

## Newsletter - May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Well, May is nearly over – how quickly the time has gone by since we returned after Easter! Unfortunately, May has been a bit of a wash out weather wise – cross everything for a better month in June. I have been told that we have less weeks in school now, than we do for our summer break. The next few weeks leading up to the summer break will be busy in school for staff and pupils.



Please keep an eye on our school app, Facebook and Twitter. These will be updated regularly with any news/events and we do not want you to miss any important information. You will also find information on our school website.

<http://edublog.mgfl.net/hawthorndenps/>

### Head Teacher Update

The post of permanent Head Teacher for Hawthornden was advertised and recruiting for this post is has taken place. We are pleased to inform you that Mrs Mellon has been appointed permanent Head Teacher of Hawthornden. Congratulations!

### Class Structure For Term 2021/2022

We are beginning to look at our class structure for next year and once we have staffing/class numbers confirmed from Midlothian, we will be in a position to advise what class and teacher your child will be in next school term. Due to COVID we will not be able to do our normal 'Meet The Teacher' event in school, where our pupils go into their new class and spend an afternoon with their new teacher. This may have to be done 'virtually'.

### Curriculum

We are also currently looking at what our priorities next term will be in terms of teaching. We are currently looking at how we deliver literacy, writing, digital learning and nurture. We will update you on this when we have further information.



### P1 & P7 Transition – Update

P1 & P7 Transition due to COVID restrictions is going to be virtual this year as per guidance received from Midlothian Council. We will send updates as and when we receive them to keep you all in the loop. We appreciate, that this will be daunting for some of our pupils but can assure you that we are working closely with the Nurseries and High School to make this process as smooth as we can.

### P7 Leavers Treats

P7 Leavers Treat – as we advised previously, we are hoping that our P7 pupils will have a day at the beach as their treat this year – COVID dependent again! The bus is booked for 23<sup>rd</sup> June and the food is being arranged – all we need is the sunshine!!



Our P7 pupils arranged a sponsored walk to put towards their celebrations. We are also in the midst of planning another outing to Foxlake/Dunbar on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June. We want the end of term for our P7s to be as much fun as possible.

When plans are finalised, we will arrange for a letter to come home with information. If we have to cancel any trip, we will let you know as soon as we can – but let's hope that does not happen.

Everyone cross you fingers!!

## Car Parking



I am 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 professional 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.

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.

## Dogs



Just a small reminder that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds for health and safety reasons. We would also ask that you do not tie them to the fence near the gates. Sadly, not all people like dogs, as cute as they look sometimes. The calmest and most well behaved dogs can become upset when there are lots of children running around and lots of noise.

## Happiness Week

We will be running 'Happiness Week' on Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been working hard planning events that will run all week in school. Happiness Week is based around our PRIDE values but instead of the usual values, we have adapted them to incorporate different forms of bullying.

P – physical

R – racial

I – indirect (banter, online etc)

D – direct

E – emotional

Every morning of the week there will be a very brief zoom where our Depute Head, Mrs Birrell and a couple of our ambassadors will share the kind of bullying being focussed on that day and directly following that, in classrooms, pupils will sing the Happy Song and practise the lyrics and dance moves along with other activities they have planned.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Mellon

Head Teacher