



A Message from the Headteacher: Welcome/Witam!

Welcome/Witam! I hope you had a relaxing summer break. I am pleased to welcome you all to the new school year at Hecklegirth Primary and Nursery and am excited about all the wonderful opportunities that lie ahead. The monthly newsletter serves to offer information and reminders and is issued on the last week of each month. Our Facebook page offers last minute reminders and snapshots of the school day so please join if you have not already.

We do hope you can come along and support us at our many events throughout the year. By supporting the school you will meet new people, find out more about what your child is learning and help us shape the school's future. Your views are important to us so please share any ideas and/or concerns directly with staff or myself so that we can work together to create the best learning experiences for our children.

From Mrs Alexander , Headteacher

Reporting to Parents

School Improvement Planning Updates

-Our school improvement plan contains developments for the new session. These have been identified through feedback from parents/carers, pupils and staff as well as from guidance at local and national level:

1. To develop a whole school nurture approach to improve children's health and wellbeing
2. To raise attainment in literacy and numeracy with through increased use of digital technologies and parental engagement
3. To improve learning and teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)

Staff training

-During INSET, all staff undertook Nurture training as the first step in our whole school approach.

-Teaching staff joined cluster colleagues for a full day of writing skills using Pie Corbett materials. All classes are trialling the story mountain approach to encourage reading and talking as a first step in writing this term.

-Nursery and P1 staff worked alongside the Occupational Therapist for a session on pre-writing skills which will prove useful in the early years.

- Staff will be offered Lego Therapy training this term.

What is my child learning in school?

Please join us in your child's classroom on Tuesday 4th September from 3-3.45pm where teachers will be sharing information about class learning and homework. This is an informal event to facilitate an introduction to the class teacher and to enable parents of more than one child to move between rooms. We do hope you can make it.

Pupil Equity Funding

The school has received funding to support equality and equity and this is linked to the Free School Meal allocation. Contracts are in place to provide Talking, Listening and Questioning sessions in P1 as well as additional Support for Learning groups across school. We have also identified resources in outdoor learning, literacy and ICT which we will help learners from all backgrounds to access the curriculum fully. We will also use the funding to support attendance at school trips and events which would normally be outwith the reach of some. Suggestions of different ways in which we can use some of our funds to provide equity across school can be shared with the Parent Council or Headteacher.

Events for parents

A basic First Aid training session for parents in school has been arranged in school on Wednesday 12th September from 6-8pm. This is for adults only and will cost £4.50 per head. Please call the school office to book your space.

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! (Please try to avoid sending private messages to the admin on this page outwith school hours as they will be unable to address any comments from home.)

Labels

PLEASE LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD'S ITEMS OF CLOTHING- WE HAVE 230 PRIMARY PUPILS ALL SEARCHING FOR GYM KIT!

Uniform/Clothing

Uniform Sale - Carlisle Embroidery will be in school on Thursday, 11th October from 2-4 pm.

Uniform can also still be ordered from tesco.com/ues.

Annan Recycling also has items organised through the School Uniform bank project.

Wider Achievement

Drop us an email with photos to let us know of your child's wider achievements outwith school and we will share these with the school community.



Health and Wellbeing

Allergies

In the interests of health and safety, we ask that no child brings in any snack or lunch item that contains nuts. Next session we have a child coming in with allergies to Kiwi fruit- traces of this can be found in Haribo sweets so please always read the labels!



Water bottles

Please send your child in with a water bottle with a flip top each day. We have some for sale in the office priced £1. To do our bit for the environment, we will not be issuing paper cups.

Handwashing

Please encourage your child to wash their hands after eating and after using/flushing the toilet, to help us reinforce the importance of handwashing in school.

Healthy snacks

Help us promote healthy eating by sending in a healthy snack for interval and lunch boxes. Don't send in too much for morning snack as we only have 20 minutes of a break! Our kitchen staff offer a health-promoting tuck shop daily, with treats on offer on Fridays.

Headlice

Unfortunately this can be a recurring theme in schools in spite of all our best efforts. Please take time to inform yourself of how to treat your child's hair at the link below (ctrl and click):

<http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/25.aspx>

Indoor Shoes

Please pack a pair of shoes your child can change into when they come inside. This will help keep our school clean and tidy. Don't forget to label them!

Milk Money

P1, P2 and P2/3 pupils can order milk every Thursday for the upcoming week priced at £1.

P3/4-7 pupils can purchase milk day at the morning tuck shop for 20p.

School Meals- P4-7

Please remember that meals should be paid in advance at a cost of £1.85 per day. Spare copies of the menu are available from the office.

Class Info

As part of our school developments, all classes are trialling the Pie Corbett resources in writing which encourage reading and talking to promote writing ideas. Ask your child to talk about stories they know as we will be using familiar stories to help build a story mountain!

| Class | Interdisciplinary Learning | Main Maths topic(s) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Nursery Mrs Carruthers | Settling in activities | |
| P1 Miss Campbell | Our school | Number recognition and shape linked to outdoor leaning |
| P2 Mrs Mahon | Superheroes | Addition |
| P2/3 Mr Stevenson | Scotland | Place value |
| P3/4 Mrs Gordon & Mrs McCutcheon | Spain | Place value; money |
| P4 Mrs Lindsay | Italy | Place value; pattern |
| P5 Mrs Bell | France | Place value |
| P5/6 Miss Dennis | France | Place value; addition |
| P6 Miss Smith | Victorians | Place value; addition |
| P7 Mrs Menzies | Space | Place value |

Hecklegirth Fundraisers

Our Annual General Meeting is on Monday 3rd September from 6pm. Please join us to find out more about how we can help the school raise funds for resources and events. You may have noticed the new shed in the outdoor area and the plants and shrubs around the school, all of which have been paid for through fundraising, so thank you to all who contribute through their attendance at events and/or help with running them. We are looking for new members to swell our numbers so if you can give a night a term to helping us, please leave your name at the school office or approach members Stacy Wigham, Amanda Bickett or Fiona McGregor.

We will be sending off pupil art work to create Christmas merchandise to purchase next term. Watch this space!



Parent Council

Our Annual General Meeting will follow the Fundraising one, at 7pm on Monday 3rd September. This group helps support the school at local and national level by gathering feedback from parents/carers and keeping the school community informed of educational initiatives and change. As membership numbers have dwindled, we will be merging with the Fundraising Committee so that we can work together, dividing at one point in the meeting to address fundraising or school issues. The meetings take place once a term on a Monday night and all new members will be made most welcome. We can only be successful if you get involved and have your say. For more information contact:

Chairperson : Mike Wigham

Vice Chairperson: Rachel Stott

Email: hecklegirthparentcouncil@gmail.com

Community Garden Project

With the abundance of apples in the school grounds, Mrs Alexander thought it might be a good idea to create a community garden from which we all good share the produce. Before we start we need some volunteers who would be willing to plan, dig, donate plants or develop the area near the school front door so please call the school if you or a grandparent are interested in helping out. While we wait for help to arrive, we are hoping to raise some funds to purchase plants with a book sale in the main hallway. Books are priced at 50p for paperbacks and £1 for hardbacks. All donations of unwanted books are welcome – send in any books that are appropriate to share in school.



House Captains

P7 pupils will be delivering speeches to their House members in a bid to be Captain or Vice-Captain. We wish all our pupils luck and will let you know of the successful candidates for Burnswark (blue), Criffel (red) and Skiddaw (green). We will also be looking to recruit Road Safety Officers, Learning Council and Sports Editors this term.

Dates for the Diary

August

28th – P1 class photo being taken for Annandale Observer

September

3rd – HF & Parent Council AGMs

4th - P7 at Small World at Annan Academy; Meet the Teacher event, 3-3.45pm

12th - First Aid training for parents/carers, 6-8pm

21st – P4-7 at Mini Triathlon, Annan Academy (further info to follow)

October

1st – P7 at Operation Safety

2nd – Road Relay Event (further info to follow)

5th – Tag Rugby Event (further info to follow)

11th – Individual & Family Photos; Carlisle Embroidery Uniform Sale

15th-26th – School holidays

29th – Return to school

School Contact Information

Telephone – 01461 202629

Email – gw08officehecklegirt@ea.dumgal.sch.uk