun

- Christmas Post: Thank you to P5 for organising the delivery of our internal mail service over the festive period.
- Thinking of Others: Many thanks for the generous donations to SHELTER at our retiring collection at the carol concerts. Thanks also to the following for donations made to the Giving Tree in lieu of Christmas cards: Mrs Alexander, Mrs Robson, Joseph & Niamh Park, Mr Nicholson, Carly and Jacquie Milburn, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Gray, Mrs Hamilton, Joe & Tom Hextall, Freddie & Ollie Hamilton & Reilly Shearer.
- Bethlehem the Musical: Two very appreciative audiences enjoyed our nativity musical. Thank you to staff for rehearsing, Miss Dennis for directing, pupils for performing with gusto and to our families for being such a good audience. Thank goodness the power came back on before we started our evening performance! £1000 was raised for music resources as well as £322 for the Royal Sick Children's Hospital in our retiring collection (including funds raised from Giving Tree).
- Parties: The HF donated crisps, juice and sweets for all the parties. These were very much appreciated- thank you!
- Christmas Fair: £1600 was raised for school funds at this wonderful event. We enjoyed seeing so many visitors in school. Well done to all our raffle prize winners and to Dylan R for winning the Hecklegirth bear and to Sasha who won the gigantic elf!
- Choirs in good voice: Miss Dennis and her choir entertained the residents of Annan Hospital and Lydiafield last month.

Toot Flute Success

Well done to P5/6 who learned the Toot flute last term with tutor, Melanie Thorne. The class put on a short concert to pupils and families just before the holidays and enjoyed the experience of performing 'live.' (Please see the diary at the end of the newsletter for information on forthcoming class assemblies.)



Scots Verse Winners

Congratulations to all who learned and recited a Scots verse as part of our school competition. Class winners performed at assembly with confidence:

P1 Layla	P4/5 Keira H
P2/1 Tom H	P5 Katie M
P2/3 Ben W	P5/6 Lexie J
P3 Willow	P7 Eva
P3/4 Julia L & Hayley	

Winners going forward to the cluster event on February 9th at St Columba's Primary will be announced on Friday.



Parent Council

A newsletter will be coming directly from the Parent Council this week.

Our next meeting is on 23rd April at 6 pm. We are seeking new members so please come along.

To discuss any ideas, please contact the Chairperson, Mike Wigham through the school office or on hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

All adults within the school community are invited to OUR FREE NSPCC 02 ADULT WORKSHOP – KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE -

Tuesday, 6th Feb, 2pm, Hecklegirth Primary, to raise awareness of what your child may be doing online and how best to keep them safe.

Hecklegirth Fundraisers

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

- CHANGE OF DATE: Friday 9th March 2018, 6-8.30pm -

Bingo Night – **volunteers needed!**

For any more 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.'

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

29TH JANUARY, 2018

Nursery News from Mrs Carruthers & Mr Palmer

All nursery children moving on to P1 should now have enrolled at the school of their choice. If anyone has any concerns about your child's transition to our school or any other in the local area please speak to our nursery staff.



Our parent/ child reading sessions are on the 1st and 2nd February. Thank you to those who have shown an interest. If anyone would still like to join us for these sessions please let us know.

Thanks to those parents who were involved in our focus group to discuss the suitability of posters that help to promote children's literacy development. We hope to share these with you shortly and gain feedback on the effectiveness of the important messages.

Celebrating Robert Burns with a Touch o' Tartan Day



Dates for the Diary:

Feb

- 6th Online safety workshop for parents/carers, 2pm (fliers in bags)
- 9th P1 (Miss Campbell) assembly- parents welcome to attend (1.30pm)
- 23rd P3/4 (Mrs Menzies) assembly- parents welcome to attend (1.30pm)

March

- 9th P3 (Mrs Bell) assembly- parents welcome to attend (1.30pm)
- 23rd P5 (Mr Malin) assembly- parents welcome to attend (1.30pm)
- 29th Last day of term
- 30th First day of holidays – school re-opens on Monday, 16th April

School Contact Information

Telephone – 01461 202629

Email – gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk