

## Newsletter

### SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent / Carer

September has been such a quick month!! Our staff and children have all settled back into life in school whilst still staying as COVID safe as possible. We are continuing to wear our masks, stay socially distanced and not cross our class bubbles. I have so enjoyed catching up with the children over the last few weeks.

We have had a few cases of COVID in school and we have issued Warn And Inform letters immediately on our school APP to inform parents of the class/classes involved. If you do not access our school APP, please try to do so, the username is HPS and the passcode is 2714. We are still using our APP to post information and will continue to do so, but as mentioned in our last newsletter, we will be using email as our means of communicating information to you. We had aimed to do this after the September break but unfortunately not all parents have sent back their data forms despite our office chasing these forms to be returned. Data forms are not only used to obtain the email address for the main contact for each child but also to confirm that the contact details we hold for you are up to date. The forms were issued alongside blue trip permission forms and photo permission forms and every child in school was issued with a set of forms. I cannot stress how important it is that you return these immediately when they are issued. If you have received a chaser via text message, please return the forms straight away or if you have lost or misplaced them, please email or call our school office for replacements.

This newsletter is being emailed and posted on the APP this month – if you do not receive an email copy then this will be due to the fact we do not hold an email address for the main contact.

#### MANAGEMENT TEAM



Our Management Team, which includes myself, Miss Johnson and Mrs Birrell have been very busy dealing with all sorts of queries since returning to school. Please can we remind you that your first point of contact regarding your child should be your child's class teacher and only if a suitable resolution is not received, should you ask to speak with management. Our teachers know your children well and are better positioned to know what has been happening in their class and will be able to resolve most matters for you.

#### SPECIAL PROVISION/ENHANCED NURTURE BASE

I am sad to inform you that our Special Provision or Enhanced Nurture Base, as it is now known will be leaving us. The staff and children will be moving to St Margaret's in Loanhead after the October break. We will be saying goodbye to both the children and staff. Mrs Campbell, Mr Lyall, Miss Boomer, Mrs Kelly and Miss Rooney have been an amazing and supportive team for all the children who attend the base and we would like to say a huge thank you and wish them all the best for a smooth transition. We will miss them (although we will be keeping one staff member – Mrs Kelly!).



## ENHANCED SUPPORT CLASS



We would like to introduce you to our new Enhanced Support Class. This class has been set up as a pilot for the authority and is a new class being set up within school to give a more focussed learning environment for some of the pupils we have in school, who sometimes find aspects of school life a bit more challenging. We are aiming for the class to be set up in October and we will be welcoming some new faces to school. Mr Aaron Galbraith will be our new teacher for the class and our very own Mrs Sarah Kelly who has a wealth of experience and knows the children well at the Den will be supporting, along with another new face Ms Beth McGinley. Beth visited this week and was shown around school by one of our pupils (as well as meeting with staff!). We cannot wait to get the class up and running and see it thrive.

## RSHP

RSHP is our new relationship, sexual health and parenting programme and we are looking for parent/carer volunteers to engage with the new programme. If you are interested, please can you email your details to our school office [Hawthornden.PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Hawthornden.PS@midlothian.gov.uk)

## PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

Due to COVID restrictions, our Parental Consultations will be held over the phone in October. We will be issuing more information regarding this via email and on our school APP. Please look out for this.



## PARENT COUNCIL

Unfortunately, due to COVID rules, our Parent Council are not able to set up our Halloween Disco, Valentine Disco or Christmas School Fayre which not only contributes towards our fundraising for the school but is also enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents. Our Parent Council have decided instead to do some fundraising in a mindful and safe manner for all involved. You will have received a letter regarding Coin Wars last week – it has already started!! So, pick all the coins out of your sofas and corners of your bags please! Help your child's class raise the most.

Our Parent Council will be arranging a Christmas Hamper Fundraiser and a Duck Race – which I am sure will be as successful as always. Please look out for information regarding these in the coming months.

## HALLOWEEN DRESS UP/DRESS DOWN DAY - 29.10.21



We will be having a dress up/dress down day on 29<sup>th</sup> October and would ask that a suggested donation of £1 is brought to school to dress up or dress down – whatever your child prefers to do.

Don't make it too scary!!

Can we ask that no football colours are worn please.

## **SCHOOL CAR PARK**

Sadly, again I am having to remind parents/carers not to use our school car park as a drop off/pick up point. Please can we ask that you adhere to this instruction.



Finally, I would like to remind parents/carers that we break for October break on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October with staff returning on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October and pupils on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Have a lovely break and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jackie Mellon

Head Teacher