



Holm Primary School

Stratherrick Road, Inverness, IV2 4YL

Tel: 01463 232697

Absence Line: 01463 251920

Messaging Service: 0800 564 2272 pin: 042230

e-mail: holm.primary@highland.gov.uk

24th August 2018

Welcome

The children are now busy learning in their classes after a wonderfully sunny summer break. We extend a warm welcome to all pupils and families who are new to the school. We have a number of new staff members we wish to warmly welcome too. They are: Miss C. Cruickshank Ryan (P6/7), Mrs N Mackenzie (P1/2 probationer teacher), Mrs G Morrison, Mrs E MacRae and Miss M Smith have also joined our nursery team this session. Miss K. Cowie and Mrs R Hastings will be running our new Out of School Club. We wish them all well in their new posts. This session, Mrs Matheson's working days will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. Mrs Webb will be acting head teacher on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Thomson's working days will be Monday to Thursday. Mrs Walsh will be in the office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Meet the Teacher

This session's Meet the Teacher event will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 11th September. Parents should arrive and visit their children's classes between 1.30pm and 2.45pm. 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 purposes, each teacher will have a signing out register which you will be required to sign before your child may leave the school. The children will welcome you to their classrooms and show you what they have been learning since the start of 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 /scooters 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 other pupils and adults in the school.

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 out with 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 281 with 70 children attending nursery, 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 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 policy 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.

School Lunch Money

From P4 onwards children pay for school lunch. If your child is having lunch please put the money in an envelope with their name and the days of the week they require lunch. The kitchen would like this handed in on a Monday morning as additional administration time is allocated to that day. We understand there are exceptional circumstances when parents require their children to have meals at short notice but, where possible, meals should be ordered in advance. Snack is available with charges as follows: milk shake is 35p, toast is 20p, an item of fruit is 20p and juice is 20p.

Parent Council News

The Parent Council have an AGM on Monday 3rd September, starting at 7pm. The AGM will be followed by an ordinary Committee meeting. If you can spare some time to come along, then please do! You will be made most welcome.

School Improvement Plan

The school improvement plan is the vehicle that drives our school forward in terms of curriculum development, meeting the needs of pupils and 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. We are increasingly aware of the diverse needs of our pupils, and under the umbrella of developing health and wellbeing across the school, we plan to set up a nurture room. This room will be staffed by a teacher and a member of our support team. Our staff have received training in both the 'Relax Kids' approach and emotional literacy. The staff who will be involved in this project will receive additional training from the Council's Psychological Service. The nurture room will be opened weekly, on a part time basis from October this year. Further updates about this exciting venture will be issued later this term. We will be offering a parent information session on Relax Kids On Thursday 13th September at 1.30pm in the school. Please keep this date free.

In addition to our nurture project we will be developing aspects of emergent literacy across the school. We are currently undertaking Phonological Awareness screening in

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the early years and reviewing how phonics and spelling are taught in all classes. Consequently school homework in terms of spelling will not continue in its current form. Further information will be sent home shortly explaining the changes in approach.

Nurture Room – Donations Wanted

Mrs Henderson will be running our nurture room from October this session. We would be most grateful for donations of toys, construction materials, dolls, role play costumes, turn taking games which are in good condition. If you have any of these items and wish to donate, please leave them at the school office. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Profiling and Reporting

Highland Council is moving towards a model of continuous profiling and reporting children's learning to parents across the school session. Rather than receiving a lengthy summative report at the end of session, parents will receive evidence of their children's progress, through key assessment tasks, across the year. Further information will be shared in due course.

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.

P.E Kit

Please ensure all children bring their P.E kit with them each week so they can fully participate in every aspect of their timetable. **Please note, we do not allow football shirts or strips.**

Jackets

The weather is already beginning to get colder and wetter, so please ensure your child has a suitable jacket with them each day, as many have already been caught out by the rain this week.

Lost Property

Please ensure all children's clothes are labelled, particularly coats, jumpers, shoes and cardigans. We have a large numbers of items in our lost property from last year, and already this week it has increased. Please feel free to look in the lost property at the beginning or end of the school day if your child has lost any items.

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. We now have a dedicated telephone absence line (**01463 251920**) which should be used as the office is very busy in the morning. 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 as per Council policy. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

School Newsletter

If you are not already registered to receive this Newsletter by email, but would like to, please email stating the name(s) of your child(ren) and which class(es) they are in to: tracey.walsh@highland.gov.uk

School Blog

We have a wonderful School Blog which you can sign up to for updates, pictures, newsletters and useful information. Please register at: <http://www.holmprimary.co.uk/our-blog>

