



Hillhead Primary School  
110 Otago Street  
Glasgow  
G12 8NS  
0141-339-1365

office@hillhead-pri.glasgow.sch.uk  
www.hillheadprimaryglasgow.org

15 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

## **March Newsletter**

We are now into March and the snow has now disappeared “like snow off a dyke”!

We had the unexpected snow days and have made some adjustments to ensure that we have made up for lost time. We would like to thank the parents who worked with us to clear the play areas. You worked very hard and your efforts were very much appreciated by all staff and most of the children!

### **Snow Days – Emergency Procedures**

We have a clear set of procedures in place in the event of the school being closed due to heavy snow. We rely on our parents accessing TV, radio and social media. We will always attempt to also send a text (this is actually sent from the school building) and we will also use our twitter account. During the days of school closures we had two children come to school. Fortunately we had staff who managed to get to school who were able to deal with this situation and ensure the children returned to their home safely.

The important learning point is that all parents regularly check the media and social media for up to date information. After the holidays we will be trialling sending texts to two named contacts as currently the system only allows one.

### **Fairtrade Fortnight**

Our Fairtrade Fortnight was curtailed due to the weather but we still managed to have a very successful programme in which all children participated. The Fairtrade Café will now be held on Thursday 29 March from 9:20-10:20am more details will follow. Well done to our excellent Fairtrade Committee for very good activities and for raising our awareness further on this important matter.

### **Science Week**

Our Science Week is currently taking place and will conclude with groups of children from P1-P7 talking about their learning in the Social Space on Friday 16 March at 9:30am. If you would like to hear from our children, what they did and what they learned please pop in. Our regular Jigsaw Café is being held in the studio (beside the Social Space) and all are welcome! Our Science group have produced a number of interesting and stimulating experiments and problem solving activities for all stages throughout the school. Well Done!

## **Book Fair – Parents’ Evenings Thursday 22 March 3:40-6:40pm and Thursday 29 March 3:40-6:40pm**

We are very pleased to announce the return of our Book Fair to coincide with our Parents’ Evening. Separate details will be circulated informing you when your child will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair and purchase a book.

It is quite incredible to note that since Mr Gary Thomson launched the Book Fair we have sold just under £10,000 worth of books and due to the commission given we have been able to add nearly £6,000 worth of books to our library!

This is all down to the love of books our children have, the support of our parents and the negotiating skills of Mr Thomson!

### **Parents’ Evenings**

We look forward to meeting with you at our forthcoming Parents’ Evenings. Please contact us if you are unable to attend. This is especially important if you have booked an interpreter.

### **National Assessments**

As you know the Scottish Government is committed to assess, using National Assessments, all children in P1, P4 and P7 to raise levels of attainment.

The National Assessments are used as part of a wider framework to check progress in literacy and numeracy. All schools use a range of assessments to monitor progress and National Assessments will offer one more way to provide the class teacher with useful diagnostic and formative information to help her/him determine the extent of the progress a child has made. The Scottish Government has placed the teacher’s professional judgement at the heart of this process and the National Assessments should provide confirmation of the teacher’s judgement as well as useful information that may help guide next steps in learning.

Over the next few weeks and months we will be assessing our children in P1, P4 and P7 using the National Assessments. They are administered on a laptop or iPad. We will continue to use a range of assessments at all stages of the school to help our class teachers form a very accurate picture of progress.

### **Constant Ceilidh – Fundraiser**

We went ahead with our Constant Ceilidh last Friday and the children did exceptionally well demonstrating their dancing skills in the gym and dinner hall throughout the morning. We then organised for all of the children to Ceilidh Dance round the outside of the school building. The P7s were paired with the P1s, The P6s with the P2s, and P4s with the P6s and themselves.

This section of the fundraiser worked well in the main but unfortunately we could not get the music out of one of our speakers and we had to improvise for those children in that area! We are disappointed that we had this technical hitch as we had put a lot of planning and organising into this section of the day and our children were looking forward to it. We are also disappointed as we had a lot of parents come along at short notice and wanted to let them see a very lively event. We are sorry that our plans were disrupted through technical malfunctions. We hope to produce a short film of the highlights of the day and will share this with all of you once we have completed the film edit.

The purpose of our Constant Ceilidh was to raise much needed money for our school funds. I am very pleased to say that to date we have raised £3,028.00 with more money pledged. If you have not sent in sponsorship money we would be very grateful if you could do so as soon as possible. Thank you once again for your very generous support.

### **End of Term**

The school holidays begin at 2:30pm on Thursday 29 March. School reopens on Monday 16 April at 9am.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful holiday.

Yours sincerely

Francis Donaghy  
Head Teacher