



Holywood News

November 2013

Scary Time Had By All!

Thank you to all our parents, pupils and family members for making the Hallowe'en Disco a scary success once again.
Costumes were excellent and well done to the three mums who came in costume – what good sports!! Dads also have to be thanked for letting the pupils wrap them up in toilet paper!!
By the way Mrs McMichael was dressed as a siamese cat that thought it was a chihuahua – big in America!!

Please find a letter with an update regarding the cluster working review in today's mailbag.
Miss Dale is happy to answer any queries you may have.

NEW MEMBER OF STAFF

We are delighted to announce that Miss Stapleton will be joining Team Holywood very soon as our new full time teacher. At the moment we have pencilled in the 25th November as a start date. Miss Stapleton will work alongside Mrs McMichael and Miss Baxter for a couple of days as she gets to know the pupils. We will arrange an early opportunity for Miss Stapleton to meet our parents and wider community.

TREE HOUSE

Thank you to the parents who have helped out with the construction of our tree house. We are about half way there!! More help would be appreciated.
Miss Dale will text out and let you know when the next build day will be – weather permitting.
We really appreciate all your hard work.

CHILDREN IN NEED – FRIDAY 15th Nov.

Isla is keen for the school to raise a little money for Children in Need.
She has suggested a Dress as you Please Day with pupils paying a £1 to leave their school uniform at home for the day.

Please find Isla and Chloe's note (with a little help from Mrs Henderson) in today's mail bag.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Mrs McMichael is organising a day of Thanksgiving events and activities on Wednesday the 27th November 2013 for all pupils.
We would be delighted if parents joined us for a traditional thanksgiving lunch at 12.30pm.
Please complete the order form in today's mail bag to let us know if you can make it along!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We would like to congratulate Mrs Moore and her family on the arrival of Jayda, her brand new grandson. We have ooh-ed and aah-ed over the photographs and look forward to meeting Jayda very soon.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

With so many events planned in November and December we have decided to put out a calendar of events. Mrs Henderson has double checked the dates!

Dumfries Learning Town

An e-mail was forwarded to you regarding a meeting **this Thursday to update on the proposals for the Dumfries Learning Town. This could have an impact on pupils heading to secondary school in future years and we would encourage you to read the e-mail and to attend the meeting.**

Wizard of Oz

AUDITIONS on FRIDAY for all the main parts. No age restrictions pupils can audition for any part.

Sorry boys – girls only for Dorothy this year as not a pantomime!

Homework

Thank you to the parents, pupils and staff who were able to attend our Homework discussion forum last Thursday and to the parent who mailed in suggestions
Parents and pupils discussed homework as it happens at Holywood and changes they would like to see. I'm sure you won't be surprised that pupils want less and parents want more!!
Clear messages came out of the discussion:

- Homework timetable to be used to ensure that consistent approach to homework.
- Homework to be given Monday to Monday, Tuesday to Tuesday etc. giving time over a weekend for families who need it.
- Spelling workout quiz to be written in the back of the workout jotter so that parents can see progress in spelling.
- Math Workout jotter to be developed to clarify homework in maths and so that parents can see improved progression over time.
- Technology Challenge will become a monthly piece of homework for all pupils – reducing frequency and allowing more time for quality and depth. (Start January 2014)
- A clear marking code is needed for tricky trains etc and this code should be shared with parents and used consistently.
- Reduce the variety of strategies being used in phonics to enable parents to focus and support their learners.

Miss Dale has updated the Why have Homework? Policy and will e-mail it out to you today. Please read and get back with any changes we need to make. The final agreed policy will be posted on the Blog so that everyone can access it, if and when needed.

Miss Dale is meeting with her staff team tomorrow – Wednesday 13th November and they will discuss the content of the meeting and the necessary changes.
We will then implement changes as soon as possible.

Please get back to us if we are not yet meeting needs with regards to homework.

Tullie House Workshop – Wednesday 13th November

We have booked a Mechanical Circus workshop and pupils will be designing and making their very own moving automata!

BALECO have applied for our second Eco Schools Green Flag. Good luck Team Holywood!!