

# Holytown

## Primary School and Nursery Class

December 2017



Welcome to the December issue of our newsletter, can't believe it is almost the holidays!

### Monthly Calendar

We hope you are finding the monthly useful. Following discussions with parents we decided this may be a useful addition to give you information on upcoming events.

### Staffing Update

We have a number of staffing changes taking effect over the next few weeks.

Mrs Graham has retired as an Early Years Worker following a period of ill health. I am sure almost all the children who have passed through our nursery have fond memories of Mrs Graham who worked within Holytown Nursery for 19 years. I am sure Mrs Graham will pop in from time to time to see how we are all doing.

Mrs Bosco is also leaving us and moving to Italy after the Christmas holidays. Mrs Bosco has been in the school for 13 years and taught many children and families during this time. She will be a huge loss to the staff within the school. Miss Stewart who teaches in Room 2 on a Thursday and Friday, will now work all week.

Mr Findlay, our Janitor, has been promoted to Head Janitor in Taylor High School. He has been a trusted member of the team who will be missed by pupils and staff alike.

Miss Nichol has resigned from North Lanarkshire Council, whilst we await information regarding a long term replacement Miss Stewart and Mrs Wood will teach Room 8 until Christmas, with Miss Henderson taking over from Miss Stewart after Christmas.

### Uniform, Gym Shoes & PE Kit

As a school we have very high standards and expect all pupils to come to school prepared for the day ahead.

Recently we have become increasingly concerned with the number of children who are not wearing their school uniform. Our uniform consists of; grey trousers/skirt, white polo shirt/shirt & tie and navy blue jumper. Tracksuits/jeans/coloured t-shirts are not part of our uniform and are not acceptable to be worn.

There are also a large number of children who do not have gym shoes (or are not wearing them in class). **ALL** children must have a pair of gym shoes to wear in school. This is to stop the spread of mud and dirt through the school, to wear for gym/drama sessions but also in case your child's feet get wet, there is nothing worse than sitting all day with wet feet. As a school we are unable to have spare shoes for pupils.

Please ensure your child has a **full** PE kit on gym days, it is also beginning to get cold and **ALL** classes have an outdoor PE Block each week, therefore all children should have suitable outdoor PE kit. Please remember all long hair **MUST** be tied back and all jewellery removed. Appropriate PE kit is a North Lanarkshire and a Health & Safety requirement. Not having kit is not an excuse for not participating in PE, pupils should have a note from their parents, or in extreme cases of non-participation, their doctor.

### Website

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If you are unable to provide your child with a uniform, gym shoes or PE kit, please contact the school and we can support you as best we can.

### Pupil Behaviour

We have had a number of pupil, parental and community complaints about the behaviour in the playground. This year, I have had to speak to far too many pupils regarding their behaviour in the playground. All pupils are aware of the school rules and are responsible for their own behaviour. Too many children are resorting to physical actions to resolve playground disputes, which are sometimes condoned by a small number of parents who are telling their children to hit back. This is not acceptable, in line with both North Lanarkshire Council and School Policy. We have a number of supports in place to help children resolve conflict and violence is never the answer. Pupils involved in physical conflict will be asked to complete a reflection activity during playtimes and lunchtimes for an agreed period of time and parents will be informed.

We have also had reports of children using foul and abusive language towards each other, this is not how we want our school to be portrayed and I am sure all parents will support us in our quest to stamp this out, there is no excuse for children to be swearing at each other and whilst this may only be a small number of children it is having a massive impact on the whole school as children should not be exposed to this, especially within the school. Again any children using such language will be asked to complete a reflection activity at home or in school and parents/carers will be informed.

Whilst the majority of our children are excellently behaved at all times, we would ask all parents to support us in helping children to improve their behaviour and if there is a reason you feel you cannot support us in removing physical violence or swearing, please contact the school to discuss this with Mrs Brennan. If you are concerned about playground behaviour, and would like to discuss this, please make an appointment with Mrs Brennan, Miss Henderson or Mrs Murie via the office.

### Christmas Show

All performances evening are now SOLD OUT, we still have some tickets remaining for the performances on Wednesday afternoon. Admittance will strictly be by ticket so please ensure that you bring your ticket(s) with you. There will be **no** opportunity to pay at the door. Please remember we cannot permit any under school age pupils to any performance. For Health & Safety reasons, the doors will not open until 15 minutes before the show starts, please do not press the buzzer before this time, as office staff have been asked not to open the doors before the following times. This is to ensure staff and children have preparation time.

Tuesday evening	Doors open	5.45pm
Wednesday afternoon	Doors open	1.15pm
Wednesday evening	Doors open	5.45pm

This year, we will be selling raffle tickets at each performance but will be having one main draw during the Wednesday evening performance.

Rooms 1 – 4	Arrive	5.30pm	Collect	6.45pm ***
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Infant Narrators	Arrive 5.45pm		
Senior Narrators	Arrive 6.00pm		
Rooms 5 & 6	Arrive 6.00pm	Collect	7.10 pm ***
Rooms 7 & 8	Arrive 6.15 pm	Collect	7.20pm ***
Rooms 9, 11 & 12	Arrive 6.30pm	Collect	7.30pm ***

\*\*\*Please note all collection times are approximate \*\*\*

Children should not bring in toys, we will provide Christmas themed activities for children whilst their parents/carers are watching the show.

### Nursery Christmas Arrangements

The Nursery Christmas Show, will take place on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at 9.30am for all children, children who usually attend in the afternoon should come in the morning, arriving at approximately 9.00am, and will leave with their parents/carers at the end of the performance. Children who attend in the morning are welcome to leave with their parents/carers or to stay for the rest of the session. Please note the doors will not be opened until 15 minutes before the performances start and we do not have any place for parents to wait except outside.

The Christmas Party will be held on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** during the afternoon session. Children who usually have a morning session are invited to attend from 1.15pm in addition to their morning session. We hope to have a special visitor about 3pm and parents are welcome to attend (maximum 2 per child).

### Christmas Parties

All Christmas Parties will take place in the school on the following dates. They will all start at 1.30pm and finish at 3pm. There will be no early lunches on this day, children who are going home, should be collected from the class door at 12.30pm. Parents/Carers are asked not to come to the entrance hall, as it is not big enough to accommodate all waiting parents. For supervision reasons, pupils who have gone home at lunchtime cannot return into the school building until the bell rings at 1.15pm. Children who are getting changed at school will have their lunch as normal and staff will be on hand to help children get changed at 1.15pm at the end of lunch. Children will attend their year group party. **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – P4/5, **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>** – P6/7, **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** – P1 and P2/3.

### Norovirus (Winter Vomiting Bug)

As part of this year's NHS norovirus seasonal awareness campaign, NHS Health Scotland has developed a matt laminated poster and supporting public information leaflet. The key message of this campaign is to advise the public to stay at home for 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped. The leaflet contains general information on:

- What is norovirus
- How to avoid catching norovirus
- What to do if you catch norovirus

If you would like one of these leaflets, please inform our school office or access the information

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on <http://www.healthscotland.com/norovirus>.

Please note to avoid spreading this virus amongst our school and nursery community, all pupils with sickness and diarrhoea should stay home for 48 hours after symptoms end.

**When children complain of being unwell in school we will use our professional opinion when deciding on the best course of action, however we are not health care professionals and if we are in any doubt will call parents/carers or emergency contacts for children to be collected and apologise if this causes any inconvenience. We will always act in what we believe is your child's best interest.**

### Internet Safety Advice for Parents

As you consider which IT gadgets to purchase for your child this Christmas, please follow the link below to keep you up to date with all that is current in online safety. Help your child enjoy the good bits of the Internet without letting the bad bits spoil their fun! <http://parentinfo.org/>

This website can also be accessed directly from the Parent Area (Home School links) of our school website.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can work in partnership to ensure your child achieves their full potential.

### Parental Engagement

As a school we are always looking for ways in which we can engage and involve parents in the life of the school in order to help us improve. We are specifically looking for parents to be involved with our School Improvements and in the development of our school vision, aims and values. I would like to invite any interested parents/carers grandparents to a meeting in the school on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am**. If you would like to be involved but are unable to attend, please contact the school and I will let you know details of the next meetings.

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!

Thank you for your continued support and can we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming all the children back rested and ready to learn on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the usual times.

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## 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)

### **December**

Friday 22nd  
Friday 22nd

Christmas Non Uniform Day no cost.  
2.30pm finish for school – normal session times for nursery.

### **January**

Week Beginning 15th  
Friday 26th

Termly Letter Due Out  
Non Uniform Day £1

### **February**

Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th  
Wednesday 14th  
Friday 23rd

HOLIDAY  
In-Service Day 4  
Non Uniform Day £1

### **March**

Thursday 29th  
Thursday 29th  
Thursday 29th

Reports to Parents  
Non Uniform Day £1  
2.30pm Close for school, normal session times for nursery.

### **April**

Friday 30th to Friday 13th  
Week Beginning 24th  
Friday 27th

HOLIDAY  
Termly Letters Due Out  
Non Uniform Day £1

### **May**

Monday 7th  
Tuesday 8th  
Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th  
Friday 11th  
Thursday 17th  
Thursday 24th  
Friday 25th & Monday 28th

HOLIDAY  
In-Service Day 5  
North Lanarkshire Learning Festival  
Jotter Bags Out  
Parent/Teacher/Pupil consultations  
Non Uniform Day £1  
HOLIDAY

### **June**

Friday 22nd  
Thursday 28th  
Thursday 28th

Celebrating Success  
Non Uniform Day £1  
1pm Close for school, normal sessions for nursery.

***Thank you for your continued support. Together we can help each child be the best they can be!***

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