



## **August 2018**

We have had a great start to the new session at Hilton Primary School and Hilton Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and we all extend a very warm welcome to our new families. Please do remember that we have an open door policy and if you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything with us then do contact the school. There is lots of important information in this newsletter as it's the first one of the new session.

Ms Banks ☺



## **Staffing Update**

We welcome to the Hilton team a number of new staff members

- Miss MacKintosh – P6 teacher
- Mrs MacAulay – Additional Support Needs Teacher
- Mrs Nairne, Miss Paul - Pupil Support Assistants
- Miss Broadley, Mrs Lee, Miss Macgillivray - Early Years Practitioners
- Miss Nuta - Modern Apprentice (ELC)
- Mrs Dougal - Early Years Graduate(ELC)

Miss James, Principal Teacher in P1, will be moving onto her new post of Acting Depute Head Teacher at Merkinch Primary, where she has been seconded for 23 months. Her post has been advertised and we will keep P1 parents/carers informed of the changes. Miss James' last day at Hilton will be Friday 14 September and we all wish her success in her new role.

## **Values**

Our values, Respect, Caring, Fun, Honesty and Teamwork, which were chosen by the whole school community last session, are being embedded across the school and ELC and are forming an important part of school life. Please take some time and chat about what these values mean to you and your child/ren.



## **School Communication**

The main form of communication will continue to be the school blog

<https://hiltonps.wordpress.com/> and the ELC blog

<https://hiltonearlylearningandchildcare.wordpress.com/>

You can sign up to these blogs using your email address to receive notification when something new is posted. All newsletters, information about the school, staff, classes, term dates, etc can be found on these blogs, as well as the school and ELC handbooks. Classes and ELC will continue to use Twitter @hiltoninverness. There is a Hilton Primary School Facebook page and posts from the blog will be copied onto this page.

### **HPPF (Hilton Primary Parents and Friends) AGM**

The AGM for the HPPF group, our Parent Council, will take place at the school on Tuesday 11 September at 6.30pm. Please come along if you can.

### **Class Drop in Sessions/Meet the Teacher**

Pop along to your child's classroom on Wednesday 12 September. The children may ask to play a Literacy game with them and it's a chance for you to meet the teacher.

P4-7: 1.30pm – 2pm

P1-3: 2pm – 2.30 pm

Please enter the school building through the main front door.

Please note that many classrooms will be painted in the October holidays so there will not be many displays up until the classrooms are freshened up! ☺

In addition, P1 parents/carers are invited to the school at 6pm -6.30pm for a meeting about the P1 curriculum.

### **School Uniform/PE Kit**

It's great to see so many children wearing school uniform in Hilton. Please ensure that children have appropriate indoor shoes and PE Kit too and that ALL clothing is named. Thank you for your co-operation.



### **Newsletters**

Newsletters will continue to be issued on the last Friday of every month. Newsletters will be emailed out to parents/carers. If you require a paper copy, please contact the school office. All newsletters are available on the school blog.

### **Updating Parent/Carer Information**

Please inform us immediately if there is any change in your or any of your child's emergency contact details. This includes names of contacts, telephone numbers and addresses. Thank you ☺

### **Absence Reporting/Punctuality**

Parents/carers are requested to contact the school, 01463 230435, **before 9.30am** if your child is going to be absent from school that day, **stating the reason why** and give some indication of length of absence saving parents having to phone each day. There is the option of leaving a message if no one answers.



You can also text the school on the school mobile number 07749 231892, with **child's name and class** and **again remembering to state reason for absence**.

**If your child is in ELC then parents/carers should call 01463 251941 to report absences.**

### **Term Time Holidays**

As far as possible, we would ask you to not to remove children from school during term time for holidays. We do understand that sometimes this is very difficult and if you are proposing to take a child out of school during term time then you do so in writing to the school. Holidays during term time are always recorded as Unauthorised Absence.

### **Parent/Teacher Appointments**

Dates for these appointments where you have the opportunity to discuss your child's learning with class teacher/s are

- Wednesday 3 Oct, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Thursday 4 Oct 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Further information will be issued as due course.

### **Before and Afterschool Clubs**

Currently we have the following clubs running at school –

Mondays – P2/3 shinty, 2.45pm – 3.45pm

Tuesdays – P6/7 basketball (£1 per session) 3pm – 4pm

Wednesdays – P4-7 shinty, 3pm – 4.30pm

Wednesdays – P6/7 gymnastics, 8am -9am (no spaces available at the moment)

Thursday – P2-5 gymnastics, 8am-9am. There are 9 spaces available. £2 per session, payable as a block. Forms are available at reception and spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please contact the school if you require further information.



### **Reception/P1/ Kitchen/ Refurbishment**

As some of you will have seen, the reception area and the two Primary 1 classrooms have been completely refurbished and we are delighted with this. The kitchen is still a work in progress and because of this, Grab and Go will be offered until further notice.

### **Interactive White Boards**

Exciting news! Over the summer holidays Clevertouch boards (interactive whiteboards) were installed in many classrooms, as well as one in ELC in the Jungle Room. These digital boards replace the old blackboards. The feedback so far from staff and pupils is very positive and we are all busy learning how to use these effectively to enhance learning and



teaching.

### **Profiling**

As part of our school improvement, we have a focus on developing and improving Profiling and the information we share with parents/carers about children's' learning and their progress. Children are to have Learning Journey folders now which will be kept in class and shared with parents/carers when we have them up and running. These folders are to replace the online learning journals as we wanted to increase child and parental engagement in this whole process of sharing learning and achievements. As part of increasing parental engagement and involvement, each child will be bringing home a Termly Overview of Learning so you have a general idea of the range of topics your child will be taught each term. This is a copy for you to keep and perhaps pop up on the fridge! We hope you find these overviews useful and we will be asking for feedback on your thoughts. ☺

### **School Information Dashboard**

The School Information Dashboard was launched this week as part of the Government's mission to support excellence and equity in Scottish education. One aim of the dashboard is so parents and others have a clearer sense of the school demographics, and the achievements of learners in schools. This is public information and therefore available to everyone. The dashboard can be accessed via the Parentzone Scotland website, or through the Scottish Government website. It is important to remember that some of this information about each school may be up to two years old. This is because some of the data is only collected by the Scottish Government on a two-yearly basis. It is important to remember that statistical data alone is **not** a measure of how well a school is doing. The dashboard is due to be updated again in March 2019.

Statistical information provides an indication about how schools, as well as the children and young people being educated, are doing. However, this information needs to be considered in context as every school is unique. To properly understand how well a school is doing it is important to look at a range of different data sources, together with information about the individual school. The information provided on this School Information Dashboard, and Parentzone Scotland, adds to that already provided by schools in their handbooks, standards and quality reports, websites, and regular communications with parents. All of these together are designed to help parents better understand schools and encourage communication between parents and schools. The link to the dashboard is <https://public.tableau.com/profile/sg.eas.learninganalysis#!/vizhome/SchoolInformationDashboard-Primary/Introduction>

### **Summer Playground Activities**

During our lunch breaks we are delighted to provide the children with a variety of activities to help support an active and happy playground. Currently, the children are following the

Summer Activities Timetable which runs from April to October. The activities available to the children are:

Football, hockey, basketball, skipping and dancing. Reading and blowing bubbles in the Orchard; The Truck Stop which enables children to grow/water and look after plants, play with cars and trucks, dig, fill buckets with a variety of materials such as soil, sand and coloured sand and grass. Playground toys are available from the toy cupboard and children can play lego, colour in and take part in table top games in the Friendship Garden. The Winter Activities Timetable starts after the October holidays and runs through to Easter Holidays.

### **Nut free Snacks/Lunches**

We have a couple of children with severe nut allergies. Please can I remind you that snacks and packed lunches should not contain items with nuts (this includes Nutella). Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Administration of Medicines**

If you require **prescribed medicine** to be administered to your child at school then the parent/carer **MUST** come to the school office, complete the correct forms and bring the medicine in the original packaging with the chemist label. Children should not under any circumstance bring medicines to school themselves.

**Any non-prescribed medicines will not be administered by staff under any circumstance.**

### **Mobile Phones**

If a child is bringing a mobile phone to school a reminder that phones are not to be used inside the school grounds/building. Please can you remind children that mobiles should be switched off before children enter the school grounds and should not be switched on until children are out of the school gates at the end of the day. Please note we accept no responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones or any other valuables or toys brought to school.



### **School Breakfast Club**

We have a school Breakfast Club which is open from 8.30am – 9.15am. Currently, there is toast, milk and water available at no cost. Children should come in the school entrance on Aird Ave. P1/P2 children should be brought into the school by an adult, signed in at the club and these children will be taken to class at 9.15am. After their breakfast, P3-7 children will be out in the playground until school starts.

### **And finally .....**

Inservice Days – school and ELC will closed on Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 September October holidays....the last day of term is Friday 12 October and school/ELC will reopen on

Monday 29 October.

All school term/holiday dates for 2018/19 can be accessed on the blog.

**Lynda Banks – Head Teacher**

**Margaret Lisle – Depute Head Teacher**

**Telephone: 01463 230435**

**Email:** [hilton.primary@highland.gov.uk](mailto:hilton.primary@highland.gov.uk) **School blog:** <https://hiltonps.wordpress.com/>

**ELC blog:** <https://hiltonearlylearningandchildcare.wordpress.com>

**Twitter:** [@hiltoninverness](https://twitter.com/hiltoninverness)