Holywood News - March 2019

Upcoming Events...

27th March - P4-7 Cross Country Event

29th March - Environment Day - pupils working together across the school on environmental projects.

3rd April - P6/7 at Dumfries College

3rd April - Burger Night 5-7pm

5th April - Bike Breakfast 8am

5th April - Easter holiday starts

13th April - Community Litter Pick

23rd April - Back to School

29th April - Trial Breakfast Club

30th April - Soup and Pudding Lunch 12noon

2nd-4th May - Photography Exhibition at Baker's Oven

Norovirus Week

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us during Norovirus week. Keeping your child at home for 48hrs after last symptoms meant that we were able to reduce the spread of the virus.

Thank you to Mrs Dawson who had to deep clean the school to ensure that the spread was stopped quickly.

It is very unusual for us to be hit so hard by illness at Holywood - staff, pupils and parents.

Thank you to the staff team who pulled together to make sure things went smoothly for all pupils—much appreciated!

Pupils managed the change in staffing and learning very well—thank you for all your hard work!

Great to have almost everyone back to school in good health.

We have no intention of repeating this week in the future—please keep washing your hands for at least 21 seconds with soap and water!

School Improvement Comment Board

It was great to get your comments and feedback about our Vision, Values and Aims at Holywood.

You clearly think we are getting a lot of things right for your children:

Strong staff team, Open door policy and communication, Christmas Show, Christmas Lunch, Big Thursday, Target setting in Numeracy and Literacy, Computer science, Polite pupils, Quality of maths teaching, varied learning experiences and happy children.

Positive comments were received about the wording of our Vision, Values and Aims with no suggestions for changes. Most felt it captured the ethos, life and learning experiences here at Holywood.

You also gave us thinks to think about and improve:

More trips out, more lunches, more assemblies with parents invited, Low level behaviours (pupils need to be kind to each other, pupils falling out etc.), amount of homework "homework/project work seems relentless" and further improve communication.

What next?

More trips out - Staff need to be encouraged to look ahead at IDL topics so that we can book early for trips perhaps at the start of a session for the new school year. We also need to make sure that we take full advantage of local resources. Mrs Jardine (P3/4) recently attended an open event at Moat Brae and has plans to take P3/4 in May when it opens.

More lunches - Burger night Wednesday 3rd April from 5pm. Soup and Dessert Lunch Tuesday 30th May from 12noon.

More assemblies with parents - We will get a calendar together after the Easter break and invite you along.

Behaviour - We are continuing to build our KiVA community with lessons in class and promoting the KiVa rules in order to develop pupil skills and resilience. We will put the KiVa PowerPoint and leaflets out at Burger night for parents who couldn't make the KiVa assembly.

Homework - staff met and discussed the amount of project homework , mainly in P5-7. Parents please note that pupils are given ample time to complete work in school and can take aspects home to work on should they choose to. Miss McIntyre and Miss Dale found that one or two children were carrying out more work at home than in class.

Parents are reminded that the homework belongs to the pupil and they should only be offering support. Your child has to do the work! It is their effort and skills we are assessing not their parents!

Thank you to all who support with homework – much appreciated. Keep us posted of further need for discussion.

Communication—some tidying up and more frequent newsletters! Miss Dale is working on it.



Environment Day - Friday 29th March from 9.30am - 2.45pm



The staff team are getting together to plan a science environment day for pupils as part of their current IDL learning.

Pupils will be in mixed groups and will be undertaking a range of activities with a focus on the environment.

You are invited to drop in and join us - Come along at a point in the day that works for you and join in with your child and their group. We will get a timetable for the day out early next week and you can come along to the activity / activities which intrigue you the most.

Please note that you will need to bring a packed lunch if you intend to stay over lunchtime!

Burger Night - Wednesday 3rd April from 5-7pm



(Kitchen closes at 6.30pm)

Pupils will be making three types of burgers (using their cooking club skills): a classic beef burger, a turkey and stuffing burger and a vegan burger. All options will be gluten free!

You can have your burger on bun, with a salad or with a side of chips.

PC Lee Smith will be joining us for a burger and a chance to meet and greet Holywood parents.

KiVa info will be on display.

But our main reason for the event is good food, good banter and a chance for pupils to show their food technology skills.

Hope you can make it along with the family!

Breakfast Club at Holywood

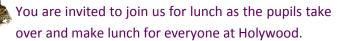
We are trialling a Breakfast Club from 8am on Monday 29th April.

Pupils will be able to sit down to cereal, toast, fruit juice and a hot chocolate. Mrs Dawson will be in school manning the toaster until 8.45am.

On this occasion the school will be meeting the cost of the breakfasts—we want to try it out and see if it is a service you would be keen to use.

We have asked if parents can sit down for breakfast too... Yes, you can!

Soup and Pudding lunch — Tuesday 30th April 12noon



Pupils will put their food technology skills to good use once again to make two different soups and a choice of two puddings.

Bike Breakfast—Friday 5th April 8am



Letters are on their way home so that you can sign up for the Bike Breakfast. Kate from Sustran will be helping out and Sue from WOW (Walk Once a Week) will also be supporting.

Get your return slips in so that we can order the sausages!

Target Setting

We moved Target Setting to the gym hall in order to accommodate all of our staff team and...

You loved it!

Most liked the quiet buzz in the hall, the chance to catch up with other parents, seeing everyone talking about learning together. 'A real community feel' one parent told us.

One or two families found it too noisy - we can move into a room next time or meet when school is quieter. Happy to make those changes.

We will be taking the new approach forward as it met with such positivity from staff and families. Thank you to everyone who made target setting such a relaxed and supportive experience.

Digital Photography



P5-7 are working with Mrs Jardine and members of the Abbey Camera

Club—including Mr Walker. They will be learning how to take a range of great photographs.

The Abbey Camera Club have an exhibition booked in the Baker's Oven on the 2nd—4th May and they have invited Holywood Pupils to display their photographs alongside the club members!

Family and friends will be able to pop in and see the exhibition which is open to the public!

Out and About...

P4-7 are off to the annual **Cross Country** event next Wednesday **27th March.** Parents can come along and watch (not the best spectator event—dress very warmly!!). We will be at the King George IV from 9.45 with the first race taking place around 10am.

P6/7 are off to **Dumfries College** on the **3rd April** to learn about the dark room and the photography equipment to support their digital photography work with Mrs Jardine.

P3/4, P1/2 are planning trips to **Mearsehead** to study the birdlife found in the local area. Some of the P1/2 pupils are hoping to spot Barnacle Geese (*Dates and times to be confirmed*).

P1/2 also have plans to take a **river walk** from Dock Park to the Tall Ship at Kingham Quay to support their learning on the River Nith. (Dates and times to be confirmed).

Holywood and Newbridge Litter Pick

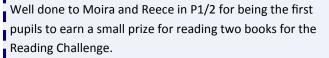
On Saturday 13th April the Community Council are holding a litter pick to clean up the countryside in the local area.

The event takes place from 2pm—4pm and all equipment is provided.

Volunteers who would like to help with the big clean up should meet at the Holywood Community Hall at 2pm.

A worthy event—we hope some of you will take the time to support the event.

Reading Challenge





We see lots of reading activity going in P1/2.

We see one or two buzzing about books in P3/4.

It is very quiet in P5-7...

Please support your child to get involved in the Reading Challenge - reading everyday supports, vocabulary skills, writing skills and widens knowledge and creativity.

Start a BUZZ about BOOKS and get started on the Reading

Holywood's Got Talent

In another bid to get your children to tell us all the exciting and skilled activities, sports, clubs and learning they undertake outside of school we are going to start a Holywood's Got Talent Board.

Pupils can bring photos, certificates, drawing or statements about what they get up to outside of school.

This is part of celebrating wider achievement.

★ Please encourage your child to bring items in for the board.

Blog

We continue to post on blog to keep you up to date with learning. Please jump onto the Holywood Hullabaloo blog and read the posts written by our pupils.

Particularly useful if your child tells you nothing about their day at school!

Click on this link to visit the blog!

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