

November Newsletter 2023

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful October break. We are looking forward to the term ahead, which gets very busy going into December!

Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council who organised two very successful Halloween Discos for our children on the 26th October. The children looked fabulous in their costumes and I know a lot of fun was had by all. Thank you to the parents and staff who gave up their time to supervise and help on the evening of the discos, without you these events could not happen.

Our next Parent Council meeting will be on Monday 6th November at 6.00pm* - all welcome.

*Please note change of time.

Extra-Curricular activities

Our older pupils have been out and about representing our school at various sporting activities, including football tournaments and cross country events. Feedback from organisers has been very positive about the attitude and sportsmanship of our pupils.

Our school football team had a successful start to the season and are enjoying participating in the league. Thank you again to our parents, Liam and Gordon, for organising and to our parents for supporting, especially as the mornings are getting colder and darker!

Our Glee and board games clubs have been very well received by our pupils. Along with Active Schools, we as a staff will continue to offer other after school clubs throughout this session.

Parent Consultations

We had around 90% of our parents/carers meet with staff for parent consultations prior to the October break. For those who could not make their appointment, we will work with you to rearrange another, suitable day/time.

An amazing total of £736 was raised at our book fair which will go towards new books for our school. Thank you for supporting the book fair, and to Mrs Kelly for organising this.

New Provision

The staff and children moved into Hawthornden officially on 25th October and have settled in incredibly well. "Billy, the therapy dog" visits our provision on a fortnightly basis. He is happy to visit mainstream classes too so we will organise this over the upcoming weeks.

I am still in discussion with the project manager about the re-instatement of our trim trail, but unfortunately she is having difficulty in sourcing a company who are willing to re-assemble it due to its age and condition. I will continue to persevere with this, and will keep you updated of progress.

Autumn/Winter

Can I please ask that all children have a pair of indoor shoes at the school to change into after breaks and lunches. It is also important for children to bring appropriate clothing for the

outdoors, as we intend to have the children in the playground as much as possible. We hold a supply of waterproof jackets in school, but our children are reluctant to borrow them, I'm not sure why!

Home/School Practitioner – Sandra Craig

In collaboration with Lasswade High school, we are jointly funding the role of a Home/School Practitioner (HSP) whose role involves providing a number of supports to our families ranging from pupil attendance/lateness to supporting with employability skills and financial assistance. More information to follow.

Parent/Carer Conduct

We have had several incidents over recent weeks where staff have been shouted at or spoken to inappropriately by parents/carers. There will be times throughout your child's journey at Hawthornden, when challenging situations arise and tricky conversations need to be had, however, there are absolutely no circumstances where our staff should be made to feel uncomfortable or upset due to a parent/carers reaction to these challenges. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Dates for the diary (please note these are subject to change)

- 2.11.23 – P7B visit to Rosslyn Chapel
- Week beginning 6.11.23 - Dunedin Consort to work with P4
- 6.11.23 – Parent Council Meeting – 6pm
- 7.11.23 – P7 Royal Regiment Museum Trip
- 8.11.23 – P6 trip to Glasgow Science Centre
- 26.11.23 – Christmas Lights Ceremony – Bonnyrigg Toll
- 29.11.23 – Upper school basketball festival
- 1.12.23 – Dress Down Day – chocolate donation (for Xmas Fair)
- 8.12.23 – Christmas Fair – 12.30-3.00pm
- 13.12.23 – P7 to LHSC for a performance from the Academy of Performing Arts