

Holm Primary School

Newsletter – November 16th, 2016



Dear Parent / Carer

Adverse Weather

Guidelines for adverse weather will shortly be issued from the authority. In the meantime if you have any concerns that the school may be closed due to adverse weather please contact the school telephone messaging service. **The Highland Council Number is 0800 564 2272. When prompted enter the school's pin number: 042230.**

Blythswood Boxes

Thank you to all those children and parents who answered our response for the Christmas Shoe Box appeal. In addition to the filled boxes we received several individual items which will be sorted into boxes at the Blythswood depot. Forty one filled shoe boxes were collected at Holm School by which are now making their way to families less fortunate than ourselves in Eastern Europe.

Literacy Week

Last week the whole school participated in a week of activities which centred on the book 'Something Else'. The focus was developing a Rights Respecting School ethos through the medium of literacy. Children's experiences and thoughts on the week have been shared on our blog and we would invite you to browse through them.

Dancemania

Well done to Miss Penman and the Dancemania pupils who participated in a dance extravaganza at Eden Court on Monday evening. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase their dancing skills. The dancers were: Emily Hutton, Haillie MacIntyre, Ellie Wood, James Luke, Jane Lindsay, Maisie MacLennan, Nathan MacDonald, Rachael Usher and Zoe Allan.

Harvest

We are most grateful to all families who responded to our plea for tinned and fresh fruit and vegetables. Reverend Fiona Smith will ensure these items are distributed to local families who are in need. Tinned foods have been sent to the Highland Foodbank.

School Photographer

This is a reminder that the school photographer will be in school this Thursday, 17th November. He will take individual photographs of all pupils and family groups for those who have requested this option. Please ensure children are wearing full school uniform on the day.

Children in Need

The Pupil Council has organised a 'Spotacular' event for this Friday 18th November. Cook has kindly agreed to bake biscuits which will be on sale at 30p each. Further information regarding this event has already been distributed.

Anti-Bullying Week

We were delighted with the very good turnout of parents at last Thursday's anti-bullying workshop which was held in the school. Parents reported finding it informative and thought provoking. Our assembly on Monday of this week marked the beginning of Anti-Bullying week. The children watched a short film about bullying and were invited to share their thoughts. In their classes this week the children will be looking at the definition of bullying to gain an understanding of the meaning of the term. They will be looking at a number of themes such as friendship and resilience. The pupils will also consider strategies and techniques to cope with bullying.

In response to the parental surveys which were issued this week a number of parents have requested that we run the anti-bullying workshop again. Unfortunately this is not possible, however, the slides used by Mrs Gibb in the workshop are now available on the school blog for those parents who missed the session.

School Car Park

Our Facilities Management Assistant has coned off the area which is clearly marked 'Buses Only' in order to ensure that our younger pupils who cross on the yellow box can be seen. Some drivers have ignored these cones and continued to use this as a parking zone. This is unacceptable and shows a lack of regard for pupil safety. If the area is coned off it means cars should not be there. On Monday a driver parked inside the yellow box which leads into the staff car park. This made it impossible for oncoming drivers to see children who were crossing from the school playground to put their bikes in the shed. Members of the Parent Council are in agreement that pupil safety is paramount and that further steps must be taken to make the school car park safer. Parents must park only in the parking spaces available and not in the bus lane or the 'drop off' zone.

Christmas Entertainment- Tuesday 13th December

With eleven classes now in the school it has been necessary to review our former Christmas arrangements. For various reasons it has become too unwieldy to run a programme of entertainment with all classes involved.

For our Christmas entertainment programme this year there will be two performances of 'The Very Hopeless Camel' performed by P1-3 only. The first show will begin at 10.00am and the afternoon performance will begin at 1.30pm on Tuesday 13th December. Tickets are limited to two per family in the first instance in order comply with Health and Safety regulations around hall numbers. If you would like further tickets we will keep your request on our reserve list. A letter with further information will be circulated nearer the time. Senior pupils will offer another form of entertainment during the third term.

Dog Mess

A small number of our younger pupils have come in with dog mess on their shoes. This was traced to just outside the entrance of our playground. If you are collecting your children from school please do not bring dogs with you. Dogs are not allowed within the grounds of the school for health and safety reasons.

Can You Help?

Have you any 'unwanted' battery / motorised / pull-along / remote control / solar / wind-up / water or wind powered toys that you would be willing to donate to the school for use in science?

Cars, in all sizes, would also be of help.

Resources can be handed in at reception.

Do you know of any other local organisations who would be willing to come in and do science-based workshops with classes?