

# **Newsletter**

**June 2021**

## **Summer Has Arrived**



Dear Parent / Carer

This is my first newsletter to you all as permanent Head Teacher of Hawthornden PS. I am extremely proud to say that and look forward to continuing as Head Teacher here. I would like to thank all the children, staff and parents who sent me messages and gifts of congratulations. This has really touched me and I want to assure you all that I promise to do the best I can for Hawthornden PS.

I am writing to you today and the sun is shining outside – lets hope it stays that way over the next few weeks! June has been an eventful month with a couple of our classes being sent home to isolate due to positive cases of COVID. I want to thank all the children, staff and parents/carers who accepted the situation as it is and isolated with no question – this keeps them safe and everyone around them. For this, I applaud you all.

We managed to hold our Sports Days in a socially distanced manner but sadly without our parents/carers in attendance this year. However, the children still had a great time and the weather was kind to us. We even managed a socially distanced teacher race, with Mr Jones winning the race! (I do think his tallness was an advantage!!!)

We break for summer holidays on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June at the normal school time of 12.20 pm. Please can we ask that any pupils being collected are collected on time.

### **School Uniform**

Just a small reminder that as per last year, please can parents order school uniform online via Image Scotland. The email address to use is <https://hawthorndenps.imagescotland.com/>



Please remember to keep an eye on our school app, facebook and twitter – even over the summer break. We may have to post messages on there to keep you up to date with ever changing events in the current COVID climate. However, lets cross everything and hope things improve as more people become vaccinated.

## P7 Leavers



I would like to wish our P7 pupils a fond farewell. This has not been the most normal of years for your final year in Primary and you have all managed to do it. I do hope you enjoy High School and wish to send you on your way with very fond, positive thoughts. Good luck for the future P7. I am so glad we managed to set up some outdoor events for you before you leave us. I am certain you will have enjoyed every moment.

## Car Parking

I am again having to remind all parents/carers again of the issues we are experiencing in our school car park. I must re-iterate to all parents/carers that the school Car Park **should not be used** for dropping off or picking up school children – **there is a notice to this effect displayed in**



**the car park which is for staff and professionals visiting only.** Also, the area must be free for any emergency vehicles to gain access should an incident occur (and this has happened). This is an important Health & Safety issue. We have had a few near misses and damage to staff cars. Also, we have parents parking and then coming into our school office requesting that staff cars are moved so they are able to go home – our staff are in class teaching and cannot leave to move their cars.

**We do not want to put children at risk of being hit by a car manoeuvring in what is a very busy area.** If the car park continues to be used as a convenient drop off and pick up point then we will have no option but to close the gates at the start and end of the school day.

Midlothian Council have contacted us this week to advise that they have received complaints about the parking outside the school on the main road and that the school crossing patrol cannot see along the road to cross the children. Please remember, this affects the safety of all our children, parents/carers and staff. We have previously advised everyone that we are aware that the volume of cars parked when picking up children at the end of the day affects access along Polton Avenue Road. Please ensure that your car is parked safely – in particular that our Crossing Patrol's view is not obscured. No parking is permitted in front of the Block 1 gates which access the playground. This access should be free to aid the Crossing Patrol as well as for emergency vehicles should they ever be required. We would also ask that you do not park across local resident's driveways to ensure local residents do not complain. The designated parking area for the school is at the rear of the school in Argyle Place.

Finally, thank you to all children, staff, parents and carers for all the support during the past school year. This year has been a challenge for all of us, both on a personal and professional level and has affected our whole way of living. Give yourself a pat on the back everyone, we have managed even in times of extreme difficulty. I look forward to seeing everyone in August (we return on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021).

Have a lovely summer break – everyone deserves it.

Kind Regards

Jackie Mellon

Head Teacher