

January 2021

Hi From The Den With A Massive Thank You



Firstly, I would like to wish you all a belated 'Happy New Year' – although I cannot believe that January 2021 is almost over and my goodness what a hard start to our school year! Who would have thought that 2021 would have begun with another lockdown and more remote learning for our school pupils. I know this is not how any of us wanted a new year to begin, but as a Head teacher and as a mother of school aged children, as they say 'we are all in this together' and we must try to make the best of what is truly an awful situation for all of us.

Remote learning does not come without its challenges and we have had some initial communication obstacles to overcome but we are managing to sort this out and would ask that you please contact us if there is anything you are concerned or anxious about. We are working with a reduced number of staff in school and the remainder of staff are working from home. You can email or call the school and also email class teachers. We would ask that you continue to remain patient if contacting us, we will get back to you as soon as we can.

I would like to thank each and every parent for their patience, engagement and support as I fully appreciate home learning is a challenge whilst trying to juggle working at home, playing, being a chef, cleaner and jack of all trades – all whilst trying to keep sane! I am a working mum, as are many of our staff members and we know how difficult this is in our own homes – being on zoom calls whilst your children are trying to get your help and attention and the dog is barking in the background at all the delivery vans whizzing around outside (who hasn't used Amazon since last March....!) Please remember, we are all human and you can only do your best – you are foremost a parent. Try to remember that school work can also be done out with 'normal' school hours when you have more time and that it can be done in small manageable chunks. We do not want parents or children to become overly stressed – be kind to yourselves.

I hope you will join me in thanking our wonderful Hawthornden Staff who I knew were a wonderful group of people but who have been so re-active to the ever changing situation we find ourselves in during these challenging times. My management team, teaching staff, learning assistants, childcare and development worker, office staff, caretaker, janitorial staff and dining staff have been going above and beyond the call of duty to pull together to enable our school to keep running and to be able to deliver remote learning with a lot of staff doing things that would not otherwise have been expected of them. A wonderful, good strong team – a massive thank you to you all.

Please can we remind you that information is posted to our school twitter page and school app – so, please keep an eye on this. We have put a survey on there this week with a link to a survey regarding remote learning. We would like as many parents as possible to complete this please.

Our P7 teachers have been in meetings with Lasswade High regarding transition for our P7s going to secondary school later this year – we have posted a letter on our school app regarding this. Please can parents of P7 pupils have a look at this letter.

I would like to remind you all that the school February break is due from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Monday 15<sup>th</sup> is a staff in-service day but this may be postponed/changed. We are yet to receive confirmation regarding this and will let you know when we do. I would further advise that we are also still to hear from the Scottish Government regarding the situation of schools re-opening.

Please look after yourselves and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kindest Regards,

Jackie Mellon  
Acting Head Teacher

