

### 8th January 2016

A Happy New Year to one and all. We trust that all our families had an enjoyable festive break and we look forward to working together in this new term.

#### Severe Weather

We have been fortunate to have been spared the excesses of severe weather conditions experienced by other areas of Scotland over the last week. We would advise that parents keep the Holm School Messaging Service number to hand in the coming weeks in the event of adverse weather.

The number to call to check if the school is open is:

**0800 564 2272**. Enter the school's pin number when prompted: **042230**.

If the school has opened and needs to close unexpectedly for other reasons it is essential we are able to contact you or a nominated person to take your child home safely and promptly.

During inclement weather it is also prudent to send in a spare set of clothes to school with your children. A significant number of our pupils have come to school wearing waterproof trousers and jackets which is eminently sensible. Please ensure your children come to school with appropriate winter clothing. Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

#### Disco - New Year's Party

Holm Primary Parent Council is organising a disco on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Admission to this event is £2 which should be handed in on the night. The Nursery/Primary 1-3 disco will take place between 6.00pm and 7.00pm and the P4-7 disco will begin at 7.30pm and finish at 8.30pm. Children who wish to attend the disco should return a completed consent form to school by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January

#### Fundraising Activities

The silver collection from our Christmas Entertainment concerts raised £475.17. This will be shared between the Children's Hospice Association Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland - The Woodlands Centre. Our Moray Firth Radio Cash for Kids - Wear a Christmas Jumper Day raised £207.83. Well done to all for supporting these worthy charities which make a difference to the lives of others in our community.

#### Primary 1 Enrolment Week

Children who will be five on or before 29<sup>th</sup> February 2017 are eligible to be enrolled for Primary 1 starting in August 2016. Enrolment will take place in the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Enrolments will take place between 9.15am - 10.30am and 2.00pm-3.00pm each day. Please bring your child's birth certificate at the time of enrolment. An electronic version of the enrolment form is available on both the Council website and also the Holm School website. Where possible we would encourage parents to use this facility as it will save waiting time. Forms should be printed off, signed and taken in to school. Information on nursery enrolment will be issued in due course.

#### Burns Lunch

Please note a **change to the school menu** on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January the choice will be

Haggis, Neeps and Tatties  
or  
Roast Chicken

#### Burns Day Event

The pupils in Primary 7 are planning a special Burns Supper for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Further information will follow.

#### Student Teacher

We are delighted that Mr Ross's class will be joined this term by Miss E. Stevenson who is a student teacher affiliated to the University of Aberdeen. Miss Stevenson was with us last term and will work alongside Mr Ross and also plan and deliver lessons of her own. She started her placement with us on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. There will be another student, Miss J Sutherland, from Aberdeen University joining Miss Macnaughton's class in February.

#### Visit to Cameron House

A group of twenty senior pupils visited Cameron House on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December to entertain the residents by singing songs from their concert and also traditional carols which they had practised in school. The afternoon was a tremendous success with residents and their visitors greeting the children with rapturous applause. The children really did excel themselves and many comments such as 'outstanding' and 'fantastic' were made by staff and visitors alike. The children conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to their families and school. Here are some of the reflections made by our children after they returned to school:

"It felt really good making everyone at Cameron House happy." Zoe

"I felt really happy when everybody was singing along and smiling." Isla

"It was nice seeing the residents smile and laugh." Regan

"I felt great when everyone started smiling and having a laugh." Cruz

"I really enjoyed seeing the residents smiling which made me feel great." Rachel

"It was good going to Cameron House to entertain the residents." James

"I liked making the elderly people smile." Ashleigh

"I enjoyed seeing the elderly people happy." Tiegan

"I enjoyed singing to the elderly and I loved seeing them happy. I would like to go back again." Katie

#### School Dinner Days

With the increased uptake in free lunches it is necessary for cook to know how much food requires to be ordered in advance. Sometimes our younger children don't remember which days they had chosen to go to school lunches. For clarity please send a note in to school on a Monday morning indicating which days your child is to take school lunch.

#### Reading Books

The infants reading books are disappearing, we are now finding we do not have enough of certain books to give to each child. Please can you check to see if you have any books at home. They are Oxford Reading Tree, Treetops, Fireflies and Collins. Many thanks for your co-operation.

#### In Service and Mid Term Holiday

The date of our mid-term holiday this year is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Staff will be undertaking professional duties on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February when the school will also be closed. The school will open to pupils on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February.