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**Hawthornden Primary**

**Newsletter**

**April 2017**

**Welcome back**

I hope everyone had a fantastic Easter Break and are ready for the challenges of the term ahead. I am looking forward to working with you all over the next few months to begin to formulate the Schools Improvement Plan for next session as we strive to ensure together we get the best possible outcomes for our children.

**Staffing**

This continues to be a challenge for us here at Hawthornden. At present, there is a shortage of supply teachers which makes covering teacher absences difficult on a short term basis. As always, we look to ensure continuity for our children as much as possible which may mean some of our own staff may need to be redeployed including myself. Your support over the past few months has been appreciated in what has been challenging times.

Those of you with children in P7C are aware of Mr Kearsley's continued absence and we wish him a speedy recovery. We have been fortunate to secure a teacher three days a week to support this and we welcome Mr Ryan Hadnett to our school. Mr Hadnett will continue working with us until the summer break.

As part of Miss Azam's training, she is now working in class full time. In order to support her experience in Hawthornden, she is teaching in P6B on a Tuesday which means that Miss Addis will be working with P7A. This will give both classes an experience with a different teacher which is important for transition to High School.

We are also about to start the recruitment process for our permanent Depute Head Teacher over the next few weeks. I will write out to Parents and Carers again at the end of this process.

**Expectations**

We have had a few incidents since returning to school of inappropriate behaviour from adults in our community. We have clear expectations for our children in terms of how they interact with each other and we would appreciate if you could support this in and around our school. I do not expect adults to be using abusive or threatening language or behaviour in and around our school. This is not showing our children an appropriate way of dealing with challenges. I thank you for your support with this.

**Vandalism**

It was extremely disappointing to learn of the vandalism over the holidays in the school. We will be discussing this with the children at assembly. I want to thank the school community for its support and appreciate you looking out for the school. A huge thank you goes out to Mr Barbour and others from the Facilities Management Team who assisted with the clear up and helped ensure we were ready to be open again last week.

**Out of School Experiences**

This week, a number of our classes have had the opportunity to learn outwith the school building. Our P3 and P4 classes visited Tesco in Dalkeith to find out more about how the food we buy is actually produced and linked well to their learning about Farming. Our P2 classes visited Biggar Castle and Purves Puppets to experience firsthand their learning around Castles. Our P7 classes visited Amazonia to experience more about life in the rainforest. The children involved were great ambassadors for the school and we are all proud of their conduct.

**P5 Camp**

Letters went home at the end of last week for those children attending P5 camp on 29 May. It is really important that these are completed and returned by the deadline given. Both Miss Cairns and Miss Lindsay are looking forward to the week and having the opportunity to work with the children in a different setting.

**Vision and Values**

We are in the process of developing these as a school community and I plan to write out to parents in the next few weeks updating them about our progress so far. This work will be something we will have ready to launch in August and will link closely to our developing curriculum.

**Positive Behaviour Strategy**

Attached to our newsletter is our revised Positive Behaviour Strategy which has been adopted in consultation with children, Parents and Carers and Staff. We are no longer using cards across the school and have adopted a four tier warning system that mirrors the strategy used in Lasswade High School which will support our P7 children during transition. Should you have any questions or queries relating to this please contact the school.

**Anti Bullying Framework**

Many thanks to those who came along to our session before the Easter break. Your feedback has been used to help us to develop a clear strategy in dealing with incidents of bullying together with a clear definition of what this is. This is currently out for consultation with children and staff and will be sent out to Parents and Carers by the end of May.

**Calls To School Office**

When making calls to the school office I would ask that you please leave a message if your call is not answered almost immediately, rather than constantly re-dialling until your call is answered. Messages are checked very regularly by the office staff and dealt with appropriately. If they are not managing to answer your call it will be because they are busy with other calls, pupils/parents/staff or delivering messages. Your calls are important to us and are not being ignored.

**Hawthornden App**

I am pleased to say we are in the final stages of developing our school app which will allow us to communicate what's happening in the school. This is free app that will be available from the App Store and will contain things like our School Calendar, news feeds from both school and Twitter and there will be the ability for the school to send messages. More details regarding this will be sent to you when the app officially launches.

**Dates for Your Diary**

05.05.17 - Parent and Carers event - Midlothian Learner 11.30 am

08.05.17 - P5 Parents Camp Meeting 6pm

22.05.17 – Staff In Service Day - school closed to children

25.05.17 - PATPALS afternoon

01.06.17 - Mount Esk Nursery Sports

06.06.17 - P7 Transition visit Lasswade High

07.06.17 - P7 Transition visit Lasswade High/Whole school transition day

14.06.17 – P6/7 Show 6:30 pm

15.06.17 - Springfield Mill Day - Provision children

 P6/7 show 6:30 pm

19.06.17 - Confucius Hub Official Launch 9.00 am

20.06.17 - Sports Day (1st Choice)

23.06.17 - Reports out to Parents and Carers

27.06.17 - Sports Day (2nd Choice)

28.06.17 – P7 Leavers Church Service 9:30 am

 P7 Prom night

29.06.17 - Leavers Assembly 1:30 pm

30.06.17 - Term Ends 12 pm