

## **Head Teacher's Message**

Welcome to the October issue of our Newsletter. We hope you find the information contained within it useful. As previously discussed, this is an information Newsletter with event photographs posted on our blog [www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk) or on our Twitter site @HolytownPS.

### **Communication with Parents**

Last session we asked you ways in which we could improve the communication within the school and a number of new initiatives are in the pipeline.

On Friday, parents will receive Target Sheets which detail your child's current Maths, Language and Health & Wellbeing targets. This is what your child is working on in class. The sheets have been completed in consultation with your child and they should know what they are working on. We would ask that you support us by talking about these, filling in the self-assessment and returning them to school. There is also a section for parents to comment on their child's targets.

We are soon to be rolling out a new electronic communication method which will allow us to text and email parents. We are delighted that this is happening within the school as it will allow us to contact parents quicker and more efficiently, the Eco Committee are also delighted about this as it will save a huge amount of paper. Therefore from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, we will only be contacting you via email/text, please complete and return the attached slip ensuring we have an up to date mobile number and email address, (currently the system will only allow this to be the main pupil contact and only one number/email address per pupil). All personal information is stored on a secure system as the information is accessed using the existing SEEMIS computer package.

This system will allow text replies and will allow us to conduct simple parental surveys.

We also have set up an email address which is checked once a day, [enquiries@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto: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.

Recently we have had a number of parental enquiries asking to meet with staff outwith the hours of 9-3.30pm. Please be aware that teachers do not start until 9am and any meeting prior to this is at their discretion. We are aware that parents may work further away and we will always try to accommodate such requests but these are not always possible.

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

Thank you very much to those parents who are waiting outside the school gates in the morning, this is a huge help to teachers and school staff, however a gentle reminder that teachers cannot 'have a wee word' with you when they are bringing in their class, please make an appointment via the office.

### **Non-Uniform Day**

Our Non-Uniform Day for October will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May due to the holiday weekend. Please ensure your child pays their £1, if they are not taking part they should come to school in full uniform. House tokens will be awarded for pupils who bring in their money.

### **October Holiday**

The school and nursery will be close for the October Week Holiday week on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 11.50am (morning nursery) , 3pm (school) and 4.10pm (afternoon Nursery). School and Nursery will re-open on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at their usual times.

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Cobain is currently teaching in Room 11, covering Mr Stein's absence. Miss Fotheringham's absence is being covered by Mrs Wood. As a school we are doing everything we can to minimise disruption to your child's learning during this time.

## **Scottish Attainment Challenge**

As indicated in our last newsletter, Holytown Primary School is part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and part of this work involves partnership working with colleagues within Community Learning & Development (CLD). Part of the work CLD is involved in is promoting parents in supporting their child's learning both in school and at home and our CLD worker, Lucy Roy, is becoming a familiar face in and around the school. She is currently running a 4 week parent workshop on supporting learning at home, 'Play with Words' with Primary 2 and 3 parents. Following this, in collaboration with Miss Carson, she will be running a 6-8 week programme entitled 'Understanding your child's behaviour'. Leaflets are available at the school office if you would like to attend this.

Lucy is also going to be working with class teachers and supporting pupils in Room 3, Room 5, Room 9 & Room 11 on aspects of our Health & Wellbeing programme using 'Nurture Trees' to help children understand and express their feelings and emotions. We are very excited about this.

## **Pupil Voice**

Within the school we are very keen to make sure we are listening to what the children think about the school. We have a number of pupil committees which pupils are voted on to by their peers following a recommendation from their parents as well as a speech in front of their classmates.

## Dates for your Diary

This is always a very busy and exciting time of the year. We have lots going on, here is what we know so far ... (please remember as a large primary school, dates are subject to change, sometimes at very short notice)

### October

14<sup>th</sup> Room 11 Class Assembly  
14<sup>th</sup> Target Setting information to parents  
17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> HOLIDAY  
w/b 24<sup>th</sup> Termly Letters due to be distributed  
27<sup>th</sup> PFA Hallowe'en Film Night  
28<sup>th</sup> Term 1 Winning House DVD Treat  
28<sup>th</sup> Jotter Bags Out  
28<sup>th</sup> Non-Uniform Day

### November

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Parental Consultations  
11<sup>th</sup> Room 3 Class Assembly  
21<sup>st</sup> In-Service Day 3  
From 21<sup>st</sup> Language Focus Week plus Open am  
25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fair – times TBC  
25<sup>th</sup> Non-Uniform Day  
29<sup>th</sup> P5 Swimming starts – details to follow

### December

2<sup>nd</sup> Room 2 Class Assembly  
12<sup>th</sup> School Show (pm & evening)  
13<sup>th</sup> School Show (am & pm)  
15<sup>th</sup> Nursery Nativity  
19<sup>th</sup> Nursery Party (am & pm)  
20<sup>th</sup> P4/5 Party  
21<sup>st</sup> P6/7 Party  
22<sup>nd</sup> P1 Party & P2/3 Party  
23<sup>rd</sup> Non-Uniform Day  
23<sup>rd</sup> 2.30pm finish

### January

w/b 17<sup>th</sup> Termly Letters due to distributed  
20<sup>th</sup> Room 8 Class Assembly  
27<sup>th</sup> Non-Uniform Day

### February

10<sup>th</sup> Room 6 Class Assembly  
13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> HOLIDAY  
15<sup>th</sup> In-Service Day 4  
From 16<sup>th</sup> Exp Arts Focus Week  
24<sup>th</sup> Non-Uniform Day

### March

3<sup>rd</sup> Room 5 Class Assembly

From 13<sup>th</sup> Health Focus Week  
27<sup>th</sup> Room 4 Class Assembly  
31<sup>st</sup> Reports to Parents  
31<sup>st</sup> Non-Uniform Day  
31<sup>st</sup> 2.30pm Close

### April

3<sup>rd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> HOLIDAY  
w/b 25<sup>th</sup> Termly Letters due to be distributed  
28<sup>th</sup> Non-Uniform Day

### May

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

### June

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

October 2016

# Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class



If we do not get a chance to see you, have a great Summer Holidays and we will see you on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016, pupils returning to school & nursery should begin at their normal times. We will welcome our new Primary 1 pupils at 10am.

## Website

[www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk)

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## Twitter



@HolytownPS

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