

Holytown

Primary School and Nursery Class

August 2017



Dream, Believe, Achieve – our new motto!

Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the August edition of our Newsletter for 2017. 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.

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.

Similar to last year, we have included an annual calendar at 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 time and as always we are a busy school and dates are subject to change. 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. We also plan to send out a monthly calendar at the beginning of each month.

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, and are hoping to use email more effectively as this does not have a cost associated with it, we would be grateful if you could add your email to the annual data check which you have now received.

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 classroom assistant hours, as a school we lost 2 of our 3 classroom assistants. This has had a huge impact across the school.

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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 Turner is waiting for 20 minutes on children being collected, as a school we are not obliged to do this 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.

We have a very supportive and active Parent Council who work tirelessly throughout the year to shape the school improvement plan and to raise funds for every pupil. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month in the school and are open to all members of the Parent Forum (i.e. all parents/carers with a child in the school or nursery class). It would be lovely to see you there – the first meeting is on Monday 4th September 2017 at 6.30pm.

Non-Uniform Day

Our Non-Uniform Day for September will be held on Friday 29th September. Pupils can pay £1 to wear their own clothes (as always these need to be suitable for school, not football colours, hee-ies etc.). This money is used to support your child's education throughout the year, subsidising school trips, paying for cooking materials as well as Golden Time activities so everyone benefits.

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

Staffing Update

We have had a number of staff joining us this year, welcome back to Miss Woodlock who is covering in the nursery until Mrs Graham returns, Miss McLaughlin is in Monday and Tuesday and we are delighted Miss Carson will be in the nursery on a Wednesday. Miss Stewart has joined the team this year and will be working in almost all classes as well as sharing P1/2 with Mrs Bosco on a Thursday and Friday. Miss Williams is teaching in Room 4 this year with Miss Nichol in Room 8. We are delighted that Miss McMath is a permanent member of the Holytown Team and is in Room 3 this year, Miss Porteous has returned from Maternity Leave and is in Room 9 with Primary 6. Mrs Wood is also back 2 days a week and will work in Room 8, 9 & 11. Mrs McEwan and Mrs Greechan are our ASN Assistants. Miss Henderson has started as the DHT within the school with responsibility for Nursery, Infants as well as Support for Learning.

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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 £2.00 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 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>

Tuck Shop

We provide a tuck shop service in school, allowing pupils the opportunity to purchase a healthy snack and drink to enjoy during interval.

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The tuck shop is operated by the Catering Service and is available to all children in Primary 1-7 every day at 10.35am.

Tuck Shop Price List - August 2017

Fruit Pot	45p	Large Aqua Juice	40p
Baked Crisps	55p	Water	30p
Mini-bite	30p	Yoghurt Drink	50p
Toast (1 slice)	20p	Fromage Frais	35p
Milk	10p	Fresh Fruit	30p
Small Fruit Juice	30p	Sugar Free Jelly	35p

*Not every item is available every day

Breakfast Club

The breakfast Club is continuing this year within the school. Breakfast Club runs from 8.15am until 8.45am each day and costs 20p. Pupils are able to choose from cereal, toast and fruit juice. If you would like your child to attend, please complete a form available from the office/Mrs McLaughlin and we look forward to seeing your child.

All children are provided with a cashless card for use at Tuck Shop, which can be topped up by the children using the machine in the Junior Open Area during Breakfast Club or interval. There is also the facility for parents to top-up and monitor their child's spending online.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A member of our school community has a severe allergy to some food items, therefore the following are not allowed in school or nursery:

- any nuts or products which may contain nuts
- products made with peas/lentils/pulses

This applies to all pupils, staff and visitors

School 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

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Government's Attainment Challenge linking to the Pupil Equity Fund. Our priorities are:

Numeracy & Mathematics

To raise attainment of all pupils (with a focus on children living in poverty) within Numeracy and Mathematics through improving the quality of learning and teaching in maths and numeracy. This will be supported by appropriately targeted interventions to close any attainment gaps which are identified.

Parental Engagement

Family learning - Increase the positive impact of parental engagement to improve attainment and achievement. This will be supported by appropriately targeted interventions to close any attainment gaps which are identified.

Pupil Equity Fund

This session we have been allocated £57,000 Pupil Equity Funding which will be used to increase attainment in Numeracy & Mathematics as well as increase parental engagement, it is intended this will improve pupil attainment across the school with a focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap.

General Information/Update

Uniform

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 plimssoles 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.

Water In School

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

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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.

Communication

Communication between school and home is always something we are 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.

If you can think of any suggestions to help us improve our communication, please let us know.

PE

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.

<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/Miss Stewart	Tuesday	Friday	Thursday
Room 3 – Miss McMath	Tuesday	Thursday	Wednesday
Room 4 – Miss Williams	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday
Room 5 – Mrs Barnstaple/Mrs Watson	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday
Room 6 – Mrs Canavan	Tuesday	Wednesday	Monday
Room 7 – Mrs O'Donnell	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
Room 8 – Miss Nichol	Tuesday	Friday	Monday

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Room 9 – Miss Porteous	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
Room 11 – Mrs Murie	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Room 12 – Mrs Campbell	Wednesday	Friday	Tuesday

Mobile Telephone & Toys

Children are not permitted to bring mobile telephones or personal electronic items into school. If pupils have to bring their phone to school it must be switched off and kept in their bag during both playtime and lunchtimes as well as class lessons. Holytown Primary School & North Lanarkshire Council cannot be held responsible for items lost or broken.

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.

Changes to Emergency Contacts/Medical Details

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 e.g. calpol however parents are welcome to come to school and we will ensure privacy to administer this yourself.

Sickness

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.

Lost Property

Please assist in preventing items of school uniform being lost or misplaced by labelling all items of clothing, footwear, bags and packed lunches with the children's name.

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Indoor Shoes

Children are required to change into suitable indoor footwear at school. Black Plimsoles are preferable.

Indoor shoes that no longer fit or are 'past their best' will be sent home to let parents know they are no longer suitable.

Fizzy Drinks

Cans and bottles of carbonated drinks, including energy drinks are not permitted in school.

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.

Thanks to all parents and carers for their support and dedication during the time your son/daughter has been with us. It is much appreciated.

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.

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Dates for your Diary

W/b 28 th	<u>August</u> Termly Letter's Due		
4 th	<u>September</u> Parent Council & Fund Raising Committee Meeting		
22 nd	HOLIDAY		
25 th	HOLIDAY		
29 th	Non Uniform Day £1		
16 th – 20 th	<u>October</u> HOLIDAY		
27 th	Non Uniform Day £1		
3 rd	<u>November</u> Jotter Bags Out		
7 th & 8 th	Parental Consultations		
20 th	In-Service Day 3		
24 th	Non Uniform Day £1		
11 th	<u>December</u> School Show (pm & evening)		
12 th	School Show (am & pm)		
14 th	Nursery Nativity		
18 th	Nursery Party (am & pm)		
19 th	P4/5 Party		
20 th	P6/7 Party		
21 st	P1 Party & P2/3 Party		
22 nd	Non Uniform Day £1		
22 nd	2.30pm finish		
W/b 15 th	<u>January</u> Termly Letter Due Out		
26 th	Non Uniform Day £1		
12 th & 13 th	<u>February</u> HOLIDAY		
14 th	In-Service Day 4		
23 rd	Non Uniform Day £1		
29 th	<u>March</u> Reports to Parents		
29 th	Non Uniform Day £1		
29 th	2.30pm Close		
30 th to 13 th	<u>April</u> HOLIDAY		
W/B 24 th	Termly Letters Due Out		
27 th	Non Uniform Day £1		
7 th	<u>May</u> HOLIDAY		
8 th	In-Service Day 5		
8 th & 9 th	North Lanarkshire Learning Festival		
11 th	Jotter Bags Out		
24 th (Thurs)	Non Uniform Day £1		
25 th & 28 th	HOLIDAY		
22 nd	<u>June</u> Celebrating Success		
28 th	Non Uniform Day £1		
28 th	1pm Close		

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