

Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class



In this issue:

- Head Teacher's Message
- Communication with Parents
- Lunch Menus
- Rights Respecting Schools
- Scottish Attainment Challenge
- McMillan Coffee Morning
- French
- Basics Food Bank Lanarkshire
- Maths Monitoring
- Music
- Reporting to Parents
- Parents & Friends Association Update
- Diary Dates.

Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the October edition of our Newsletter. As always it has been really busy here at Holytown over the past few weeks.

What a mixture of weather we have been having over the last few weeks. Please make sure your child is coming to school prepared for all Scottish Weather.

As mentioned in our last newsletter our new cooking kitchen has been installed in the senior area thanks to a fantastic donation from the Parents and Friends Association all the "white good" and cooking equipment have been ordered and will be installed over the coming few weeks.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Kane back from her maternity leave. Until March, Miss Kane will be covering Non Class Contact time in Room 2 and Room 6 as well as teaching in Room 5 and Room 9.

Communication with Parents

Over the past few weeks our website www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk has had a makeover. The first page, links directly to the information page, to allow ease of access. Other information can be accessed from this page including the class blogs. This is a fabulous page, which is populated by all classes within the school and nursery. 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/>

We also have a twitter account @holytownPS. Please follow us and keep up to date. This account is locked to ensure the safety of our pupils. If your request to follow us is denied, please call the office with details of your account name as sometimes it is not obvious at the time of approval. If you do not wish your child to appear in any website or twitter photographs, please inform us in **writing**.

Lunch Menus

The Autumn/Winter lunch menu will be starting from Monday 19th October. In line with the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Healthy Eating policies we will now be serving all sandwiches on brown bread. This can only be swapped in the case of a specific dietary requirement, which requires the completion of a specialist form, by parents and dieticians. A copy of the new menu was sent out on Monday and an electronic copy can be found on the school website.

Website

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Rights, Respecting School

The Scottish Government passed the “Children and Young People (Scotland) Act in 2014. This legislation outlines the responsibility to ensure that the rights of the child, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), are understood and put into practice. Scottish Ministers and public bodies, including schools, will have to report every three years on what they are doing to support and encourage children’s rights. Children’s rights are identified through the UNCRC and apply to every child from birth to 18 years. At Holytown we are committed to Rights Based Learning for all pupils and we are working to ensure we offer a range of activities and opportunities to allow all our children to actively take part in this aspect of learning. We want all children and adults within our school and local community to understand that these rights are universal, unconditional and protected.

In order to raise awareness of Children’s Rights, we will be talking about rights as well as **respectful attitudes** and **responsible actions** within assembly and school, to ensure our children help us create and maintain an ethos of dignity, which will allow our children to become responsible citizens with full access to their rights. We will also have a focus right. This will be communicated through our website as well as newsletters etc. Our first focus right will be

31 – the right to relax, play and participate in cultural activities

Scottish Attainment Challenge

North Lanarkshire Council have been identified as one of 7 Local Authorities to be involved in the Scottish Attainment Challenge. North Lanarkshire Council have in turn identified a number of focus schools, of which we are one. The purpose of the challenge is to ensure no children are disadvantaged due to poverty and to ensure equity of support for all. This has the key focus of improving Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing for all of our children, which is what we at Holytown are also constantly focusing on.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came to our Coffee Morning last week. This was a hugely successful event, which was supported by lots of our parents and friends. We raised over £420, which will be sent to MacMillan to allow them to carry out their wonderful work.

French

As a school we are committed to ensuring our pupils receive quality learning experiences, which will give them a range of skills for learning, life and work. As part of this and in line with the Scottish Government legislation, all our pupils will be learning French. As with all aspects of the curriculum, this will be appropriate to the age of the pupils as well as information from Education Scotland.

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Within Holytown we will be learning French phrases through assembly and within class. We have a number of staff who have completed their French teaching qualification as well as staff who are completing their French or Spanish qualification this session. We will put information onto the website with the common phrases we have been learning within the school.

Basics Food Bank (Lanarkshire)

We were delighted to welcome Basics Food Bank (Lanarkshire) into the school on Monday 5th October. They are a local food bank, which distribute care packages to local families who are experiencing crisis. As a school we are delighted to be collecting for them. We would welcome a donation from every pupil within the school, they have specifically requested for **tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, tinned custard, tinned meat, super noodles, hotdogs, Pasta 'n' Sauce** or **Savoury Rice**, but we will accept all donations. Items should be brought into school by **Friday 10th October** for collection that afternoon.

Maths Monitoring

To ensure the learning experiences we are providing are of the highest quality, we will be monitoring Maths throughout the school. We will be observing maths lessons, looking at pupil work, discussing learning with pupils and may be asking pupils to complete some specific tasks. This is all to ensure we are meeting the needs of all pupils within the school.

Music

This session we are implementing a new music programme throughout the school. The main aim of this is to allow our pupils to develop a love of music as well as a range of knowledge, understanding and skills. This is also an excellent resource for staff, as it provides a range of training and support materials to ensure we are providing high quality learning experiences.

Reporting to Parents

Our Interim Reports/Target Sheets will be distributed along with jotter bags on **Friday 30th October**, these will contain a feedback sheet, which will form the basis of Parental Consultations, which will be held on Wednesday 4th November and Thursday 5th November. Information on Parental Consultations will be given out after the October holidays.

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.

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Student Teachers

We are delighted to welcome Kerry Smith and Gemma Lindsay back to the school. They are currently completing their PGDE in Primary Education and will be on placement in Room 7 and Room 9 until the end of November. I am sure they will get the experience they need to help them become the teachers of the future!

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

Our PFA/Parent Council held their first meeting in the school on Monday 14th September at 6.30pm unfortunately this was not a well attended meeting with only 5 people. The Parents and Friends Association raise a huge amount of money to support the pupils within the school but are struggling with a lack of support. If you could come for 45 minutes on the first Monday of the month, you would be made more than welcome.

Our Parent Council will hold their AGM on **Monday 2nd November**. At this meeting new office bearers will be elected. All current office bearers should attend this meeting, failure to attend without sending apologies will be taken as a resignation of post. We would welcome any new members at this meeting. It will be held in the staffroom from 6pm – 6.45pm.

The PFA held their first fundraising event on Tuesday night, a beetle drive and bingo. This was a well supported event, which raised in excess of £200. They are also planning a disco for pupils on **Thursday 29th October**. Nursery, P1, P2 & P3 pupils will be from 5.45pm – 6.45pm (as in previous years, parents of nursery children need to accompany their children and stay with them in the hall). Pupils in P4, P5, P6, & P7 will be from 7pm – 8pm. Further details to be given after the October holidays. They will only be able to run the disco if they have some parent helpers. If you are free and could spare an hour or so to allow this disco to happen, please contact the school office with details of the time you can spare.

*Save the date!!! Our Annual Christmas Fair will be held on **Friday 27th November** from 3.30pm – 5.30pm*

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Dates for your Diary

October break	Monday 12 October 2015 to Friday 16 October 2015 (inclusive)
Hallowe'en Disco	Thursday 29 th October 2015
Non-Uniform Day	Friday 30 th October 2015
Interim Reports and Jotter Bags distributed	Friday 30 th October 2015
Parent Council AGM	Monday 2 nd November 2015
Parental Consultations	Wednesday 4 th & Thursday 5 th November 2015
In-service day	Monday 16 November 2015
Christmas Fair	Friday 27 th 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.

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

Parents Name:	Child's Name:
Comment:	

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