# Holywood News - October 2016





# **Parent Council**

Please check out the noticeboard at the Infant door for updates from the Parent Council.

New views always welcome - come along to the next meeting on 8th November 2016 at 7PM.

**Movie Night** - vote for your favourite and look out your onesie and beanbag for the Friday night movie event.

Cabaret Night - Kolin Grainger is back by popular demand to support us with a fundraising Cabaret Night on Saturday 19th November 2016 at 7.30PM. A chance to bring your beer and let your hair down without the children!

Contact the office to reserve your tickets!

Supporting these fundraising events is essential for the pupils at Holywood and provides free fruit, resources and events to support learning!

# Target Setting - Wednesday 2nd November 2016

New target setting conversations will take place after the October holidays.

Target Setting is when teachers, pupils and parents get together to discuss next steps and goals in learning. We discuss how parents can support at home.

We also set a personal Health and Wellbeing Target which can involve home and school.

# Go Kart event was a run a way success!!

Thank you to the four teams who entered and took part in the Go-Kart technology challenge - it was a lot of fun!

An incredible amount of work had gone into designing and building the karts each complete with braking and steering systems - brilliant work!

The speed races saw Charlie and 'The Keenans' fly into the lead but over the obstacles Ethan driver for The Strikers made it look easy.

The most confident driver of the evening was Stuart from Team Lightening who headed for the ramp like a professional.

Paul, driver for the Storey Sevens - had an out of control ride which had a mind of its own. Miss Dale and Paul are in discussions about an event involving spins and doughnuts as Paul's machine could be a winner!

In a tense final speed event The Strikers won by a tiny margin and Ethan lifted the trophy!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the event - you were very supportive and made it a lot of fun.

Thank you to Hamish and to Zak for helping push karts and start races, our parents were very impressed with your mature attitude.

Look out for the next technology challenge homework coming your way this

Hallowe'en Disco - flyers with full information have been e-mailed home. Copies can be found on school noticeboards - at infant door and inside the senior door.

# RAG BAG collection on Monday 10th October 2016

Have a clear out and drop off your unwanted clothes and shoes into our RAG BAG bin early on or before the 10th October 2016.

The clothes get weighed and the school receive money for the school fund.

Good clothes are sent overseas and older well worn clothes are shredded for the textile industry - so throw away nothing!!

# Infant Pupils Stepped Back in Time

Thank you to the staff at Dumfries Museum for taking the P1-3 pupils on a time travel adventure to meet a Roman and a Celt.

Pupils were able to handle artefacts and to ask lots of questions. Of course they also shared all their learning from class.

Having an opportunity to dress up was high on the 'best thing we did'

# **Curriculum Update:**

# Writing

We are trying a new approach to teaching writing, by organising the way we work with pupils differently.

It is based on a model used by Livingston Village Primary School (Education Scotland website):

After whole class learning and teaching focus, pupils are organised into 3 groups to begin their individual pieces of writing. One group works independently without further teacher input, one group is provided with additional support from a Learning Assistant and one group is fully supported by the teacher. In this third group, the teacher provides focussed support based on pupil targets and ongoing assessment.

The groups rotate on a weekly basis so that every three weeks pupils are producing an unsupported piece of writing - which can be used to assess progress and use of skills in writing. Pupils will receive feedback on this piece of writing and it will form the basis of the teachers work with this group the following week.

# Why the change?

Pupils will get more direct support without interruption for an extended period.

Pupils will have regular opportunity to use their skills in writing independently without the need for a termly "big assessment".

Pupils skills in writing should improve - raised attainment.

Mrs McCutcheon will be supporting this development by working with learners who need a small group approach to writing.



Staff will review the approach and impact on learning and teaching.

# Homework

Miss Stapleton will be reviewing the Holywood Approach to homework.

She will be asking parents, pupils and staff to support her project.

Ensuring that homework supports learning and builds skills will be the focus.

# **Cursive Writing**

Pupils in the senior class are working on their Cursive Handwriting skills.

HELP! Pupils can practise at home by writing out a recipe, song lyrics, a short story from the newspaper or the house rules!

We are happy to provide paper and a copy of the cursive handwriting letters.

Thank you letters and letters to Santa will look beautiful.

# **Our Curriculum is On The Wall**

If you want to see what learning looks like at Holywood come in and view our curriculum wall in the computer suite. It includes a copy of our three year rolling programme for Interdisciplinary Learning Projects (IDL).

Questions and comments always welcome.

# Spelling

Mrs McCutcheon introduced some of the senior pupils to **Stareway to Spelling** last session. They really liked it and we saw improvement in spelling skills. Now Miss Dale and the senior class have adopted it as their main approach to learning spelling.

This means that spelling work will be undertaken in class.

Want to see Stareway in action? Want to know more?

Bring your child in to see Miss Dale and together they will demonstrate the Stareway to Spelling Approach.

### READ READ READ

One of the best ways to support learning at home is to read to your child, listen to your child read and encourage your child to read for themselves.



What should we be reading? Anything at all - books, comics, catalogues, flyers from the supermarket, magazines, newspapers...

Books can be borrowed from the school library.

Read for 20 minutes everyday.

Get the whole family reading! Join the local library!

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After sending pupil feedback to Galloway Activity Centre from our P5-7's about their residential stay in June 2016, we received a letter to thank pupils which also had this great offer from Centre Director, Richard Hermon.



"If any of you would like to visit us from 17-20 Oct I would be very happy to offer Holywood Primary school kids a special rate of two people for the price of one - so please come along and bring a friend! We are also running a Zombie Laser quest evening on 28 Oct and again if you would like to book in for this I am happy to offer you guys two for one. So....dust of your zombie outfits!"

Give them a call on 01644 420626 or e-mail lochken.co.uk

# Click on this link to visit the blog!

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/HolywoodHullabaloo

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Term One learning at Holywood

# Sharing Learning with Pupils and Parents/Carers

# Holywood Hullabaloo - learn all about our learning from our school blog!



Interim report - a brief report usually sent home in November/ December updating parents on the levels, effort and progress of their child.



Progress Report - reporting on the next steps for learners in all curricular areas.

Please note that all full reports are uploaded to SEEMIS. Secondary schools can then access P7 reports.



### Context Planner

The planner contains the main focus knowledge, skills and activities which pupils will engage with during the project (also known as topic, theme or context!)

The colours will be based on the main curricular areas being undertaken from Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). This will change with the context. For example a history topic may focus on Social studies, language and R.M.E. while a theme about the body may focus on Health and Wellbeing, Sciences and Maths.

Working across subjects is called Interdisciplinary Learning.

Contexts will vary in length some may last six weeks while others only two weeks.

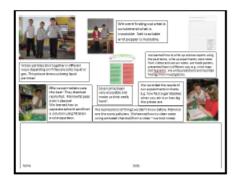
# Photographs, pictures or diagrams Comments from Pupils Quotes from visitors

Learning comments from your child.

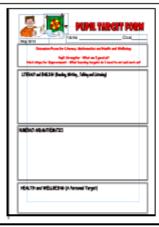
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### Context Evaluation

When a context has been completed pupils will feedback on the learning and teaching experiences. They will share learning or further questions for future learning. Diagrams, photographs and examples of work could be included. Pupils will then be given their own copy on which they will comment on their learning and skills development and their next steps for development before bringing home to share and discuss with parents.



# Holywood Hullabaloo - learn all about our learning on our school blog - Holywood Hullabaloo



### Pupil Target Form

Pupils in dialogue with staff set their targets for next steps in learning in Literacy, numeracy and health and well being.

Writing targets are set after completion of an assessed piece of writing which is discussed at a one to one meeting between pupil and teacher.

Numeracy targets are set from the information provided from the weekly Ontrack Assessments which pupils complete every Friday.

Health and Wellbeing targets are set in agreement between pupil, parents and staff.

# Target Setting Meetings

Pupils bring in their parents for a discussion about learning goals and how best to support at home. Parents can help their child to decide upon a personal Health and Wellbeing target which may be impacted on at home or school.

These meetings are in the evening after school.

Target setting takes place in October, February and June.

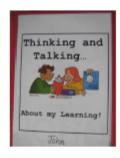
Pupils refer to their targets on a daily basis to move their learning forward.

## Thinking and Talking About My Learning Folder

Pupils keep a copy of their target sheets and their context evaluations in their learning folder.

Pupils file their writing assessments, reading assessments and maths assessment sheets in their learning folder.

Pupils can choose to place good pieces of work into their folder as evidence of learning.



# Celebrating Wider Achievement

Curriculum for Excellent requires us to support pupils in making links between the learning they undertake within school and out with school. We encourage all pupils to share new activities or success they have achieved out of school - from baking a cake to learning karate.

The most successful method we have found for pupils to share their wider achievement is through assembly. The giant assembly calendar is on display in the corridor and all pupils can sign up. School assembly takes place on a Friday at 2.30pm. Parents are welcome to join us.

# Celebrations of Learning

Please note teaching staff are available for meetings throughout the school session to discuss your child's progress.

At least once a year a whole school celebration of learning will take place. This is an opportunity for pupils to display work / aspects of learning to share with parents and family. A celebration may be based on all or some of the eight areas of the curriculum.

A class may decide to hold a celebration of learning at different points throughout the year inviting parents of pupils in the class or all parents to attend.