

11th January 2017

Thank You

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. On behalf of the staff I'd like to thank the parents who gifted teas, fruit, biscuits and chocolates to the staffroom. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Severe Weather

We are aware that severe weather alerts have been issued by the met office for the forthcoming week. Consequently we would advise that parents keep the Holm School Messaging Service number to hand 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 18th January. Admission to this event is £2.50 which should be handed in on the night. The Pink Panther/ 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 8.45pm. Children who wish to attend the disco should return a completed consent form to school by Monday 16th January.

Primary 1 Enrolment - Beginning Wednesday 1st February

Children in our school catchment area, who will be five on or before 28th February 2018, are eligible to be enrolled for Primary 1 starting in August 2017. Enrolment will take place in the week commencing 30th January 2017. 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. Please bring your child's birth certificate and proof of address at the time of enrolment. Please note enrolments will take place between **9.15am - 10.30am on Wednesday 1st February - Friday 3rd February** and between **2.00pm-3.00pm on both Thursday 2nd February and Friday 3rd February**.

Nursery Enrolment

Enrolment for nursery will commence week beginning Monday 13th February. Further details regarding times will follow.

Highland Gathering

The pupils in Primary 7 and P6/7 are planning to host a Burns' Supper with Highland themed entertainment. This will take place on the evening of Wednesday 8th February. Further information will be issued closer to the time.

Student Teacher

We are delighted that Mr Ross's class will be joined this term by Miss R. Lynch who is a student teacher affiliated to the University of Aberdeen. Miss Lynch 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 Monday 9th January and will be in school until Friday 3rd February.

Badminton

Inverness City Junior Badminton Club, run by qualified coach David Barrie meets every Thursday in Inverness Royal Academy. Spaces are available for new members in the first session for P4-P6 players - cost £2
Sessions run from 6- 7pm - and recommence 12th January.

Parent Council

There will be a meeting of Holm School Parent Council on Monday 23rd January at 7.00pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Rights Respecting Schools

We began our new term with a whole school assembly which considered the importance of the right to feel safe and secure in our homes and school settings. Together we looked at the current situation in the Yemen and our Pupil Council and Rights Respecting Schools steering group will think about what we can do as global citizens to make a difference to the plight of the children there. The members of our Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) steering group will also visit Lochardil Primary with Mrs Gibb on Friday 27th January. The purpose of the visit is to share ideas and discuss progress made this session with their counterparts in Lochardil.

Peer Assessment Research

We have been approached by the authority to assist a fourth year student from the University of the Highlands and Islands with her dissertation project. Her subject is to investigate if there is a difference between how boys and girls learn through peer assessment. We believe participating in this research will be mutually beneficial. An information letter will be sent home to the parents of pupils whose class has been identified explaining the rationale behind this more fully.

Lost Property

A significant amount of lost property has accumulated and needs to be cleared. Please encourage your child to check through the pile for any lost items as it will soon be necessary to dispose of clothing which has not been uplifted since last term.

In Service and Mid Term Holiday

The date of our mid-term holiday this year is Monday 20th February and Tuesday 21st February. Staff will be undertaking professional duties on Wednesday 22nd February when the school will also be closed. The school will open to pupils on Thursday 23rd February.

Advance Notice

There has been a change to the date of the in-service day scheduled for Monday 5th June. It will now coincide with the local Election Day which is Thursday 4th May.