

# Hythehill Primary School Newsletter



SHINE with High Hopes, Health and Happiness

SUCCESS - HONESTY - INCLUDED - NURTURED - EFFORT

Bee Safe in MORAY



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## October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the end of the term. It has been a busy term in school. The children have been engaged in a variety of indoor and outdoor learning experiences and have adapted to the Covid-19 regulations very well.

I hope that I have managed to keep you updated with the progress of the school in light of Scottish Government restrictions and announcements, as well as reassure you that your children's education is our main priority at Hythehill.

To receive some feedback from our parent forum I have attached a link to a short questionnaire. Please take some time to complete this questionnaire, as it will inform us how we continue to support your children when moving the school forward. Your voice is important in shaping the school agenda.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeL0o4Yi5tlO\\_SR\\_Rpv7Y8TpuyrtMGdMhsQrkhie7dXOAtaAA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeL0o4Yi5tlO_SR_Rpv7Y8TpuyrtMGdMhsQrkhie7dXOAtaAA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### A WORD OF THANKS



I would like to express how proud I am of all the children and their respectful manner towards the staff, following the new routines and their engagement in learning after a long break from formal education.

Thank you to you as parents and carers for your ongoing support and encouragement at this time.

I would also like to thank the staff for their commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all pupils, as well as continuing to move forward the learning, teaching and assessment agenda of the school.

### STAFFING

As always, staff move in different directions and make changes or advancements in their careers. This Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, we say a sad farewell to Mrs Wendy Strang, a PSA, as she sets out to run her smallholding in the countryside. We wish her all the best and I know she will be greatly missed by the staff and children.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Jessie Shaw to the teaching staff. She will be working within our Support for Learning Department on a Thursday and Friday. She will be working with children across the school.

### ENTERING AND EXITING SCHOOL



These guidelines will remain in place after the October holidays.

Entrance into the school is only through the two gates on the far side of the school playground and this is for pupils only. The path next to the driveway is a **No Entry** but is only for exiting the school grounds. Please follow these systems as well as the 2m social distancing measures for adults as laid out by the Scottish Government.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind dog owners to keep your pet on a lead when dropping off and collecting your children from school. Please also keep a safe

distance from the school gates. We do have some children who have a fear of dogs, and at times this term have become anxious about entering/exiting the school due to dogs being at the gate. Thank you for your support.

### KEEPING SAFE DURING COVID-19



We will maintain vigilance at all times for the symptoms of COVID-19 at Hythehill. We will follow the guidance from <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

**Do not** send your child to school if they have:

- a continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If your child displays any of these symptoms in school or informs a staff member that they feel unwell with symptoms of Covid-19, you will be contacted immediately to collect them. Please ensure that the school has the correct contact details for you at all times.

It would be preferable that any adult from their household picks them up and not a grandparent.

### BEHAVIOUR



We continue to focus on promoting positive behaviour at Hythehill. However, from time to time children do exhibit behaviours that are not acceptable and cause upset, worry and anxiety for others. These incidents are dealt with quickly and professionally. If incidents of this nature occur with a degree of regularity, a member of the SLT will contact the parent, and where necessary a letter will be issued to highlight the ongoing risk to others certain behaviours pose and further actions that will be taken by the school to support the safety of all. Therefore during the October holidays, I would like to ask all parents/carers to remind their children to be kind to others, think about the words they say and the actions they take. Thank you.

### UNIFORM

There are no further changes to uniform expectations at this time - a white polo shirt, school sweatshirt/cardigan with dark joggers/leggings and trainers this term. Please place a pair of indoor gym shoes in their bag. These can be worn for indoor PE and/or if trainers become too muddy from Outdoor Learning.

Your child's class teacher will communicate with you via **class dojo** regarding days that the children will be outdoors and if/or when they need other items e.g. art t-shirt. This will help you when deciding what to put in bags. Please sign up to this as it is a great communication tool, especially when access to the school is restricted at this time

- **Children should only bring a water bottle, snack, packed lunch (if not having a school lunch), gym shoes, art t-shirt and coat (which can be stored in their bag)**
- **Inhalers and hand gel will be kept in their individual trays**
- **Children do not require pencil cases, mobile phones or any other items**

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## HOMEWORK AND REPORTING TO FAMILIES

# Homework

Please remember it is your responsibility as a parent/carer to encourage and support your child in completing the homework tasks set. These tasks do reinforce learning and teaching that takes place in the classroom. Homework should be for no more than 3x20minutes a week.

**RED** – for odd weeks (1, 3, 5 & 7) – these weeks will be spelling and comprehension activities

**BLUE** - for even weeks (2, 4, 6 & 8) – these weeks will be spelling and numeracy activities

Homework will be issued on a Monday to be returned by Thursday. It is your responsibility and that of your child to return the jotter on time to ensure that the education of your child is progressed and that Covid-19 Hygiene regulations are adhered to.

Reporting to families will continue as Term 1, with a weekly post of intended learning being placed on the class dojo page.

## HOLIDAYS ABROAD

If you intend to travel to a country on the Scottish Quarantine List during the October Holiday, please inform the school as soon as possible, so that we are aware of those needing to quarantine for two weeks at the start of the school term. Please email Mrs Russell using the admin email address at the top of this newsletter.

## DISPLAYS

As you are unable to come into the school and visit, we have been taking more photos of the displays around the school



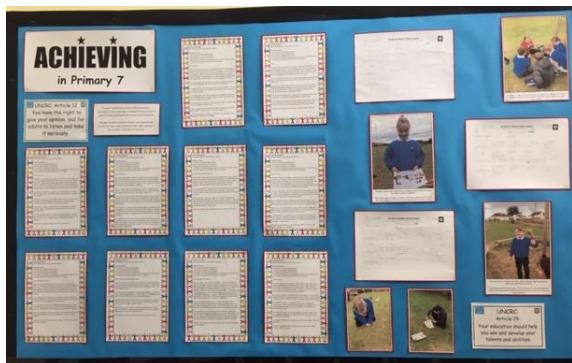
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## MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE SCHOOL



The school will be undergoing a deep clean during the October holiday.

The flooring at the infant door will be replaced during the holiday, to match the rest of the school.

Quotes have been requested to replace flooring in the children's toilets. We are waiting for this information before making the decision to proceed.

The fencing around the school is being priced at this time. I hope that work will commence on replacing the entire perimeter fence in late October/early November.

I am also waiting for some designs to replace the rendering on the outside of the school building. This is a large project and requires submission to the planning department. The hope is that this work will complement the other external work that has already undertaken – new roof and windows. The rendering will also improve the energy rating of the school and upgrade the look of the building within the community using the school corporate colours – Blue, Red and Black. A consultation will be emailed home regarding this for you to have your voice in the decisions we make.

## DATES

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October – 'Come as you please' for a suggested donation of a £1. Monies raised will go towards new outdoor play equipment. The weather forecast for Friday does not look favourable for outdoor PE, and so staff have been advised not to take children outside if the conditions are too wet, as some children may be wearing items of clothing they or you do not wish to get dirty.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October - School closes

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – School reopens

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Parent Council Movie Weekend

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Children-In-Need – Details to follow

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November – In-service



Have a happy and restful holiday!