

Hunter Primary Newsletter – August/September 2023



School Motto: **T**ogether **w**e are the **H**eart of **H**unter

A huge welcome back to school for session 2023-24! It's hard to believe we are already in September and this session is going to be super!

I'm delighted to welcome our new 35 Primary 1 children to Hunter Primary as well as some new children in other classes. We hope they report they are happy and enjoying their learning so far. Our children have returned to school enthusiastic and ready to learn, looking smart in their school uniforms. Thanks to all parents for supporting us with this! I have been visiting classes this week and are pleased to report all children are settled and are 'ready to learn'.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the 'Meet the Teacher' event last Wednesday. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to come in, see your child's class, meet the teacher, and see a bit more of the school. Our first formal Parents' evening will be held in October. More information will be issued soon.

Wishing everyone a fantastic year ahead!
Mr. Gary Campbell

Our School Vision:

Here at Hunter Primary School we aim to be
Happy, Understanding,
Nurturing, Truthful,
Equal and Respectful.



Please follow us
on Twitter:

@HunterPrimary



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school or by emailing one of the addresses below:

office@hunter-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

headteacher@hunter-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

gw07baddeleyeileen@glow.sch.uk

gw11mclaughlinashley@glow.sch.uk



Office email

Mr. Campbell's email

Mrs. Baddeley's email

Mrs. McLaughlin's email

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Staffing and classes update

We welcome **Mr. Lindsay** and **Miss Mazhar** to the Hunter Primary team this session.

Congratulations also to Mrs. McLaughlin who was successful at interview in June for the Acting Principal Teacher post. Although Mrs. McLaughlin will be mainly class committed, she will have an additional remit of Raising Attainment and Achievement as well as continuing in her role as the Health and Wellbeing coordinator.

Head Teacher	Mr. Gary Campbell
Principal Teacher	Mrs. Eileen Baddeley
Principal Teacher (Acting)	Mrs. Ashley McLaughlin
Primary 1 (Room 1)	Miss Laughland
Primary 1 (Room 2)	Mrs. Menzies (Mon/Tues) and Mrs. McHugh (Wed-Fri)
Primary 2 (Room 3)	Ms. Holmes
Primary 3/4 (Room 4)	Mrs. Rasul
Primary 4 (Room 6)	Mr. Lindsay
Primary 5 (Room 7)	Miss Mazhar and Mrs. McLaughlin
Primary 6 (Room 8)	Mrs. Hodge
Primary 7 (Room 9)	Miss Taylor
CCC Teacher	Miss Mooney (P.E. and Health and Wellbeing) (Mon-Thur)
Additionality Teacher	Mrs. McHugh (Tuesday)

Support Staff:

Mrs. Shearon - Team Leader
Mrs. Millar
Mrs. Hendry
Mrs. Black
Mrs. McCuaig
Mrs. Kelly
Mrs. Crawford
Mrs. Glen

Janitor:

Mr David Hughes

Please note, this will be the only newsletter which children will bring home for you to read. From September, newsletters will be available on our school app with notifications posted on our Twitter feed. However, if you would still like to receive a paper copy, please contact our school office and let them know. Thank you.

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School communication: Twitter, School App, Google Classroom ParentsPortal



South Lanarkshire Council endorses schools to use **Twitter** (or X as it's not known) to showcase pupil learning and share information. Please follow us on Twitter **@HunterPrimary** where we will regularly post school communication including photographs of learning, useful hints and tips, diary reminders, useful community links and many more.

School app – This is our primary means of communication, and we strongly encourage all parents/carers to download it to your smart phone. Please also share this with friends and family. With the use of the instant message service, we will be posting almost all school letters on the app where possible. This will help us with our Eco agenda and reduce the amount of paper being sent home. Keep an eye on the '**dates**' section within the app - this will include important up and coming diary events in school.

To download school app: In your smart phone app store, **search** 'School App for Parents' (see logo opposite), **download and install**. **Navigate to locate 'Hunter Primary School'** and type in the access code **2012**. Alternatively, please scan the QR code to take you directly to the downloadable link.

School
App for
Parents



Google Classroom – All pupils will now have been issued with Glow and **Google Classroom** information. In order to access Google Classroom, you are required to sign into Glow. Google Classroom is an excellent tool for a range of learning activities in and out of school. Class teachers will post weekly homework activities, as well as showcasing the class learning journey via the use of photographs and in some instances, video.



Google Classroom

Please note: we ask parents/carers **not to** contact the class teacher through this platform as not all staff access this part of the classroom. Please instead contact your child's teacher via school office in the first instance.

ParentsPortal – All SLC schools will move to this platform which will allow parents/carers to do a variety of things. Thank you for your continued patience in setting this up. If you continue to experience any difficulties, please contact the school office for help. Further information can be found at www.parentsportal.scot

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Primary 1

We are so proud to see our Primary 1 children in their school uniforms and they are enjoying getting to know the routines for each day. A reminder that indoor shoes are required for the children to change in to each day. They have had a lovely first few weeks getting to know their teacher and their P.7 buddies!

A few reminders-

- Children should know if they are a school lunch or a packed lunch, please go over the menu with your child each day to ensure they are choosing a meal that they will eat (*see school app for daily lunch menu choices*).
- Snacks for playtime should be separate from the packed lunch to avoid any confusion for the child.
- A labelled water bottle.
- Please ensure **ALL** items are labelled with your child's name.



The school day at Hunter Primary

Breakfast Club: 8.15 – 8.45 am (all children welcome)

Start: 9.00 am **Interval:** 10.30 – 10.45 am **Lunch:** 12.30 – 1.15 pm **End:** 3pm



Wet Weather arrangements

In the event of inclement weather, we will bring the children into school before the 9.00 am bell. As always this is dependent on staff supervision. **Two bells will** sound to indicate a wet start/break. Children will go straight to their classes in the event of a wet morning where they will be expected to change their shoes, wash their hands and then sit at their desk with a private reading book or chatting quietly until their teacher arrives. Each floor will be supervised, and senior monitors will be on hand to assist younger children. We ask that on days where weather is an issue then **please bring your child to school as close to the 9.00 am start time as possible** and refrain from dangerous parking for drop off. We also ask that unless a child is late for school that they are not brought to or dropped off at the main office. A waterproof jacket and sensible footwear is advised in the event of any delay to the wet weather bell.

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Breakfast Club

A reminder that **all pupils** are welcome to come to the Breakfast Club. This runs daily and is available **8.15 – 8.45 am**. There is no charge for this, and children will be offered the choice of **Weetabix/toast/fresh fruit and a cup of water/milk**.

Pupils attending should report to the member of staff in charge to be registered in the building. Pupils will be dismissed into the main playground.



Hunter Primary School Improvement Priorities 2023-24

As we continue to progress into our 2023-24 session and reflect on all the work that was undertaken last session, please see below our 3 main strategic priorities for this year:

Priority 1: Raising Attainment

Embed updated Writing pedagogy, including planning and assessment to continue to raise attainment in Writing.

Priority 2: Health and Wellbeing

Revise Nurture Principles with the whole school community including the review of taught HWB curriculum.

Priority 3: Curriculum

To build confidence and expertise in the teaching of STEM activities through engagement in the SSERC initiative (Learning Community Priority)

Our Standards and Quality report for session 2022-23 will be posted on our app and school website shortly.

Maintenance Agenda 2023-24

- Begin to develop Play Pedagogy in Primary 1.
- Development of School Library and begin accreditation for Reading Schools Award
- Increase the opportunities for Pupil Voice across all classes.
- Begin to apply for Eco School award (Pupil Voice)
- Apply for Gold Sport Scotland School Sport Award following initial assessment in 2022-23 session.

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Attendance and Absence reporting

Children should come to school unless too unwell to attend. Our school attendance rates are usually very good however we see a direct correlation between attendance and attainment. Pupils with lower attendance rates fall behind their classmates, are less resilient and confident. All pupil attendance is monitored regularly and where an attendance rate falls **below 90%**, this is monitored weekly. Where there is a pattern of poor attendance the Head Teacher will contact the parent/carer to discuss whether there are any supports that can be put in place. It is also helpful to contact the school should you have any attendance concerns regarding your child. It is our priority to work together in partnership to ensure the best outcomes for all children.



If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office and leave a message on the answer facility (**option 1 to report a child's absence**). Please tell us your **child's name, class and specific reason for absence**. Please note a specific reason is needed to authorise your child's absence.

Attendance is recorded as either 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'. **We are unable to authorise holidays taken during term time unless you are able to provide a letter from your employer (on headed notepaper) to explain your reason for your holiday.** Absence through illness or appointments are 'authorised' where we have the exact reason for absence.

We thank you for your continued support with this.

WORKING TOGETHER...

Parental partnership is very important to us in Hunter, and we work very hard to build positive relationships with all our parents/carers, in order that we can work together to support all our children to reach their potential and feel happy and safe in school.

We are always here to help so, in the first instance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via the main school office with any queries or concerns. I would ask that in all instances you contact the school directly and avoid posting any concerns you may have on social media, as in our experience, many worries can be easily resolved with a quick conversation.

Myself, Mrs. Baddeley and Mrs. McLaughlin are also here to help. Our door is always open, and you can contact us using our email addresses on page 1 of this newsletter, or by giving the school a call.

I am very much looking forward to continuing to build on the already strong partnership we have in our school community. Here's to an excellent year in Hunter Primary!



Diary Dates - September

Remember to keep an eye on the 'Dates' section of the school app.

- Tuesday 5th - Parent Council meeting @ 6.30 pm
- Tuesday 12th - Selected senior pupils to JRSO event in Hamilton with Mr. Campbell
- Wednesday 13th - Senior boys @ Football Festival 1 with Davy
- Friday 15th - P.4 Lunchtime Multi-Sport club begins
- Friday 22nd - **HOLIDAY**
- Monday 25th - **HOLIDAY**
- Tuesday 26th - Maths Week Scotland

Future dates for diary:

- Monday 2nd October - Parent Council meeting @ 6.30 pm
- Wednesday 4th October - Senior boys @ Football Festival 2 with Davy
- Thursday 5th October - Senior pupils @ Netball Festival 1 with Miss Taylor
- Thursday 12th October - Parents' Evening 1
- Monday 16th – Friday 20th - **OCTOBER HOLIDAY**

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