



# HPS NEWS

JANUARY 2026

**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!** It's lovely to see all the children returning with their Santa stories and full of enthusiasm for the term ahead. The weather has certainly been challenging since our return however we are keen that the children spend their breaks outside so appropriate clothing is essential. If you have time please label gloves and hats with names, we already have a collection! If your child is coming to school in heavy boots they can bring a change of shoes for the classroom, something more comfortable when indoors.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY REVIEW

We continue to work extremely hard to provide children with the appropriate nurture and education to ensure that we are building a strong foundation for our children to become great citizens. During last term, we had a Local Authority review. A substantial report is

provided after this. A summary of the report from the review will be available through the link below. It was a very helpful exercise which confirmed the strengths of the school and identified next steps which could enhance learning, teaching and assessment further. Thank you for completing surveys for the review, feedback from these will be provided in the near future.

[Howwood Final Report Feedback to Parents.docx](#)

## STAFFING

This term Mrs McLaughlan will return to P3/2 at the beginning of March. We will be delighted to have her back although we will be so sorry to see Miss Mitchell go.

## MATHS CONCEPTS

During the review discussion with parents, it was noted that it would be beneficial for parents to have access to current teaching methods for some maths concepts. Staff will either put an example in the homework jotter or a link to videos which could be helpful to you. Of course, do not hesitate to contact

the class teacher if you would like to discuss this further, the teaching of maths has changed so much over the years so we totally understand that this can lead to frustration at home.

## LAST TERM.....



Throughout the term last year, we had many events and achievements to celebrate. We came first on Beat the Streets, won The Summer Reading Challenge and competed admirably in sports competitions in netball, dodgeball and football.



Pupils were involved in organising and running charity events such as Macmillan Coffee morning

and Foodbank collections. We had out Gold Award celebration, which was great fun. Pupils performed with such enthusiasm at the school show which I'm sure the audience thoroughly enjoyed.

We continue to use the Facebook page to highlight these successes and events. I am aware that Facebook is no longer the first choice of social media for many however this is a safe and effective way to share important news and I would be grateful for your interaction with this page.

#### **GETTING INVOLVED**

Pupils always enjoy learning through listening to the experiences of others and we would really appreciate some input from parents, carers or family and friends to enhance learning. During assembly this term we were hoping to involve visitors to put values and beliefs in to a real life concept. Some topics we are covering will be children's mental health, Internet safety, Eid and community support. If you feel that you have something to offer around these

subjects then please get in touch. Class topics are listed below-again please fell free to get involved.

P1-Scotland  
P3/2-Transport  
P4-( still to decide)  
P5-Ancient Greece/  
Scottish History  
P6-Titanic

P7- Enterprise, How to make £5 grow.

#### **SHARED LEADERSHIP**

Pupils will continue to be part of their class committee as well as members of the pupil council, nurture group and digital group. This involves responsibilties to take forward particular areas of school improvement.

#### **CREATING GREAT CITIZENS**

Please share your child's achievements out of school with us. We are always delighted to celebrate with them and it motivates other pupils to try new things or to contribute to their community.

#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE**

Please complete consent forms from Parentpay as soon as possible, atleast two days before the due date which allows staff to prepare paperwork for trips. Recent advice will now prevent us from accepting verbal or email

conformation on a trip day as the consent form must be completed. The absolute last thing that I would want to do is leave a child behind, we appreciate your support on ths matter.

#### **PARENT COUNCIL**

As always we are keen for new members to join the Parent Council, we welcome the fresh ideas and shared workload that this provides. Please come along to our first meeting of the year on 29<sup>th</sup> January in the Boarding House at 7pm. Last term seen the foundations of our outdoor area completed, what an acheivement!

#### **SCHOOL REMINDERS**

- No football strips should be worn to school.
- No jewellery should be worn at PE (earrings should be removed or covered)
- No make-up to school please.
- If your child is changed in school please retun items.

A separate sheet with dates for your diary for the term ahead will be provided.

And Finally.... My door is always open, please come in whenever you need any advice or support.

Shirley Ormond HT

