

Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class



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Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the August edition of our Newsletter for 2016. We all hope you have had a great Summer holiday.

It is great to see all our children back in school, sharing all their news about their holidays. We have new pupils and staff within the school this year and I know everyone will make them feel welcome.

It is lovely to see so many of our children with their school uniform. Their pride in the school is evident! Thank you for this.

As always, the beginning of any new term is a time of change for all our children, new classes, new teacher, new lines etc. Most of our children cope very well with these but there are always some children who find the unfamiliar distressing, if you have any concerns please contact a member of staff for assistance.

Following requests from many parents, I have included an annual calendar to the end of this newsletter. Please note that dates will be added to this throughout the year and further details and times will be given nearer the. As a working mum myself I know the importance of having as much notice as possible of events but we are a large busy school and sometimes things can change at very short notice, although we will always endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

As noted in the previous newsletter this now gives a brief overview of important information and a list of forthcoming dates. All other information will be posted on our school website and blog at www.holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk or on twitter @HolytownPS. Please note the permissions on this have been revised and parents no longer need approval to follow us. As with last year, we will be reducing the amount of texts we use as these are an expensive method of communication, we are currently exploring other options.

As you may be aware, North Lanarkshire Council had significant savings to make last year and many of the savings are having an impact on the school. The most significant is the reduction in administration hours, as a school we lost almost 30% of our allocation, 18.5 hours. This is having a massive impact on the staff within the office and across the school. Therefore we are asking parents to be patient when visiting the office and understand if we have to use the answering machine more frequently. There are also a few ways in which you could help us, please try not to drop reading books and packed lunches into the office (this will save staff time dropping items off across the school), inform the school if your child is going absent (this will save Mrs Smith sending unnecessary text messages) and make sure your child knows their home routine at the start of the day. We are hoping not to have to close the school office, but this may come if staff find it time challenging to complete their

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work.

Can I also ask if parents would like to speak to any member of staff that they make an appointment via the school office as I know it is frustrating when parents arrive at the school and the member of staff they would like to speak to is unavailable, but we all have class commitments and are not available at all times.

I would also ask parents of children who are collected by an after school provider to speak to them regarding collections at the end of the day as there are times when Mrs Smith is waiting for 20 minutes on children being collected, we are aware that childcare providers collect from different schools, however we are not obliged to supervise uncollected children but try to work with parents and carers as much as possible to ensure their children are safe. All children **must** be collected by 3pm, except in emergencies.

See My Classroom

Following feedback from parents we will be holding a 'See My Classroom' session on Friday 26th August 2016. This will be an opportunity to see your child's new classroom, where they sit etc. Your child will show you around (there will not be a chance to discuss your child's progress with their teacher at this point). If parents wait outside their child's classroom door, the teachers will open the doors to let you in. If you have more than one child in the school then you are welcome to move around the internal corridors of the school, staff will be on hand to direct you. Please note due to Health & Safety and to make this an enjoyable session for all involved we can only allow a maximum of 2 people per pupil in the class at any one time. We cannot allow buggies or prams, but you are welcome to carry your child and leave these in the Junior open area, we would ask that should a younger child start crying or disrupting the session that parents take them out of the classroom as soon as possible. Please leave with your child through their classroom door when the bell rings at 3pm.

Non-Uniform Day

Our Non-Uniform Day for August will be held on Friday 26th August. Pupils can pay £1 to wear their own clothes (as always these need to be suitable for school, not football colours, heeies etc.). 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. This money is used to support your child's education throughout the year, subsidising school trips, playing for cooking materials as well as Golden Time activities so everyone benefits, however in recent years, not everyone has contributed.

Where possible, our non-uniform days will always be held on the last Friday of the month.

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Staffing Update

We have had a number of staff joining us this year, welcome to Miss Taylor is covering in the nursery. Mrs Bland has joined the team this year and will be working in almost all classes as well as sharing with Mrs Bosco on a Thursday and Friday. Miss Fotheringham is teaching in Room 3 this year. We are delighted that Miss Galt is a permanent member of the Holytown Team and is in Room 9 this year. Mrs Wood is also back 2 days a week covering for Miss Carson who has reduced her hours and will be working Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday. Mrs Greehan is our ASN Assistant working 9 hours a week in the school. We are still awaiting another classroom assistant to be allocated, so in the meantime the SMT will be in the playground every lunchtime to help with supervision.

Head Teacher	Mrs L Brennan	
Deputy Head Teacher	Miss F Carson (Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday)	
Principal Teacher	Mrs J Murie	
Nursery	Mrs H Graham	Miss K McKenna
	Mrs J Duguid (am)	Miss J McNair (pm)
	Miss L Taylor	Mrs K Fleming (Mon/Tues/Wed am)
Room 1	Miss K Kane	
Room 2	Mrs P Bosco (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday)	
	Mrs A Bland (Thursday/Friday)	
Room 3	Miss K Fotheringham	
Room 4	Mrs M Muir	
Room 5	Mrs J Barnstaple (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday)	
	Mrs L Watson (Thursday/Friday)	
Room 6	Mrs J Canavan	
Room 7	Mrs J O'Donnell	
Room 8	Mrs S Gow	
Room 9	Miss D Galt	
Room 11	Mr G Stein	
Room 12	Mrs C Campbell	
Classroom Assistants	Mrs T McLaughlin	
	Mrs J Graham	
	Vacancy	
ASN Assistant	Mrs A Greehan	
Admin Staff	Mrs E Turner	
	Mrs A Smith	
	Mrs N Casey	
Janitor	Mr J Findlay	

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School Lunches

All children within the school are able to have their lunch at school. All lunches are cooked on site by our fabulous catering team. The current price is £1.90 for a two course meal. We operate a cashless cafeteria and all pupils should 'top up' their cards at the start of the day to ease congestion at playtime and lunchtime.

All pupils in Primary 1 – 3 are entitled to a Free School Meal, parents of children in Primary 4 – 7 who may be entitled to a Free School Meal should apply directly to North Lanarkshire Council (forms are available within the school office).

To ensure all children are able to choose something they want and like from the menu, we operate a pre-ordering system. Children select their lunch choice at the beginning of the day and receive the corresponding coloured band prior to lunchtime. Please help us out by having a look at the menu beforehand.

In order to ensure all pupils get a chance to eat their lunch in comfort, we operate 2 sittings. Pupils in Rooms 1-6 come directly to the lunch area at 12.30pm. They are not allowed to leave this area until at least 12.45, this has proven to be very successful in ensuring all children have a chance to eat their lunch as we found that some pupils were in such a rush to get out to play, they were having one bite of a sandwich.

The second sitting is at approximately 12.50, when Rooms 7-12 come in. Again pupils need to wait until at least 1.05pm before they are allowed out. Pupils are encouraged by all staff on duty to eat as much of their lunch as they can but they are never forced. If we notice a pattern of children repeatedly not finishing it, we will let you know. We also ask pupils who have a packed lunch to bring what they don't eat home so you are aware. Please note as we have a number of children who have nut allergies, nuts and nut based products are not permitted within the school. As a health promoting school we do not allow fizzy drinks and ask that where possible, children are given healthy snacks for playtime and lunchtime.

The school menu is available on the school website/twitter as well as the north Lanarkshire website, either search for 'North Lanarkshire Primary Menu' or use this link:

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=5594>

School/Nursery Improvement

Our school and nursery improvement priorities will shortly be available on our website. This year these will focus on raising pupil attainment as part of the Scottish Government's

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Attainment Challenge. Our 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 Health & Wellbeing, Relationships & Behaviour through our Nurturing School Ethos-** Staff demonstrate they are nurturing towards all pupils within the school. There is an awareness of the 6 Principles of Nurture and these are observed in all classes and general areas of the school. Interactions between pupils, staff, parents and other stakeholders are strong and promote the nurturing ethos. 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.
- **Development of a Shared Vision, Values, Aims and Curriculum Rationale relevant to the school and its community** - All stakeholders will continue to be involved in the creation and on-going review of the vision, vales, aims and curriculum rationale of the establishment, which focuses on improvements for all learners.

General Information and Updates

Please remember we are a uniform school, we ask all children to wear their uniform every day. Pupils also must have suitable outdoor shoes which they can get on and off independently. All pupils must have plain black plimsoles or trainers to wear inside as well as for PE. Please ensure all items of clothing and equipment are labelled and if you have written this on by pen, please check on a regular basis as it can get washed off easily. We have already had children who have lost items which are unnamed. Holytown Primary School and North Lanarkshire Council accept no liability for lost or damaged items.

The school can get very warm and all children are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them containing plain water. Please do not fill this with juice and ask your child not to tell their teacher as this puts them in a very difficult position. Pupils who bring in bottles containing anything other than plain water will be given a cup for the day and the bottle returned to them at the end of the day.

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The school photographer will be in on Wednesday 24th August to take P1 photographs as well as class groups. If you do not wish your child to be included, please call the school office. We would ask that you do not just tell your child as sometimes they forget and this is very important.

Communication between school and home is something we are always trying to improve. Therefore this year we will be making a number of small subtle changes. We are trialling a system where all information which has to be signed and returned will be distributed on yellow paper. We have revised the security privileges on our twitter account allowing all parents access and the twitter feed will appear on the front page of the website.

We will also publish important information on our school website, trying as an Eco school to keep paper to a minimum.

Over the year we are also looking at electronic solutions which could be used to alert parents, as text messages are proving to be very expensive, this will however still be used to inform parents of a child's unexplained absence as well as in emergency situations.

Information regarding your child's PE days will be sent out this week and we ask for your co-operation in ensuring all children have appropriate PE kit for indoors and outdoors as well as ensuring all jewellery is removed. Please note at no times are football colours permitted in any North Lanarkshire Council establishment. Please ensure your child does not wear football tops, shorts, scarfs etc. within Holytown Primary School or Nursery Class.

Children are **not permitted** to bring mobile telephones or personal electronic items into school.

Children are also asked not to bring their own toys into school as these can get lost or broken, instead we would ask children to keep them at home to be enjoyed and played with there.

Please inform the office staff in writing of any medical conditions which might affect your child in school. **Emergency contact information must also be kept up to date, please let us know immediately of any changes.** If your child requires prescribed medication during the school day, please discuss this with the Head Teacher. Children are not permitted to have medication in school without the completion of the necessary paperwork. Please note we are not permitted to administer medication which has not been medically prescribed i.e. calpol however parents are welcome to come to school and we will ensure privacy to administer this yourself.

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Please remember if your child experiences sickness or diarrhoea symptoms, no matter how mild, they must not return to school for 48 hours following the **last** episode.

Can I also remind all parents, carers and visitors to the school that North Lanarkshire does not tolerate incidents of violence or abuse (verbal or physical) towards employees. Anyone abusing an employee of the council either verbally or physically may be subject to criminal prosecution and/or withdrawal of Council services. Employees will be fully supported in circumstances where abusive or violent behaviour has been displayed. We are at our place of work and as such should be treated with respect. Any incidents will be reported to North Lanarkshire Council and in extreme cases Police Scotland.

Dates for your Diary

**These are subject to change and further dates will be added and information given in due course.

August

24th School photographer to take P1 and all class photos.
 26th Come & See my Classroom 2.40pm
 26th Non-Uniform Day
 W/b 29th Termly Letters due to be distributed

September

W/b 5th Primary 7 trip to Kilbowie
 22nd Room 12 Class Assembly
 23rd HOLIDAY
 26th HOLIDAY
 30th Non-Uniform Day

October

7th Room 11 Class Assembly
 17th – 21st HOLIDAY
 W/b 24th Termly Letters due to be distributed
 28th Jotter Bags Out
 28th Non-Uniform Day

November

1st & 2nd Parental Consultations
 11th Room 3 Class Assembly
 21st In-Service Day 3
 From 21st Language Focus Week
 25th Non-Uniform Day

December

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

January

W/b 17th Termly Letters due to distributed
 20th Room 8 Class Assembly
 27th Non-Uniform Day

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February

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

March

3rd Room 5 Class Assembly
From 13th Health Focus Week
27th 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 due to be distributed
28th Non-Uniform Day

May

1st HOLIDAY
From 1st Eco Focus Week
3rd & 4th May NLC 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

We will endeavour to send out newsletters on a regular basis, where possible monthly in order to keep you informed.

As always if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01236 757630, we look forward in working in partnership with you to help your child **"Be the best they can be!"**

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Our Ref:
 Your Ref:
 Contact: Mrs Lynne Brennan
 Tel: 01236 757630/757633
 Fax: 01698 835919
 E Mail: ht@holytown.n-lanark.sch.uk
 Date: 23 August 2016



Learning & Leisure Services
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk
Head Teacher
 Lynne Brennan
Holytown Primary School & Nursery Class
 Willow Grove
 Holytown
 MOTHERWELL
 ML1 4SR

Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In line with Scottish Government Guidelines your child receives 2 hours Physical Education (PE) per week in school. Within Holytown Primary School this takes the format of 2x50 minute sessions in the gym hall and 1x30 minute session outdoors.

Your child's PE sessions will take place on the following days;

<u>Class</u>	<u>Indoor 1</u>	<u>Indoor 2</u>	<u>Outdoor</u>
Room 1 – Miss Kane	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Room 2 – Mrs Bosco/Mrs Bland	Tuesday	Friday	Thursday
Room 3 – Miss Fotheringham	Tuesday	Thursday	Monday
Room 4 – Mrs Muir	Monday	Thursday	Tuesday
Room 5 – Mrs Barnstaple/Mrs Watson	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday
Room 6 – Mrs Canavan	Tuesday	Wednesday	Monday
Room 7 – Mrs O'Donnell	Tuesday	Wednesday	Monday
Room 8 – Mrs Gow	Tuesday	Friday	Monday
Room 9 – Miss Galt	Wednesday	Friday	Monday
Room 11 – Mr Stein	Monday	Thursday	TBC
Room 12 – Mrs Campbell	Monday	Wednesday	Tuesday

Please note all children must take part in PE sessions, unless excused by a Doctor's note or other suitable line, or after discussion with the Head Teacher.

For indoor activities, pupils must wear shorts, plain t-shirt and gym shoes. For gymnastics and dance pupils should be in bare feet or gym shoes.

For outdoor activities pupils should also wear a tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, extra socks and **outdoor** trainers.

Please note pupils are not permitted to wear football colours, inc shirts and shorts, or any jewellery to PE. **In previous years some children have taken part in PE wearing earrings covered with surgical tape. Unfortunately this does not eliminate the risk of tearing the ear. We therefore request that if earrings cannot be removed that you letter your child's teacher stating you are happy, knowing the risks, for your child to take part in PE wearing earrings.**

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Brennan
 Head Teacher

Education, Skills & Youth Employment, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 1AB



School holiday arrangements 2016/2017



August 2016

In-service day: Monday 15 August 2016
In-service day: Tuesday 16 August 2016
Pupils return to school: Wednesday 17 August 2016

September 2016

September weekend holidays: Friday 23 September 2016 and Monday 26 September 2016

October 2016

October break: Monday 17 October 2016 to Friday 21 October 2016

November 2016

In-service day: Monday 21 November 2016

December 2016 - January 2017

Christmas and New Year holidays: Monday 26 December 2016 to Friday 6 January 2017 (inclusive)

February 2017

Mid-term break: Monday 13 February and Tuesday 14 February 2017
In-service day: Wednesday 15 February

April 2017

Spring break: Monday 3 April to Monday 17 April 2017 (inclusive)*
*Good Friday 14 April 2017 and Easter Monday 17 April 2017

May 2017

May day holiday: Monday 1 May 2017
In-service day: Thursday 4 May 2017
Mid-term holiday: Friday 26 and Monday 29 May 2017

June 2017

School closes Wednesday 28 June 2017

It is proposed that schools will return for staff Tuesday 15 August 2017 and Thursday 17 August 2017 for pupils.