Hillhead Primary School Newsletter October 2026

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Families

What a fantastic start we have made to our new school year! It has been wonderful to see our school community come together once again, with smiling faces, positive attitudes and lots of enthusiasm for learning. It has been lovely to see our school values of ***kindness, resilience, respect and achievement*** *shining through in the way our children approach their learning and care for one another.*

A particularly warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families who have joined us. We hope that you are already feeling part of our school community.

Our first term has been filled with many exciting learning experiences and memorable moments. Highlights have included our return to school Wellbeing Week which provided the opportunity for all children to reconnect with friends, build relationships, re-establish routines and settle back into school life at a comfortable pace. By putting health, happiness and emotional wellbeing at the heart of our first week, we set a positive tone and help children feel safe and ready to learn. Throughout the year, Miss Blake works with the senior leaders to plan nurture trips out with the school to help the pupils engage with nature, build friendships, develop social skills and instil resilience. Some of these trips have already taken place while others are still in the planning stages.

The start of November brings a close to Black History Month at Hillhead Primary School. Over the past four weeks we have celebrated diversity, explored inspiring stories and recognised the contributions of Black individuals throughout history.

As always, it is impossible to report on every event and experience but here are some of the highlights. You can follow more of your child's learning journey by logging on to Seesaw online. If you have any questions about this speak to your child's teacher.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families and most importantly, our wonderful children for making the start of this session so positive. I look forward to sharing all the opportunities, achievements and special memories that lie ahead as we continue to learn and grow together.

Mrs Wood

WE ARE GOLD!

We are a **Reading School** Gold

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved our **Reading School Gold Level Award!** This fantastic achievement recognises our commitment to developing a strong reading culture across our school and nurturing a lifelong love of books and stories in our pupils.

Reading is at the heart of learning, opening up new worlds, sparking imagination and helping our children develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed. This award celebrates the hard work of the members of our Reading Committee led by Mrs Smith in leading the staff, pupils and families in activities, events and learning which makes reading enjoyable and valued. We look forward to continuing our journey of sharing stories, discovering new authors and inspiring the readers of tomorrow!

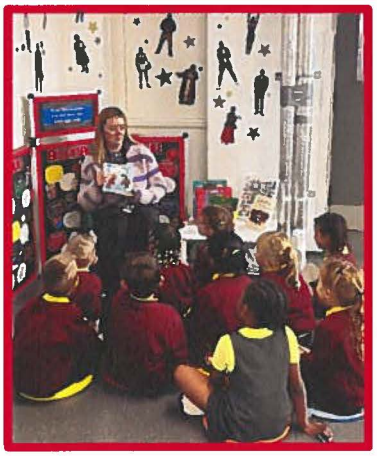
Black History Month at Hillhead Primary

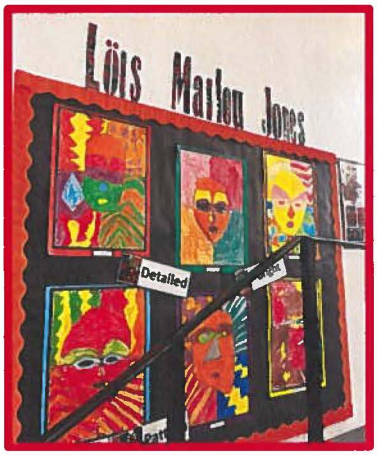
Throughout October, Hillhead Primary has embraced **Black History Month**, providing our children with exciting opportunities to celebrate Black history, culture, creativity and achievement.



Every class has taken part in focused learning lessons, exploring the lives, stories and contributions of inspiring Black individuals from the past and present. Our learning has extended into the arts, with children creating fantastic pieces of artwork inspired by Black artists and their unique styles and creativity.

We have also enjoyed some fun and challenging quizzes, giving everyone the opportunity to test their knowledge and discover new facts. Even our corridors have been part of the celebrations, with music from talented Black artists filling the school. It was fun to watch both staff and pupils dancing as they move around the building.





A particular highlight was our special whole-school assembly, where every class had the opportunity to share their learning, showcase their work and celebrate the knowledge they had gained throughout the month.

Presenting pupils showed themselves to be confident individuals as they stood in front of the whole school and our invited pre-school children to deliver their reports of what their class had been learning over the past month.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to recognise the importance of diversity, representation and equality, while celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black individuals and communities. Most importantly, it has encouraged our children to be curious, celebrate differences and show respect for the people and cultures that make our world such a rich and diverse place.







Little Pumpkins, Big Smiles, a Spooktacular Adventure!

Miss Blake took a group of pupils on a wonderful wellbeing trip to Arnprior. The children enjoyed pumpkin picking, climbing hay bales, riding tractors, playing in straw and meeting friends from Twechar Primary School. The trip was rounded off with hot chocolate and marshmallows before returning to school the following day to make pumpkin soup which they shared with their classmates.












Scripture Union & Connect Clubs

Just a reminder that Hillhead Primary is host to a free after school Scripture Union Club on a **Monday evening from 3pm until 3:45pm** in the school hall. The club is led by Eilidh *(pictured Right)* and is dedicated to helping children and young people explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus. The club includes fun indoor and outdoor activities, crafts, a snack and games. There is also a Connect Club which is run by the same organisation on a Wednesday at Hillhead Halls, directly opposite the school from 3pm-4pm. These clubs are well attended and many children report how much they enjoy the sessions. **No need to book. Just contact the school office to be added to the register.**



Where Little Seeds and Big Smiles Sprout!



If you walk past the entrance to Hillhead Primary on a Thursday afternoon, you'll hear something special—not just birdsong, but the sound of trowels scraping, watering cans splashing, and the laughter of our Gardening Club Members. Launched last year, this space is more than just flowerbeds and veggie patches. It's a living classroom where parents and children dig, plant, and weed side-by-side every **Thursday from 2:00pm-3:00pm**. **Families are welcome to come along and join the club with their child. Just give the school office a call and someone will call back with more information!**






Hillhead Primary Make the Nation Giggle!



We were absolutely delighted when some of our pupils were selected for the exciting opportunity to tell their jokes live on **Heart Radio!** Our budding comedians got busy practising their funniest joke, ready to share a little laughter with listeners across the country.

On Wednesday the 9th of September, three of our pupils spoke with DJ David Farrell, live on air as he hosted the Big Laugh Comedy Club. This was a fantastic opportunity for our children to build confidence, showcase their personalities and enjoy an experience beyond the classroom.

You can listen to the recording of the clip featuring pupils from Hillhead by scanning the QR Code.

Classroom Makeover!

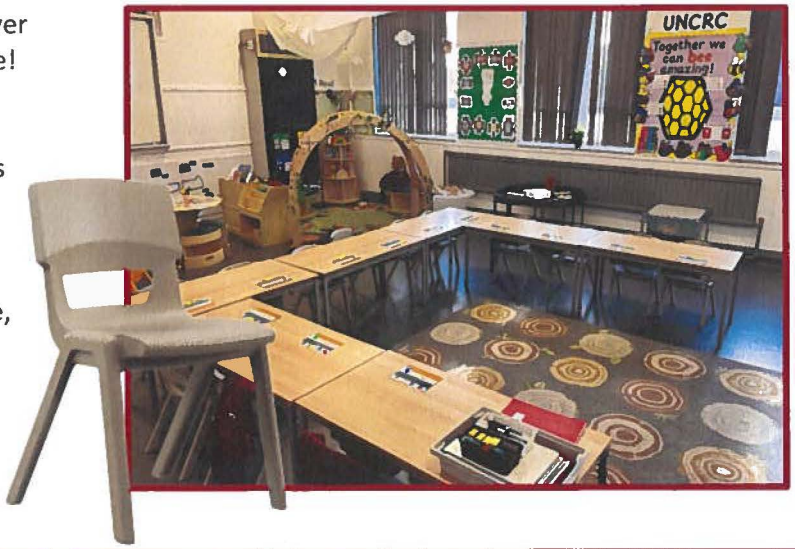


Our P1 and P2 classrooms have had a fantastic makeover with the arrival of some lovely new classroom furniture!

The fresh, welcoming spaces will help create an even more enjoyable environment for our youngest learners to explore, play and learn.

We are delighted to be investing in our learning environments to ensure our children have comfortable, engaging spaces where they can develop, build friendships and achieve their very best.

We hope our P1 and P2 pupils love their refreshed classrooms!





COME HAVE A NOSEY!

Thinking about choosing Hillhead Primary for your child?
Come along and see what makes our school so special!

We are delighted to invite prospective parents and families to our **'Come and Have a Nosey!'** event on Wednesday 11th November from 6-7pm, where you will have the opportunity to step inside Hillhead Primary, explore our wonderful school and discover everything we have to offer. Visitors will be warmly welcomed by our staff, who will be on hand to show you around, answer your questions and share more about life at Hillhead. You'll be able to see our classrooms and learning spaces, find out about the exciting opportunities available to our pupils and learn more about our nurturing school community.

Whether you are considering enrolling your child in Primary 1 or joining us at another stage, this is a fantastic opportunity to get a feel for our school, meet the people who make it special and find out why Hillhead could be the perfect place for your child to learn, grow and thrive.

Come along, have a look around, ask questions and get to know us.
We would love to welcome you into the Hillhead family!

All Aboard for an Amazing Adventure!



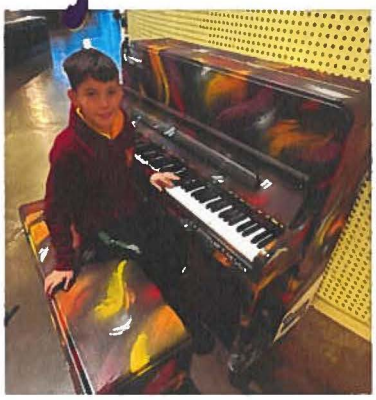
Our Primary 5/6 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting trip to **Glasgow Riverside Museum of Transport**, where they stepped back in time and discovered how transport has changed over the years.

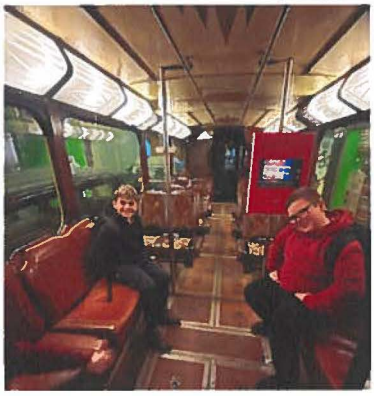
There was so much to see and explore! Pupils enjoyed discovering the amazing collection of vintage cars, buses, bicycles and motorbikes, as well as exploring the fascinating old-fashioned streets and shops. They had great fun climbing aboard some of the transport exhibits, imagining what it would have been like to travel in the past and comparing how people got around then with how we travel today.

A particular highlight was seeing the impressive steam locomotives and discovering some of the stories behind Glasgow's transport history. There were plenty of opportunities to ask questions, share discoveries and learn something new along the way!

It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning, laughter and exploration. Our pupils were brilliant ambassadors for Hillhead and returned to school with lots of stories to share.

What a journey!













PRIMARY 7's OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!



Our Primary 7 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to **Gowan Bank Outdoor Centre in Dalry, Ayrshire,** packed full of adventure, laughter and fantastic memories!

This year we teamed up with P7 pupils from Twechar Primary School making the trip a brilliant opportunity to build friendships ahead of the transition to high school.

Throughout their stay, pupils had the opportunity to challenge themselves, try new experiences and develop important skills such as teamwork, communication and resilience. From exciting outdoor activities to working together to overcome challenges, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Highlights included taking part in adventurous team challenges, exploring the great outdoors, testing their courage with new activities and supporting one another along the way. Evenings were just as much fun, with plenty of opportunities to relax, enjoy time with friends and make memories away from the classroom.

They took part in many exciting activities including crate-climbing, abseiling, an escape room challenge and tree climbing. These experiences help our children to grow in confidence as they overcame nerves and fear, pushing themselves to try new things and realise *'I can do it!'*

Our pupils did themselves proud, showing great enthusiasm, determination and teamwork throughout the trip. A huge thank you to Miss Blake and Miss Haynes who gave of their own time to accompany the children and helping make this such a special experience.



A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN AT HILLHEAD

Hillhead Primary was filled with spooky fun and Halloween excitement as our children enjoyed a fantastic celebration! The school was transformed into a frightfully fun place, with pupils and staff dressing up in an amazing array of costumes, from witches to ghosts, superheroes to princesses and all sorts of spooky characters!

The children had a fang-tastic time taking part in Halloween games, challenges and activities, bringing plenty of laughter and excitement to the day. Halloween fun also found its way into the classroom, with spooky-themed curricular lessons bringing learning to life through creepy calculations, Halloween stories and frightfully fun challenges.

Our creative pupils also got busy producing some fantastic Halloween-inspired artwork, with colourful creations and spooky masterpieces adding a little extra magic to our classrooms and corridors.

It was a spooktacular day filled with creativity, laughter and wonderful memories. A huge thank you to our PTA for supporting the event and everyone who helped make Halloween at Hillhead such a treat!



Staying Safe Around Bonfire Night!



P6/7 had a very special visit from our local firefighters, who came into school to talk to the children about keeping safe around Bonfire Night.

The firefighters shared important advice about the dangers of fireworks and bonfires, explained how accidents can happen and reminded pupils of the importance of making safe choices.

The children had the opportunity to learn about firework safety, the risks of playing with fireworks and why bonfires should only ever be enjoyed at organised displays under adult supervision.

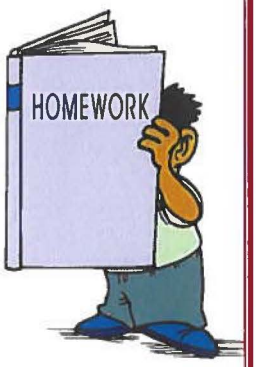
As Bonfire Night approaches, please remember:

- Always attend organised firework displays wherever possible.
- Never let children handle or play with fireworks, sparklers or matches.
- Keep a safe distance from bonfires and fireworks.
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- Keep pets safely indoors during fireworks displays.
- Make sure children know to tell a trusted adult if they find an abandoned firework.



A huge thank you to our local firefighters for taking the time to visit Hillhead and help our pupils become more aware of how to enjoy Bonfire Night safely. Their visit was both informative and engaging!

Working Together to Get Homework Right!



A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent homework questionnaire. Your feedback is extremely valuable and helps us ensure that our approaches to learning reflect the needs of our children and families.

One of the clearest messages from the responses was an overwhelming preference for homework activities that **do not rely on online access**. Many families expressed a preference for more traditional approaches, such as homework jotters, providing children with opportunities to practise and consolidate their learning at home without needing access to a device or the internet.

We really value your honesty and the time you have taken to share your thoughts. Your feedback will now be discussed with staff as we review our current approach and consider how best to make homework meaningful, manageable and accessible for all families. We look forward to sharing our **new homework format in January**, taking your views into consideration.

Thank you for helping us shape the learning experiences of our children and for being such an important part of the Hillhead school community!



SCHOOL UNIFORMS



A huge thank you for your support in providing your children with a Hillhead School Uniform. As we continue to strive for a positive and inclusive learning environment, I want to take a moment to highlight the importance of our school uniform. School uniforms play a key role in fostering a sense of belonging, equality and pride in our school and its community. We understand that purchasing uniforms can sometimes be a cause for concern for some families. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us should you require support to ensure that your child has the correct clothing for school.

JOIN US FOR

HILLHEAD PRIMARY & EYC CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

11AM - 1PM

Hillhead Primary School Hall

Lucky Bottles ~ Hot Chocolate ~ Tombola ~ Chocolate Tombola ~ Lucky Dip ~ Face Painting, Tattoos ~ Adopt a Soft Toy ~ Raffles ~ Name the Nutcrackers ~ Santa's Grotto ~ Photo Booth ~ Krispy Kreme Donuts ~ Guess the Bauble ~ Craft Stalls

FREE ENTRY

Dates for Your Diary



Date	School Activities
Wednesday 4th November	P6 of P6/7 visiting Campsie View Care Home as part of Befriending Week
Thursday 5th November	P3/4 visiting Campsie View Care Home as part of Befriending Week
Friday 13th November	Pyjama Day – Bring in a donation for our Christmas Rainbow Hampers
Mon 16th - Fri 20st November	Scottish Book Week *More details to follow from our Pupil Reading Committee*
Mon 16th - Fri 20st November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November	P1 Book Bug Family Event 2-3pm
Wednesday 18th November	P3 Read, Write, Count Family Event 2-3pm
Wednesday 18th November	P1 Trip to Loch Lomond Faery Trail
Thursday 19th November	P2 Read Write Count Family Event 2-3pm
Thursday 19th November	P3/4 going to Matilda the Musical at the Theatre Royal
Saturday 28th November	Hillhead Primary & EYC Christmas Fayre 11am – 1pm *If you feel that you can support this please contact our school office.*
Wednesday 2nd December	Magician Show for P1-3 followed by visit from Santa!
Thursday 3rd December	P1 Canal Trip – Santa on a Boat
Monday 7th December	P7 Pupils – EDC Christmas Choir Concert at Royal Concert Hall
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Pantomime in the school hall
Thursday 10th December	Read around The Christmas Tree at 6pm in the school hall *More details to follow*
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	School Nativity Performance 1:30pm
Friday 18th December	P1-7 Christmas Parties & Themed Activities *A special Guest will be visiting our Primary 1 pupils!* *Children should come into school in their party clothes*
Friday 18th December	Christmas Service at Hillhead & St Columbus Church – Time to be confirmed
Friday 18th December	School Closes for Christmas at 2:30pm
Tuesday 2nd December	Whole School Flu Immunisation
Thursday 4th December	Panto Trip to New Lanark for Primary 3-7 *Full day trip – School Uniform & Packed Lunch required*
Tuesday 5th January	Pupils Return