Welcome Back.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are feeling rested and ready for the New Year ahead!

**Staff News**

As you know, Lorna Hay left us last October to undertake a new role at Calderside Deaf Education Department. She is settling in well and enjoying her new challenge! Katie McKay a fully qualified Teacher of the Deaf working in Windsor Park School in Falkirk was the successful candidate for Lorna’s job and I am very happy to announce that she will start working in Hamilton School for the Deaf soon. Katie has worked in Hamilton School for the Deaf in the past and we are very pleased to be welcoming her back. Katie will be working 4 days per week and Jamie Clark will continue to work with us one day per week.

We are also very pleased to welcome back Debbie MacPhee, our Early Years worker, from her period of absence due to having surgery. Debbie is undertaking a phased return and will be back with us fulltime on the 2nd February. I would like to thank Jacqueline Myles, who covered for Debbie when she was absent, for all her hard work.

Siobhan McGhee one of our class teachers will return to Hamilton School for the Deaf after her maternity leave on the 23rd February. We are looking forward to having her back with us.

**Recent School Activities**

We had a busy time in the run up to Christmas. The pupils enjoyed meeting with deaf children from all over the West of Scotland when we attended the Christmas Service at Deaf Connections.

Our visit to Xscape with staff and pupils from Garvel Deaf Centre was a great success. We all had great fun sledging in the snow!

Santa was very generous to the children when we visited him at Golding’s Winter Wonderland Experience and they enjoyed playing on the fun fair rides.

**French Sign Language**

Enrique Canton has just completed teaching 10 weeks of French Sign Language lessons with our P4,5,7 class. The children showcased their skills when they visited Hamilton Deaf Club where they taught some French Sign Language to the members. Enrique will continue to visit the children this term also.
Swimming

Our primary 4 pupils are attending swimming lessons along with Glenlee’s primary 4 classes. They have been visiting Blantyre swimming baths on a Tuesday afternoon and will continue doing so until the 15th March which will be the last lesson.

Children's Parliament

A representative from the Children’s Parliament, Chelsea Stinson, visited the school on the 2nd December. The aim of the visit was to consult with our pupils about what they felt made them Happy Safe and Healthy. The findings from the consultation will help inform government policy around improving young people's wellbeing. The children found the experience worthwhile and thought provoking.

What are we learning this term?

The P4,5,7 class will begin an Enterprise project this term. They are going to set up and run their own stationary business. This will entail buying the stock, setting the prices and selling the stationary to HSD and Glenlee pupils throughout the month of February. The children will have to apply for the job they would like to have and undertake interviews.

As always there will be strong focus on literacy and numeracy this term.

P1/2 class topic this term will be, The Teddy Bear's Picnic. They will be learning about, healthy eating, how our bodies work, what our teeth are for and how to choose healthy foods.

The nursery pupils will soon choose their new topic for this term. Last term the nursery children along with Glenlee children have made several visits to the Glenlee and Udston woods as part of their Pirates and Fairies Woodland Adventure topic. They were asked to visit the woods by the fairies because the naughty pirates had stolen their treasure. In the woods the children found 4 fairy houses, one for each season. The children have also been involved in tree rubbing to get secret messages from the trees.

Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO)

The RSNO are hoping to set up a deaf orchestra and, to try to encourage deaf young people to get involved, they are running workshops in schools. We are lucky to have Mary Bell (a deaf musician) and Teresa Brasier coming to the school on the 15th January to work with the children.

PATHS

The children will continue with their PATHS lessons this term. They have been learning about the importance of giving and receiving compliments. They are also learning about their emotions and building their emotional vocabulary to help them express and understand their feelings better.