October 2026 Newsletter

I can't quite believe we have made it to October already and that the October holiday is just around the corner. The term of the new school year seems to have flown by, and it has certainly been a busy start to the session.

It has been lovely to see the children getting stuck into their learning and making the most of all the opportunities on offer. As always, there is lots happening across the school, and we are very grateful for the continued support of our parents, carers and wider school community.

In this month's newsletter, you will find a mixture of updates, celebrations, upcoming events and useful information about what is happening in and around school. Please take a few minutes to have a read and make a note of any important dates.

As we head towards the October break, I would also like to say a big thank you to our children, staff and families for all their hard work and support during what has been a very busy first term of the school year.

Mrs Shiel

Scottish Borders Council Greener Gateway Awards

We are delighted to share some fantastic news about our Pond/Outdoor Learning Project. At the end of last session, our Pupil Council created and submitted a short video to the Scottish Borders Council Greener Gateway Awards, showcasing the project and the work that went into making it a reality.

We were absolutely thrilled to receive a Silver Award! This is wonderful recognition of what has been a real team effort and it is lovely to see this recognised by Scottish Borders Council.

We are very proud of what we have achieved together.

Art Gallery Visit – Tuesday 6th October

The school will be travelling to Edinburgh to visit the National Galleries of Scotland. They will be leaving at 10:00am and returning by 3:15pm. The children will need to bring a packed lunch and wear school uniform. They will be accompanied by Miss Jamieson, Miss Chalmers and Tilly Pinder.

P1-7 Assembly and Open Afternoon – Thursday 8th October

P1-7 would like to warmly invite parents and carers to their assembly on Thursday 8th October at 2.30pm.

Following the assembly, there will be an opportunity to visit the classrooms, have a look at some of the children's work and see what they have been learning. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend, as every classroom will be open for families to visit once the assembly has finished.

We hope you can join us and look forward to welcoming you into school.

Halloween Disco – Thursday 29th October

It's nearly time for some Halloween fun! Our Halloween Disco will take place on Thursday 29th October from 5.00 to 6.00pm in the school hall and is open to all pupils from P1-P7.

The Parent Council will be providing the music and entertainment, and children will receive a snack during the evening.

We will need a few parent/carer volunteers to help us on the night. If you are able to lend a hand, please let the Parent Council know. Your support would be very much appreciated.

More information will follow nearer the time.

P4/5 Rugby and P6/7 Hockey Festivals – Friday 9th October

The children will travel to either KHS for hockey or KRFC for rugby, arriving at approximately 9.20am. Once there, they will take part in a fun, festival-style tournament organised by Live Borders Active Schools, before returning to school at around 11.20am.

Please make sure your child comes prepared for the weather with warm clothing, a waterproof jacket and suitable trainers or boots. All children will need a gum shield, and those taking part in hockey will also need shin pads. Hockey players are very welcome to bring their own hockey stick if they have one.

The focus of the morning is on participation, enjoyment and having fun, giving the children a great opportunity to enjoy sport alongside pupils from other schools.

Parent Volunteers: We'd Love Your Help!

We are once again looking for parents, carers and family members who might be able to spare a little time to help us in school. Whether you can commit regularly or simply

help from time to time, your support really does make a difference to the experiences we can offer our children.

Here are some of the areas where we would particularly welcome some extra pairs of hands:

Secret Readers

Our children absolutely loved having Secret Readers visit us last year, so we would love to bring this back! We are looking for parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, older siblings or family friends who would be willing to share a favourite story. You could either come into school to read to a class at the end of the day or, if coming into school is tricky, record yourself reading a story for the teacher to share with the children.

Outdoor Area/Pond

We have some exciting plans to develop our school outdoor area and would love to involve our parent and carer community. We are looking for volunteers with all kinds of skills, from gardening and DIY to general enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in! We would be especially interested to hear from anyone who has experience or expertise with ponds, as this is an area we would like to develop safely and successfully. If you have some time or skills you could share, please let us know.

PVG

To help us keep everyone safe, anyone volunteering regularly in school would need to complete a PVG check. Please don't let this put you off, as it is a straightforward process, particularly if you are already a PVG scheme member through another organisation. We can help guide you through what is needed.

We really do value the time our volunteers give to the school and would love to welcome more of you into school this year.

If any of these opportunities sound like something you would enjoy, please get in touch with the school. You don't need to be an expert or have any special skills, just a little time and a willingness to get involved. We would be very grateful for your support.

Dates for your Diary in October

- Tuesday 6th – Visit to Art Gallery
- Thursday 8th – P1-7 Assembly followed by Open Afternoon, 2:30pm
- Friday 9th – P4/5 and P6/7 Hockey and Rugby Festivals
- Monday 12th – Friday 16th – October Holidays
- Monday 19th – Inservice Day
- Thursday 29th – Halloween Disco, 5:00pm to 6:00pm
- Friday 30th – Tempest Individual Photos

As always if you have any questions, please just get in touch and ask.