

## Holm Primary School

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**12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

### **Christmas Entertainment**

As our school roll has grown to more than two hundred and eighty pupils, with an additional seventy in nursery, we have had to reflect on how we take forward our engagement with parents over the session. As we do not have capacity in the hall we can no longer provide a whole school Christmas entertainment programme.

Additionally, we considered the amount of time dedicated to extensive rehearsal after the October break until Christmas, and it was not commensurate with the value gained in terms of pupils' learning. As delivering the curriculum is the core business of the school we have had to make some changes. We understand this will be disappointing for a number of parents who looked forward to the traditional Christmas nativity and this is why we have sought to involve parents by rotating the age group of pupils providing entertainment in recent years. Last year the P5-7 pupils entertained parents and this year the children in P3-4 will share their learning and present to parents.

We also offer Creative Café experiences which also share what the children have been learning in class. This year cafes, with the exception of the infant block, will be presented by each class. P6-7 will be working with Scottish Opera in the New Year, and parents will be invited to attend a presentation on the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Playground Behaviour**

The matter of playground behaviour was raised at our recent Parent Council meeting. I am aware that a number of parents have been concerned about the level of supervision we have in the playground. The staffing level in the playground is linked to the allocation we have been given by the local authority and is not something the school can change. The introduction of split breaks at playtime has been beneficial but at lunchtime when all pupils are out at the same time we have recently had a number of incidents of rough play and unacceptable physical behaviour between children. As some children have been hurt we are currently reviewing which games are appropriate for the playground. Where possible we would like children to have choice but safety for all is paramount. The senior management team endeavours to support our Pupil Support Assistants both in terms of canteen supervision and, when time permits, in the playground. If children have been involved in serious playground incidents parents will be informed by a member of the management team and appropriate action taken. As a school we believe it is the responsibility of pupils, staff and parents to promote and maintain positive behaviour and positive relationships.

### **Mission Christmas Appeal – Christmas Jumper Day**

The total of donations received for the Mission Christmas Appeal was **£239.30**. Thank you to everyone.

### **A Time for Remembrance and Celebration**

We would like to offer a huge thank you to parents and grandparents who supported our Christmas sharing, yesterday. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback on the children's performance. I would also like to thank Miss Penman, Mrs Nicholson and Miss Allan for their individual contributions to making this event such a success and an uplifting experience for all who attended. Thanks also to Mrs Bradley for all the time she has given this term to starting the choir and for their lovely debut performance at the sharing. Thank you to all those who donated to our collection, it will enable us to donate £125 to each of our chosen charities - Help for Heroes and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

### **Scripture Union**

Thank you to all the ladies who come and give up their time on a Tuesday. A letter will be going out to all P5-7 children for next term, please fill in the permission slip if you would like your child to attend. Sessions will recommence on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Christmas Lunch**

If your child would like a Christmas Lunch on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December, children in P1-3 are free, for children in P4-7, please send £2.30 in on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Polite Reminder**

We have noticed a number of parents entering the school playground at the end of the day. We would respectfully remind you that all parents must wait at the school gate until the children are dismissed from their teaching blocks.

### **Swimming P6**

We are still looking for parent helpers to accompany Primary 6 on their weekly swimming trips. If you can help out on the occasional Friday morning we would be most grateful.

### **School resumes**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

