

February 2017

Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the February issue of our newsletter. We hope you find the information contained within it useful. This is an information Newsletter, with event photographs being posted on twitter @HolytownPS or on our blog/website www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk.

Communication with Parents

As mentioned in the previous newsletters we are providing as much of our written communications as possible electronically. Thank you to everyone who updated and returned their contact details. We still have a significant number of parents who have not given us an email address, can you please call the school with one. As an Eco school, we are always looking at ways to reduce our photocopying etc.

If you do not wish to be contacted this way, hard copies will always be available by personally collecting them from the school office. **This is the last newsletter which will be sent out both electronically and via pupil post (in school bags). With immediate effect, newsletters will be emailed and a link will be placed on our twitter account.**

Please remember we have a new email address for parents to use. This is checked once a day, enquiries@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk and we would ask that all parents use this when emailing the school in order to ensure your enquiry is directed to the most appropriate member of staff.

We are hopeful that these new ways of working will improve efficiency and ensure parents feel more informed.

Staffing Update

Miss Carson has decided after 40 years in Holytown Primary that the time has come for her to retire. Miss Carson was a pupil within the school and after training as a teacher, came back as a class teacher, senior teacher and latterly Deputy Head. I am sure many of you will also have been taught by Miss Carson. Her talents will be sorely missed by all at Holytown. Miss Carson's last day will be Thursday 30th March 2017. We are planning a special **SECRET** assembly on this day, based on '**This Is Your Life**' if any parents or members of the community have any photographs or memories of Miss Carson, please email them into the school on enquiries@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk or write them on the attached sheet.

Rookie Rockstars

The children have been rehearsing all week for our Rookie Rockstars concerts next Tuesday and Thursday. The doors open for audience and pupils at 6.15 each evening. Pupils should enter through the front door and meet in the Junior Open Area. Pupils do not need to wear their uniform but can dress up in their best 'Rockstar' outfit. The performance lasts approximately and children **MUST** be collected from the Junior Open Area at 7.30pm by a responsible adult. Rookie Rockstars is linking really well to our Health Curriculum with a focus on Anti-Bullying as well as emotional health. I am sure it will be an excellent evening and look forward to seeing you all. Tickets can be purchased using the form sent out with all pupils or by contacting the school office.

Non Uniform Day

There is no non uniform day on Friday 24th February, instead we will be celebrating World Book Day and all pupils can dress up as their favourite character on Thursday 2nd March

World Book Day

World Book Day this year is on Thursday 2nd March 2017, this year pupils can dress up as a book character and we will have our parade before playtime. There will also be a range of activities taking place within classes. If you would like to come and read your favourite story to your child's class we would love to see

Website

www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Willow Grove, Holytown, MOTHERWELL, ML1 4SR

01236 757630

enquiries@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Twitter



@HolytownPS

February 2017

Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class



you. More information will come out on Friday regarding World Book Day – **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS IN PLACE OF NON UNIFORM DAY THIS MONTH.**

Pupil Voice

This term we have had a very informative presentation from our Pupil Council on Bullying, with the slogan of **Stamp Out Bullying**. Classes are all designing posters for display around the school.

Norovirus (Winter Vomiting Bug)

As part of this year's NHS norovirus seasonal awareness campaign, the key message of this campaign is to advise the public to stay at home for 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped. The leaflet contains general information on:

- What is norovirus
- How to avoid catching norovirus
- What to do if you catch norovirus

If you would like one of these leaflets, please inform our school office or access the information on <http://www.healthscotland.com/norovirus>.

Please note to avoid spreading this virus amongst our school and nursery community, all pupils with sickness and diarrhoea should stay home for 48 hours after symptoms end.

When children complain of being unwell in school we will use our professional opinion when deciding on the best course of action, however we are not health care professionals and if we are in any doubt will call parents/carers or emergency contacts for children to be collected and apologise if this causes any inconvenience. We will always act in what we believe is your child's best interest.

Parent Council/Parent & Friends Association

The Parent Council held their latest meeting on Monday 6th February. The AGM will be held on Monday 6th March at 6.30pm in the school hall. The Parent Council will be electing office bearers as well as voting on combining the Parents & friends Association with the Parent Council. As always, please come along and support the school.

The PFA have organised a Bingo Night for Tuesday 14th March at 6.30pm and a Film Night for Wednesday 23rd March, starting at 6pm. More information to follow.

Parental Engagement

As a school we are always looking for ways in which we can engage and involve parents in the life of the school in order to help us improve. We are specifically looking for parents to be involved with our Eco Committee and in the creation of our school vision, aims and values.

We planned a meeting in the school on **Wednesday 14th December** unfortunately no one attended. If you would like to be involved in any of our school committees, or wider life of the school, please contact the school and I will let you know details of the next meetings.

As a school we have been thinking about our Vision, Values, Aims and Motto. We have created a Survey Monkey to gather the views of the whole school community, it can be accessed through the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HolytownPSVision> we will also post this link on our website and twitter account. The Survey will be live from Wednesday 22nd February until Friday 10th March.

Parent Helpers

We greatly appreciate our parent helpers and are always looking for more! If you would like to become a parent helper at Holytown Primary, please contact Mrs Brennan who will arrange for North Lanarkshire

Website

www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Willow Grove, Holytown, MOTHERWELL, ML1 4SR

01236 757630

enquiries@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Twitter



@HolytownPS

February 2017



Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class

Council to send Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) application form. This form is required before anyone can work within school or accompany children in trips etc. North Lanarkshire Council/the school will meet all costs of obtaining a PVG. This is a legal requirement that needs to be met before you can start volunteering. If you are interested in helping out in class or on Educational Outings (school trips), please telephone the school.

There appears to be a rumour within the community and on social media that I have stopped all discos. This is not correct. Our discos are always organised by our Parents and Friends Association and until recently there were only 3 members. This is not enough to organise and/or run a disco, therefore if you would like there to be more discos etc. within the school, please come along to the meetings and help with their organisation. These rumours are damaging to the reputation and ethos we are trying to promote within Holytown Primary School.

Can I remind all parents that they must be accompanied when they are in the school for the safety of all pupils and staff. We have had a few incidents of parents in classrooms either during breakfast club or at the start of the day. If you need to help your child retrieve something, please speak to a member of staff and we will be happy to help you.

Please remember we have your children's best interests at heart and are all interested in the health and wellbeing of our children, so if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school so we can work in partnership to ensure your child achieves their full potential. Together we can help each child be the best they can be! Thanks for your continued support.

Dates for your Diary

Please remember as a large primary school, dates are subject to change, sometimes at very short notice

February

From 16th
28th Exp Arts Focus Week
Rookie Rockstars Concert (pm)

March

2nd Rokie Rockstars Concert (pm)
3rd World Book Day
From 13th
17th Health Focus Week
Room 5 Class Assembly
(please note change of date)
24th Room 2 Class Assembly
30th (THURS) Room 4 Class Assembly
31st Reports to Parents
31st Non-Uniform Day
31st 2.30pm Close

April

3rd to 17th HOLIDAY
w/b 25th Termly Letters
28th Non-Uniform Day

May

1st HOLIDAY
From 1st
3rd & 4th May Eco Focus Week
North Lanarkshire Learning
Festival
4th In-Service Day 5
5th Room 7 Class Assembly
12th Jotter Bags
18th Parental Consultations
19th Room 9 Class Assembly
25th Non-Uniform Day
26th & 29th HOLIDAY
From 29th Big Maths Focus Week

June

2nd June Room 1 Class Assembly
23 Celebrating Success
28th Non-Uniform Day
28th 1pm Close

Website

www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Willow Grove, Holytown, MOTHERWELL, ML1 4SR

01236 757630

enquiries@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Twitter



@HolytownPS

February 2017

Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class



Memories of Miss Carson.

Name (Please Print) _____

Website

www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Willow Grove, Holytown, MOTHERWELL, ML1 4SR

01236 757630

enquiries@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk

Twitter



@HolytownPS