

## December End Of Term Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carer

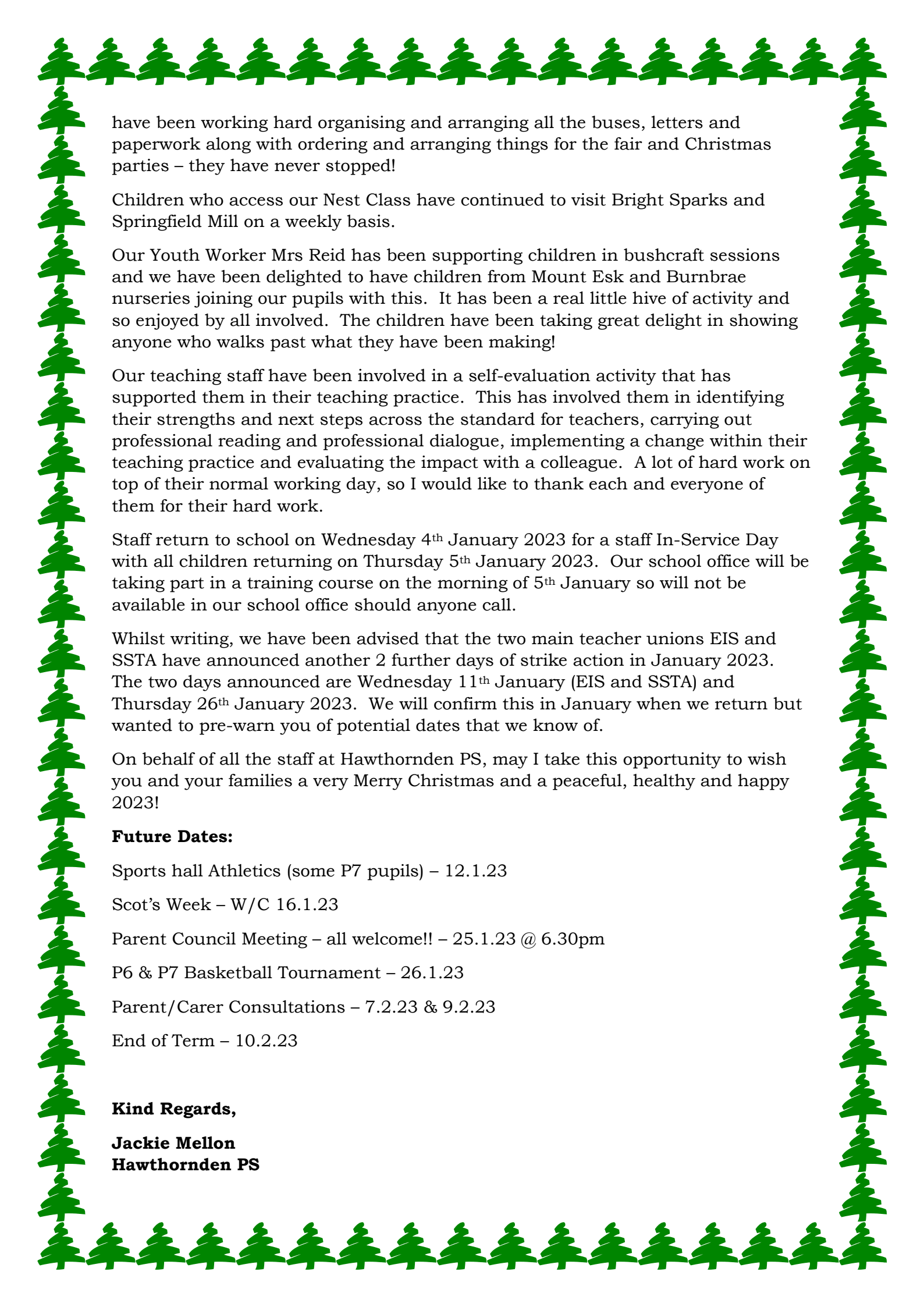
I cannot believe that I am writing this December Newsletter – this year has flown in! It has been absolutely amazing getting back to ‘normal’ and doing all of the activities with our children and school community that we did ‘pre-covid’. The feedback we have received from parents has been very positive and we have been told by parents that they have thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and events. We still have a handful to go but we are nearly there! The buzz around school leading up to the Christmas break is certainly increasing!

Our P1-3 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Brunton Theatre and I am sure our P4-7 pupils will have just as much fun on 20<sup>th</sup> when they attend.

Our P1 and P2 pupils performed incredibly well in their Nativity this week (we still have one more performance tomorrow). This is everyone’s favourite part of Christmas in school! Christmas parties this week, with more to come next week, have been a huge success and I (and many others) are VERY excited about the return of our *Christmas Top 10* on the last afternoon of term!! This is the one of our yearly highlights enjoyed by all our staff and pupils. We even let our office staff escape from their room to come and join us!!

On behalf of our whole school community I must extend a huge thanks to the members of our Parent Council who organised the most amazing Christmas Fair. It was enjoyed by all and was incredibly well supported by our Hawthornden families and friends. We still have some donations coming into school, but currently we have raised in excess of £3,000!

Aside from all of the Christmas activities that have taken place this month, our P7s visited Edinburgh Castle and Chamber Street Museum as part of their topic work on World War II. P6s have visited Roslin Chapel in a tour organised and led by the pupils of Roslin Primary School. Our P5s enjoyed a block of skiing and our children in P4 & 5 have been developing their swimming skills with lessons at Lasswade High School Centre. It has been an extremely busy time!! Our office



have been working hard organising and arranging all the buses, letters and paperwork along with ordering and arranging things for the fair and Christmas parties – they have never stopped!

Children who access our Nest Class have continued to visit Bright Sparks and Springfield Mill on a weekly basis.

Our Youth Worker Mrs Reid has been supporting children in bushcraft sessions and we have been delighted to have children from Mount Esk and Burnbrae nurseries joining our pupils with this. It has been a real little hive of activity and so enjoyed by all involved. The children have been taking great delight in showing anyone who walks past what they have been making!

Our teaching staff have been involved in a self-evaluation activity that has supported them in their teaching practice. This has involved them in identifying their strengths and next steps across the standard for teachers, carrying out professional reading and professional dialogue, implementing a change within their teaching practice and evaluating the impact with a colleague. A lot of hard work on top of their normal working day, so I would like to thank each and everyone of them for their hard work.

Staff return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for a staff In-Service Day with all children returning on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Our school office will be taking part in a training course on the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> January so will not be available in our school office should anyone call.

Whilst writing, we have been advised that the two main teacher unions EIS and SSTA have announced another 2 further days of strike action in January 2023. The two days announced are Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January (EIS and SSTA) and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023. We will confirm this in January when we return but wanted to pre-warn you of potential dates that we know of.

On behalf of all the staff at Hawthornden PS, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy 2023!

**Future Dates:**

Sports hall Athletics (some P7 pupils) – 12.1.23

Scot's Week – W/C 16.1.23

Parent Council Meeting – all welcome!! – 25.1.23 @ 6.30pm

P6 & P7 Basketball Tournament – 26.1.23

Parent/Carer Consultations – 7.2.23 & 9.2.23

End of Term – 10.2.23

**Kind Regards,**

**Jackie Mellon  
Hawthornden PS**

