

# Holytown

## Primary School and Nursery Class



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### Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the September edition of our Newsletter.

We all hope you had a lovely summer. It is lovely to see all the children back after the holidays and in fact everyone seems to have grown. We are pleased to welcome our new Primary 1 pupils as well as the new pupils who have joined us in other classes. They are already Holytown boys and girls and we are delighted to have them as part of our family!

There has been a lot going on in the school and the playground over the holidays. We have had a major clear out and have moved resources within the school to help support the learning within classes. A new cooking kitchen has been installed in the senior area and we are hopeful this will be fully functional before October and that all classes will have increased opportunities to be cooking within school. Our playground is also coming along really well. The current phase should be finished shortly and we will begin on the planting stage – watch this space for more information as well as calls for help!!

We are delighted to welcome Miss McKay back from Maternity leave. She will be working in the Nursery on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We are still waiting for another member of staff to cover on a Thursday and Friday. In the short term, Miss Carson is available to answer any parental questions/enquiries. Mrs Anderson has joined the team and is teaching in Room 8 with Mrs Watson. We are sorry to have lost Miss Kelly, after 3 years in the school and the nursery, who gained permanent employment at Keir Hardie Primary School, Miss McKillop completed her probationary year at Holytown Primary and has a permanent post in South Lanarkshire and Miss McBride has a permanent post in Falkirk. We thank them all for their hard work in Holytown Primary School & Nursery Class and wish them well as they embark on the next step of their career. Mrs Ritchie has also retired from the school after 14 years. We hope to have a special assembly to thank her for all her hard work before the October Week.

### Communication with Parents

Please remember our website [www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk) contains lots of information on our school and what is happening in each class and during after school clubs. This information can be accessed through the website and then by clicking on the **Class Blog** tab at the top or via <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holytownclassblog/>

The **information Blog** contains general information about the school. We also have a twitter account @holytownPS. Please follow us and keep up to date. If you do not wish your child to appear in any website or twitter photographs, please inform us in **writing**. We are in the process of improving our website and hope this will be launched in the next few weeks.

#### Website

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

Willow Grove, Holytown, MOTHERWELL, ML1 4SR

#### Twitter



@HolytownPS

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### Text Messages/Twitter/Pupil Post/Newsletters/Emails

Text Messaging will still be used to inform parents and carers of urgent information and attendance concerns. However it will not be used as frequently for general news as from August 2015, we will have to pay 3p per text message, meaning every whole school text will cost approximately £9.

We aim to continue to keep you as informed as previously and have to identify new methods. We will post regular news information on Twitter (follow us @HolytownPS); we will also send information home via "pupil post" in school bags. From August 2015, we aim to send general information on white paper but any returns will be on coloured paper (usually yellow). We will publish a newsletter on a monthly basis, where possible on the first Wednesday of the month. We will also be looking at setting up a school & nursery email subscription.

### Lunch Menus

Below are lunch menus for the current cycle. Please speak to your child regarding the menu to ensure they are aware of what is on and are able to make a choice that they like.

Week Beginning: 1<sup>st</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September & 28<sup>th</sup> September

MENU 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>OPTION 1</b>	Chicken Curry & Rice	Fish Fingers & Baby Jacket Potato	Steak Pie & New Potato	2 x Pork Sausages in Onion Gravy & Creamed Potato	Breaded Fish & Chips OR Boiled Potato
<b>OPTION 2 VEGETARIAN</b>	Home-made Sausage Roll & Mashed Potato	Macaroni Cheese	Pasta Roma	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Spaghetti Bolognese & Garlic Bread
<b>SNACK</b>	Home-made Sausage Roll	Baked Potato 2 Fillings and Side Salad	Sweet Chilli Salmon Wrap	Cheese & Ham Pizza	Baked Potato 2 Fillings and Side Salad
<b>SANDWICH</b>	***	***	***	***	***
<b>BAKED POTATO</b>	Baked Beans OR Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings	Bolognese (V) OR Cold Fillings

\*\*\*Sandwich filling

Cheese (CH)

Tuna (T)

Ham (H)

Week Beginning: 18<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> September & 5<sup>th</sup> October

MENU 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>OPTION 1</b>	Chicken Pie & Boiled Potato	Chicken Curry & Rice	Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Gammon Steak & Herby Diced Potato	Breaded Fish & Chips OR Boiled Potato
<b>OPTION 2 (VEGETARIAN)</b>	Cheese Toastie	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Quorn Sausages & Mash & Onion Gravy	Quorn Burger in a Bun	Baked Potato 2 Fillings and Side Salad
<b>SNACK</b>	Cheese & Ham Toastie	Ham & Pineapple Pizza	Tuna Panini	Over Baked, Fresh Beef Burger in a Bun	Quorn Tikka Wrap
<b>SANDWICH</b>	***	***	***	***	***
<b>BAKED POTATO</b>	Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings	Warm Quorn Tikka OR Cold Fillings

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Week Beginning: 25<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 31<sup>st</sup> August & 21<sup>st</sup> September

MENU 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>OPTION 1</b>	Chicken Curry & Rice	Penne Carbonara & Garlic Bread	Spaghetti & Beef Meatballs	Savoury Mince & Mashed Potato	Breaded Fish & Chips OR Boiled Potato
<b>OPTION 2 (VEGETARIAN)</b>	Cheese & Tomato Toastie	Cowboy Beans, Sausages & Mini Potato Waffles	Vegetable Fajitas	Cheesy Pasta	Baked Potato 2 Fillings and Side Salad
<b>SNACK</b>	Tuna & Sweetcorn Pasta	Chicken Burger with Salad in a Bun	Chicken Fajitas	Chicken Mayo Wrap	Chicken & Tomato Panini
<b>SANDWICH</b>	***	***	***	***	***
<b>BAKED POTATO</b>	Cold Fillings	Baked Beans OR Cold Fillings	Meatballs OR Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings	Cold Fillings

### Improvement Priorities Session 2015/16

This year our Improvement Priorities are:

#### **Active Learning & Assessment (including Meeting Learner's Needs)**

To improve pupils' performances, attainment and practical application of skills across the curriculum within Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing. To effectively, monitor and track attainment, achievement, childrens' knowledge, experiences and progress across the curriculum, with a specific focus on the three core areas.

Ensure children consistently work at a brisk and challenging pace on a Curriculum, which takes account of prior knowledge, links closely to appropriate Experiences and Outcomes and offers appropriate challenge and support for all learners.

#### **Promoting Positive Relationships & Behaviour**

Pupils demonstrate increased motivation, engagement and enthusiasm for Education. They are aware of how negative behaviour affects learning and incidents of inappropriate behaviour within the school decrease.

#### **Outdoor Learning**

To enable pupils to use Outdoor Learning Experiences to improve attainment and achievement across the curriculum.

We will be focusing on Learning & Teaching for a significant period of time, linking it to attainment and achievement, as well as the curriculum, learner's needs and self-evaluation. \*\*\* This will last at least 5 years.

### Holytown House System

This session we are introducing a House System. These are to be called after Scottish Castles. During the next week, pupils will be divided into one of the 6 houses and parents will be informed of their child's house via letter. Children will remain in the same house throughout their entire time at the school. Each house will have approximately 45 pupils within it. Each member of staff within the school will also be in a house.

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The house system will be used to promote a sense of community within the school and to contribute to our positive behaviour across the school. Pupils will be able to gain points in class, in the playground, the dinner hall and from all members of staff. Each week on a Monday during assembly, the winning house will be announced and the House trophy will be displayed with the winning house colours. Each term, the winning house will receive a special treat. During assembly and in class pupils will decide how house points can be gained.

Each house will have a house captain and vice captain from Primary 7. These pupils will be identified following elections and will be announced in due course.

### End of Day Arrangements

Due to the increased number of children being collected by After School Care/Childminders, from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, pupils waiting to be collected, will wait in the Junior Open Area. Office staff will collect children and bring them to the front office when the adult arrives. This will ensure continued safety for all concerned and will allow easier access to the foyer area.

### School Uniform/Resources

It is only the start of term and already we have a selection of unnamed items of school uniform and lunchboxes. Please help us in preventing lost items by ensuring your child's name is clearly included on all items, including school uniform, school lunch boxes and gym shoes etc. All pupils **MUST** change their shoes whilst in school and nursery into plimsoles (not slippers).

Please help your children be prepared for their day at school, by ensuring their bag is packed with all necessary equipment. Pupils must have their Reading Book each day, even if their homework is completed on a weekly basis. Pupils should also have full PE kit on their PE days (see letter handed out on Tuesday with information on PE days as well as PE kit required). All children should come to school with 2 sharp pencils, a rubber and a small selection of coloured pencils.

### Non-Uniform Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our first Non Uniform Day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August, we raised £232, which will be used to support learning throughout the school. Our next Non Uniform Day will be **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** (due to the September Weekend holiday)

### Fizzy Drinks and Nut Based Products

Cans and bottles of fizzy drinks, including "energy drinks" are not permitted within school. We also have a number of pupils with nut allergies and ask that parents refrain from sending in nut-based products.

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### Personal Items

We understand that pupils like to bring their toys and games into school to share with their friends at playtimes and lunchtimes. You may wish to consider if it is a good idea for children to bring in their new or favourite toys. Recently, some items have become lost or accidentally broken and this is always upsetting. Unfortunately we cannot accept responsibility for any lost or broken items. We would recommend that children do not bring their own toys and games into school. As always, **personal electronic items** and **mobile devices** are not permitted within school.

### Contact with school staff

If you have any questions, comments or concerns at any time, please get in touch. You can telephone the school on **01236 757630**. We would like to remind all parents and carers that they are not permitted in the cloakrooms, classrooms or corridors without permission from a member of staff. The teachers collect and escort the pupils to the playground at the beginning of and the end of the day, but this is not always the best time to speak with them as they are supervising the pupils. If you wish to speak in person to a member of staff, please visit the office to arrange a suitable time. We also ask that parents and carers speak to all members of staff with respect, we are all here to do the best for your children, and will not tolerate abuse. Any parents not following the North Lanarkshire Council's **Abuse towards Employees** policy will be asked to leave the premises.

### Personal Details including Mobile Telephone Numbers

If you have changed your personal details including mobile number recently, please call in the office for a change of detail form. We can no longer accept this information by phone or parental letter. Please ensure all emergency contact details are up to date too, as we need to be able to contact parents and emergency contacts.

### Medical Information

Please inform the office staff of any medical conditions that may affect your child in school.

If your child requires prescribed medication, including Asthma inhalers, during the school day, please ensure you have completed a **Medical Information Form**, as we are unable to support children with the administration of medicine without this. Children are not permitted to have medication in school without the completion of this form. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure all medication is in date.

Any pupil with a food allergy or intolerance **MUST** complete a "Medical Prescribed Diet" form before they can eat in the school canteen at playtime or lunchtime, this is to ensure we keep them safe and well.

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### Sickness and Diarrhoea

Children experiencing these symptoms should not return to school for 48 hours following the last period of sickness/diarrhoea regardless of how the child feels.

### Pupil Leaders

There will be lots of opportunities for pupils within the school to take on a leadership role within the school. We will be holding House Captain and Vice Captain elections in the coming weeks. Primary 1 pupil monitors have been identified and are beginning to support the Primary 1 pupils within the playground and at lunchtime. We will also be continuing with our Eco Committee and Pupil Council, which will include pupils from all classes.

### Parent & Friends Association (PFA)/Parent Council Update.

Our PFA/Parent Council will hold their first meeting in the school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in the school staffroom. We would like to welcome any new parents as we are always looking for fresh blood to help support the school, nursery and the pupils.

### Rag Bag

Our Rag Bag collection will be **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**, please fill bags with unwanted clothes, shoes etc. and hand them into the school on this date.

### Dates for your Diary

Motherwell Times Primary 1 Photographs	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
September weekend holidays	Friday 25 September 2015 & Monday 28 September 2015
Non-Uniform Day	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015
October break	Monday 12 October 2015 to Friday 16 October 2015
NHS Flu Immunisation	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Non-Uniform Day	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Parental Consultations	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
In-service day	Monday 16 November 2015
Christmas and New Year holidays	Wednesday 23 December 2015 to Tuesday 5 January 2016 (inclusive)
Mid-term break	Monday 8 February and Tuesday 9 February 2016
In-service day	Wednesday 10 February 2016
Easter weekend	Friday 25 March and Monday 28 March 2016
Spring break	Monday 4 April to Friday 15 April 2016 (inclusive)
May Day holiday	Monday 2 May 2016
In-service day	Thursday 5 May 2016
Mid-term holiday	Friday 27 May and Monday 30 May 2016
School closes for Summer	Wednesday 29 June 2016

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01236 757630.

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If you have any comments, please complete and return the slip below.

Parents Name:

Child's Name:

Comment:

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