Halfmerke Primary School

March Newsletter

**Dear Parents and Carers**

I hope all our families are well, a welcome return of a bit more daylight after the clock change at the weekend! We are seeing some better weather but please ensure your child comes to school prepared for being outdoors in all weathers as we can sometimes see all seasons in one day! We have enjoyed some exciting things over the last month, we all had a fantastic World Book Day celebrating a love of reading and books! Our P6s had a successful trip out to the Euroquiz Heats at Newton Farm PS, a great experience for them! We enjoyed the whole school Health Day, great organising by our P7 pupils and lots of monies raised for their upcoming residential trip. Our P6 pupils are enjoying weekly swimming lessons, which are going well and our P7 pupils have enjoyed their Transition events and preparations are well underway for their journey to S1. A huge, good luck to our Dancers as they take to the stage at Calderglen High School on Wednesday this week…. we were lucky enough to get a sneak peek of their fantastic routine in school, I’m sure you will all be amazing!

I do hope all our families have a fantastic break and we get lots of lovely weather to enjoy some family time. Happy Easter everyone!

Ms L Hogg

Headteacher

**Dates for your Diary**

Wed 29th March Kickboxing Taster Session for all classes

Friday 31st March School closes at 2:30pm for Easter Break

Mon 17th April School reopens at 9am

Tues 18th April New P1 pupils visit @ 4pm

Mon 24th April P7 Residential Trip to Robinwood Activity Centre

Tues 25th April Netball Tournament

Wed 26th April P7 pupil return from Robinwood

 Parent Council Meeting

Thurs 27th April Halfmerke Havers

P7 Transition Maths Challenge

**Playing safe**

We are currently looking at adapting our playground to ensure that all pupils can feel safe to play freely and enjoy positive play with their friends. We are aware that there has been a slight increase disagreements between pupils during playtimes with some children finding it difficult to treat others with kindness and respect in their play. With an increase of outdoor equipment, separate areas for play and increased adult presence we hope that this will encourage more positive play. As a school, our pupils safety and wellbeing is of upmost importance and we currently are engaging with many new ways to promote positive relationships and kindness, such as our PATHS programme, Mind Marvels, weekly assemblies promoting our school values, and our Pivotal Approach to behaviour management, sharing expectations with pupils.

It is always our priority to encourage pupils to treat each other and the adults with respect and kindness equipping them with life skills and building resilience and confidence within themselves. It is with a greater focus on this that we hope to ensure our shared values of Respect, Friendships, Inclusion, Trying our Best & Honesty ensures that pupils can treat each other and the adults with kindness and respect.

Working in partnership with our families will of course ensure a greater impact and we will continue to work with families, perhaps to inform you if your child has been unable to play safely in school to ensure we are working together to support the wellbeing of all our pupils. I thank you for your support of this.

**Mind Marvels**

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We have recently welcomed Angela from Mind Marvels to join the Halfmerke Team. She has been delivering weekly sessions to all the classes to help support pupils with their emotional wellbeing. These sessions consist of 5 key steps to positive wellbeing; Learn, Move, Connect, Mindful and Be Kind and are themed with topics such as big emotions, friendships, resilience and confidence to promote calming strategies for children’s wellbeing. Aims of these sessions are;

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**To help boost pupil engagement** – *short burst activities are designed to train pupils to focus, engage and learn.*

**To support independent learning** – *sessions encourage pupils to explore calming tools for themselves.*

**To help raise attainment** – *children who are balanced and calm learn better*.

**And to embed the national curriculum** – *sessions are aligned with the Curriculum for Excellence.*

**P7 Residential Trip & Transition**

Our P7 Residential trip is getting close and the boys and girls in Room 8 are getting excited. All monies for the trip should now have been paid. The recent successful enterprise by the P7 pupils raised a total of £390. The school are also happy to contribute to the transport costs therefore bringing the final cost for transport to £33 per pupil. Nicole should get this on Parent Pay today for payments to be made. This can be paid up, but total monies should be paid before departure date on the 24th of April.

Our P7 pupils have enjoyed a morning of sport on their visit up to Calderglen High as part of their transition programme, we also welcomed the Pupil Support Team to Halfmerke last week and the boys and girls got an opportunity to chat to staff about S1. Our enhanced transition programme is well underway and we are looking forward to future transition events by the Modern Languages department as well as a Maths Challenge for a group of our P7s.

**Parent Council Easter Egg Competition**

Our Parent Council have offered to award prizes for our Easter Egg competition this week. We are asking all pupils to bring in a hard-boiled egg to school on Thursday to decorate in class and enter the school Easter Egg Decorating competition. Members on the Parent Council will be in school on Thursday afternoon to judge the competition and the winners will be awarded prizes donated from the PC. If you child has a specific idea for their egg they can bring in materials from home to decorate, we will also have plenty of resources on hand to use in school also. If your child has any allergies we need to be aware of please contact the school office and if you need help supplying the eggs also let us know and we can help out with this. Thank you to our Parent Council for organising and we are looking forward to seeing all the creative ideas!!

