# Holywood News - August 2022

Welcome Back - we hope everyone had a great summer and time to enjoy the sunshine in between going to work and family time.

# **Cost of Living Crisis**

The media has been full of the rise in fuel costs and bills for families. We know that this will make things tight at home for a lot of our families.

We will keep that in mind when we are organising events or booking outings.

Please get in touch if you think there is more we could be doing to support your family or others - all ideas appreciated.

## Bike Breakfast

It's our first family event of the session.

Join us at 8am with your bicycle or in your walking shoes for a wee bit of exercise before school.

Please return your form asap so that we can get breakfast ordered and get the kettle on.

# **Supporting Learners**

We are currently challenging the allocation we have been awarded to support our pupils in school this session. We have been reduced to 55 hours a week which means that we have lost 27.5 hours assistant time this session.

We have an increased number of pupils with learning support needs and have requested additional hours. We have appealed the decision and expect to be called to discuss our pupils' learning needs at a Supporting Learners panel in the near future.

Mrs Madden is no longer assigned to the school and will be missed in her role as ASL assistant and for her contributions to the wider school community.

We will be booking her in for family whittling sessions!!

Welcome to Mrs McDonald our new Additional Learning Support teacher this session. Mrs McDonald will be in supporting the team on a Wednesday.

A huge thank you to Miss Pattie for taking on this role last session!

# Parents are Back!

We are looking for parent volunteers (grannies and grandpas would be welcome too) to help support in school on a Friday afternoon.

# We need helpers to support business groups from 1pm-2pm.

Help needed:

In the greenhouse

With playground maintenance

With the Reading Hub (library) and more...

We need helpers to accompany us for Big Woodland Break from 2pm - 3pm.

We need one parent (not belonging to a P7 pupil) to head off to Operation Safety with Mrs McNay and P7 on Tuesday 27th September.

# **Skills Share**

We are also looking for parent volunteers who would like to run or support an after school club. Have you got a skill you would like to share with our pupils?

### Please note:

All volunteers have to read and sign the Council Volunteers Policy ,which has clear rules around confidentiality and conduct. Regular volunteers need to have a PVG - which the school would pay for.

## Target Setting, Family Curricular Workshops, Homework learning Sessions, Celebrations of Learning

Staff will be meeting next week to discuss ideas, opportunities and dates for parent and family workshops. It will be brilliant to get back to some of our tried and tested events as well as introducing some new ones.

We will be looking for your ideas too. Get in touch to suggest workshop ideas or an area of learning you want us to focus on.

# **Nine Primary One Pupils!**

A Huge Holywood welcome to all 9 of our new P1 pupils. They all look very smart in their school uniforms.

Welcome to Yasmin P7, Ruby P4 and Amber P3 who joined the team on Monday.

Brilliant to have so many new pupils joining Team Holywood.



## Big Woodland Break

We head to the woodland next Friday from 2pm for Big Woodland Break (or Swamp Day as some parents affectionately name it!).

The whole school get an opportunity to play, craft and discover in the woodland.

Feedback from pupils tells us that almost all love it and think it is a positive way to end the week. We think it is good for resilience, mental wellbeing and team work.

Pupils need wellies and a jacket.

The school has purchased a number of pairs of waterproof trousers which are ideal for the woodland—especially if some big puddles get in the way!

We plan to be in the woodland every Friday afternoon from

## **Child Protection**

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the Holywood Child Protection Procedure.

It is essential that the whole school community is confident about what action they should take if they have concerns about a child at the school.

Putting these procedures in place ensures that we can work together more effectively to safeguard all of the children in our care.

## All the Very Best Wishes...

To James and Brook as they start at their new school this week.

We wish the family well in their new house and new community too!

# **Big Thursday**

Big Thursday starts next week - 1st September and every Thursday thereafter.

Pupils need to come to school in old clothes (long sleeves and long trousers), joggers are a good choice as they can also be worn for PE.

Pupils need a PE kit - joggers/ shorts, t-shirt, trainers.

*Please note: PE will take place outside as much as possible - sweatshirt, old trainers and light waterproof jacket also a good idea.* 

**Wellies** - essential for going to the woods and for wet days in the playground. They can be left in school on the rack– PUPIL'S NAME should be on wellies too.

#### Wellies @ Holywood

Our favourite footwear (but not for PE) and essential for Big Break and big puddles.

We have a selection of wellies stored in the school shed—please don't buy wellies. Adopt a pair from the shed.

Old wellies can also retire to the shed to be borrowed or to find a new home.



### IMPORTANT

It is a legal obligation for schools to contact families when pupils do not attend school. This is to ensure pupils are safe and sound.

Please text, email or call the school office first thing in the morning to let us know if your child will be absent.

A longer absence due to a family holiday for example must be put in writing—letter / email. Please note that schools cannot approve family holidays during term time.

Long term absence or absence from school which has a pattern (every Friday for example) may require support from the Local Authority Attendance Officer.

Get in touch if you need our support with pupil attendance or have any queries.

# Holywood Primary School – Child Protection Procedure

Should you have concerns about a child please approach the Class Teacher or Miss Dale.

Child Protection Co-ordinator: Miss Dale - 01387 720326

Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator: Miss Stapleton - 01387 720326

In the event of Miss Dale being unavailable contact:

SOCIAL WORK CONTACT CENTRE: 030 33 33 3001

All members of the school staff are reminded of the Child Protection Procedures for the school annually.

Staff are provided with a Staff Card – Protecting which outlines advice from the council.

In the event of concerns being raised concerning a pupil in school Miss Dale would start a chronology. Staff would inform Miss Dale of concerns or events and this information would be added to the chronology.

A chronology is a record of date, concerns, actions taken and response to action taken. It is updated as necessary and could be used as the basis for reports.

Reports may be requested from Social Services, Child Protection or the Children's Reporter.

If a pupil has a chronology their PPR will be labelled to state this.

In the event of a Child Protection issue being raised Miss Dale may need to complete a Multi-Agency referral form and contact Child Protection.

Parents will be informed – usually by Miss Dale – if a concern has been raised regarding a pupil. Parents will be aware of the action being taken and the information being provided.

Please note that the welfare and safety of our pupils is a priority and it is our duty to ensure that all concerns are effectively managed to best meet the interests of the child.

<u>ALL ADULTS HAVE A DUTY OF CARE</u> – they must take action when they consider an issue to be a Child Protection matter.

If they have reported an incident or concern to the Child Protection Coordinator they should expect to receive feedback on the action taken. When the matter has not been addressed to the satisfaction of the adult involved it is their duty to take the matter further.