

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome

Welcome back to school after a relaxing summer break. We extend a warm welcome to pupils and families who are new to the school. We wish new staff, Mr Henstridge, Primary 4, Miss H Allan, Primary 6/7 probationer teacher and Mrs N Hutchinson, who will be covering Principal Teacher management time, a warm welcome to Holm School.

We would also like to welcome Mrs F Carey to our nursery team.

School Improvement Plan

The school improvement plan is very much the vehicle that drives our school forward in terms of curriculum development, meeting the needs of pupils, improving and evaluating our performance. While we monitor the core curricular areas of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing as an ongoing part of our practice we strive to develop the curriculum in other areas to make it relevant and fit for purpose. Last session we sought to improve our teaching approaches in Religious and Moral Education by using 'The Year of the Story' and the development of higher order thinking skills as key drivers. This session we are seeking to build on these approaches by developing our science curriculum and by becoming a Rights Respecting School. We will share further information of how we plan to take this forward later this term.

Transport to School

Many of our children walk or cycle to school which is highly commendable. For safety reasons please ensure that children who are cycling wear helmets. **Children should be reminded to dismount from their bikes at the school gates.** They should then walk to and from the bike sheds at the beginning and end of the school day showing awareness of the other pupils and adults in the school.

The start times for nursery have now changed to take account of the longer session times offered to parents. This means that more parents will be dropping off their children just before the school day commences.

At the beginning of the session it is useful to remind parents of how to ensure the smooth running of traffic at the school gates. We have only very limited parking spaces and if the following rules are observed the area will be safer for all our children.

- The drop – off area (beside the school fence) should only be used for stopping briefly to allow children to quickly get out or in a car. **Please do not park here.**
- Cars should not park on yellow lines or beside cones as this narrows the two-way section of the road and children have to go onto the road to enter or leave the car.
- Parents should use the drop-off zones outwith the school grounds (**Ardness Place and Boarstone Road**) as much as possible and especially if the weather is wet.

- The back car park is for staff only and is in constant use so **please keep the exit free.**

Our school roll this year is 276 with approximately 50 children attending nursery and Pink Panther, so please do be considerate and follow the guidelines given.

Mobile Phone Reminder

Children must not take mobile phones to school without the consent of the head teacher. It is understood that there may be particular family circumstances where children may need their phones after school. If this is the case parents must write a letter to the head teacher explaining these circumstances and a response will be given as soon as possible. Teachers will keep a note of those children whose parents have requested that they take their phones to school. The phones must be handed in to the school office at the start of the school day and will be reissued at the end of the day. The protocol around the use of mobile phones will be explained clearly to the children by their class teachers. The protocol must be adhered to and should there be any form of infringement, sanctions will be imposed. The school takes the safe and appropriate use of mobile phones very seriously. Your support is appreciated in this matter.

Meet the Teacher

This session's Meet the Teacher event will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th September. Parents should arrive and go to their children's classes between 1.30pm and 2.45pm. The children are looking forward to welcoming you to their classrooms and showing you what they have been learning since the start of this term. Please note if you wish to take your child home with you before the afternoon session is over you must inform the class teacher. For safety purpose, each teacher will have a signing out register which you will be required to sign before your child may leave the school.

P2/3 Football is Kicking Off!

A message from our parent volunteers: Mr Hastings/Mr Dillon/Mr Attridge and Mr Williamson

We are excited to bring you P2/3 football for all boys and girls! The first session is on Thursday 1st Sept on the school playing fields from 6 - 7pm. Children will require football boots (preferably), shin pads and a water bottle. Coaches will provide further information and Registration forms will be issued to all parents/guardians. We would ask that parents remain present throughout the first session. Future sessions will take place on Saturday mornings from 9 - 10am beginning on 10th Sept.

We look forward to meeting lots of keen P2/3 footballers and their parents/guardians on Thursday!

Holm Primary School
Stratherrick Road
Direct dial – 01463 232697
PIN

Global Citizenship

We are delighted to welcome Mr Brodie Heath, a former pupil and Global Ambassador, to our assembly on Monday 29th August. He will speak to our P4-7 pupils about cultural diversity and his recent experiences teaching in a school in South Africa. This fits in very well with promoting knowledge and understanding of our school development project, Rights Respecting Schools.

Basketball

Pupils in Primary 4, Primary 4/5 and Primary 5 will have the opportunity of experiencing a taster session in basketball with Mr John Kerray, Basketball Development Officer on Tuesday 20th September.

Start Times

It has been noted that a number of children are arriving in school much earlier than is necessary before school begins in the morning. Please note the school gates will not be opened before 8.40am. This is because a member of our support team will not be on duty in the school playground until 8.45am. Parents are responsible for making their own arrangements in the morning to ensure the safety of their children.

Parent Council News

The Parent Council have an AGM on Monday, 19th September, starting at 7pm. The AGM will be followed by an ordinary Committee meeting. We desperately need new parents to get involved in the Parent Council, so if you can spare some time to come along, then please do! You will be made most welcome.

Contact Detail Information

When children are unwell they become very distressed if we are unable to make contact with parents / carers. It is essential that the nominated emergency contacts are contactable and live within reasonable distance of the school. Please keep the school office informed of any changes to mobile telephone numbers / contacts throughout the course of the session.

Reminder – Absence Protocol

Should your child be absent from school for any reason please ring the office to let us know on the morning of each day of absence. If children do not arrive at school and we have no explanation of why they are absent Mrs Thomson will attempt to contact home. We are extremely fortunate that most of our parents do phone and Mrs Thomson has very few calls to make in order to check that children are safe. Any requests for days off must be made in writing to the Head Teacher, however, holidays should be taken during the allotted school holiday period. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

End of Day Arrangements

Please note P1-3 pupils school finishing time is 2.45pm. Children must be collected promptly at the end of the day. Staff are involved in other professional duties and should not be expected to supervise pupils after that time.

E-Mail

**If you would prefer your newsletter by e-mail please contact the office and you will be added to the list.
Thank you**

Head Teacher – Margaret Matheson
'Celebrating 40 years'