



Important dates at a glance....



FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER
LAST DAY OF ENTRIES FOR PTA RAFFLE & CHRISTMAS FIRESIDE QUIZ



WEDNESDAY 20 PTA EVENT
(During school)

***JINGLE BELL ROCK* P1-P3**
NON UNIFORM DAY FOR P1-P3



THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER PTA EVENT
(During school)

***JINGLE BELL ROCK* P4 - P7**
NON UNIFORM DAY FOR P4 - P7



Happy Holidays!

FRIDAY 22 SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12.00 NOON FOR ALL PUPILS (NO SCHOOL LUNCHES) NON UNIFORM DAY



FRIDAY 5 JANUARY SCHOOL RE-OPENS AT 8.45 a.m.



THURSDAY 11 JANUARY OPEN DAY 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
P1- P3 FINISH AT 12 NOON
P4- P7 FINISH AT 2.45 P.M.

PRIMARY 3

FROM TUESDAY 16 JANUARY P3 FINISH EACH TUESDAY & THURSDAY AT 2.45 p.m.

P1 ADMISSIONS

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS CLOSES ON FRIDAY 26 JANUARY

Principal's Message

I would like to thank the Governors, parents and carers for their support this term. The children have worked really hard. A special thanks to all members of staff who have continued to create a supportive, safe and happy learning environment. The recent school events showcase that the children are always at the centre of what we do each day in HPS. The Board of Governors and staff wish you all a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year. *Mrs Crookshanks*

HPS Open Day Thursday 11 January 2024



ALL P1- P3 PUPILS FINISH SCHOOL at 12 NOON on Thursday 11 January
P4 -P7 FINISH SCHOOL at 2.45 p.m.

1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

We look forward to welcoming prospective parents, carers and pupils to our Open Day. The afternoon will offer everyone the opportunity to have a look around, meet the staff and have a taste of what goes on in our great school.



There is also a lovely short film featuring many of our children giving an insight of what goes on in HPS! Do enjoy viewing it on the school website along with our most recent prospectus.

www.holywoodprimary.org.uk

We'd appreciate if you would also share these items in the wider community, telling prospective families about our school. Your recommendation is important too!

P1 ADMISSIONS 2024



Details of how to apply for P1 places in September 2024, has been published by the EA N.B. The P1 application process must



be completed online and submitted between Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 12.00 noon and closes at 12.00 noon on Friday 26 January 2024.

P7 Edinburgh 2024



We'd like to remind P7 parents and carers that monthly instalments for those children attending the P7 trip to Edinburgh should be paid via the Eduspot payment system. **THANK YOU!**



Boogie Woogie Nativity'

Proud families and friends of our P1, P2 and P3 children were treated to a fabulous Christmas Play 'Boogie Woogie Nativity'. The children sang, danced and acted with such enthusiasm, giving their appreciative audiences performances to remember for a very long time! We were delighted to also welcome some younger children in our audience from Oopsy Daisy, Merdyn and Glendhu Nursery School.

Carol Service

Thank you to the guests, Governors, friends and families of HPS who supported our children at the Carol Service. Everyone was treated to a very special evening which included P6 & P7 singers, readers, choir members and musicians retelling the Christmas Story. The music filled the church and helped create a lovely atmosphere and meaningful service. Well done everyone!



P4 & P5 Christmas Concert

We welcome parents and carers to our Christmas Concert later this week to see a varied programme of Christmas music, dance and choral speaking. Well done P4 & P5 pupils and staff for planning this festive afternoon.



MUSIC



It has been so lovely to hear the sound of Christmas music around the school in recent weeks. We were very proud of our P6 & P7 choir who were involved in a community Carolfest last week. The choir members will also bring Christmas cheer to the residents of Loughview and Newcroft Lodge care homes in Holywood and other venues in the local community.



HPS text, email & online payments

The email, text and online payment service is working well. To prevent missing information, it is important to notify the School Office of any changes in contact details. Many thanks.



CURRICULUM NEWS

The next curriculum information sheets will be emailed and uploaded onto the school website at the beginning of Term 2.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



As part of their topic on Christmas, you will find lots of busy P1 elves in Room 2, 3 and 17 Christmas workshops, counting, wrapping and sorting presents!



P2 are continuing to enjoy their Post office topic. They have written special letters to Santa and have assured him they have been very good!



P3 are enjoying their topic on Toys. They have been learning about the history of toys including how the teddy got its name!



P4 completed their project on Space by creating AMAZING junk models which were recently on display in the school foyer. They continue to enjoy their WW2 topic making helmets, ration books and identity cards.



The P5 Year Group have enjoyed presenting and sharing information they have researched about US states as part of their USA topic.



P6 welcomed some members of Belfast Giants this week. The player, Mark Garside, highlighted to the children about the benefits of having healthy lifestyles.



P7 are thoroughly enjoying their Victorian topic. They are currently focusing on Victorian Christmas traditions, making crackers and intricate decoupage gift boxes.



As we continue to promote the importance of creativity with our pupils, we have recently invested in an educational art portal called 'Art Time Let's Shine' for our P4-P7 pupils. In addition to the

art activities each class does linked to their topics, these online art sessions have been really popular with pupils and staff. Each child has produced some very creative pieces of art which look fabulous. Well done everyone.



TERM 2



We really appreciate the various items that parents provided at the beginning of Term 1 for their child to use in the classroom. We would ask that stationery items are replenished in readiness for Term 2. e.g. glue sticks, pencils, colouring pencils, whiteboard pens etc. It's always a great present idea!



Eco News



Our P6 and 7 ECO Committee representatives went to Kerr Park in Holywood to a Community Orchard Planting event organised by Ards and North Down Borough Council. They planted plum, pear and apple trees. It was a great opportunity to work with other local schools. Planting trees not only encourages greater biodiversity in our local green spaces but also creates a carbon basin to tackle global warming. We look forward to enjoying this community space when the trees grow.



RECYCLING During the coming weeks please gather up old TEXTILES e.g. CLOTHES, SHOES, CURTAINS, TIES, TOWELS etc. Place them in the Clobber Bank beside the school Dining Hall.



'TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF - PREVENT THE COUGH' CAMPAIGN



With the support of Ards and North Down Borough Council, our P5 classes have been involved in an initiative to raise awareness of how harmful emissions from idling vehicles outside schools are contributing to air pollution particularly at drop off and pickup times. The council has provided each class with resource packs which has helped to educate our children regarding car idling which happens when car engines are running but not moving, usually for more than 10-20 seconds!



HPS CARES FOR THE COMMUNITY



Over the last two years, HPS has established links with residents from Newcroft Lodge Care Home. This is part of an Intergenerational Project between Care Homes and communities. To continue this connection, a group of P7 pupils had a lovely morning visiting residents. Together they enjoyed making Christmas decorations.



Christmas Charity



The retiring collection from the P6 & P7 Carol Service along with the P1 - P3 Christmas Mornings will be donated to the RNLI. We have collected an amazing total of almost **£1000** so far and we will also add donations given at our P4 & P5 Christmas Concert. THANK YOU!



There is excitement about the posting and receiving of Christmas cards in school. Thanks to our P7 pupils who will be sorting and distributing thousands of cards to classes in the coming days. Thanks to everyone who has bought charity stamps in aid of the Cedar Foundation.





SPORTS SECTION



CYCLING Congratulations to 14 P6 & P7 pupils who recently completed the Cycling Proficiency Scheme. The theory and practical elements were completed with care. The children are very clear about the importance of wearing a helmet and using a road worthy bicycle at all times. WELL DONE everyone! Thanks also to Mrs Cornish and Mrs McBride who led the Club.



DAILY MILE SANTA RUN

What fun was had earlier this month when all pupils and staff, took part in a NI Daily Mile event as we continue to promote the importance of regular exercise. The festive outfits, big smiles and lots of laughter could be seen and heard as we walked, ran and jogged our way round the school grounds! WELL DONE everyone!

P5 – P7 HOUSE COMPETITION



The House competitions are underway. The children have been given the opportunity to design the school mascot which will be used in House Competitions and displayed in school this year. Points will be awarded for the best design and EVERYONE who enters will earn points to go towards the House competition!



Well done to a number of pupils who have been named Pupils of the Term. They have shown acts of kindness, commitment and are good role models to others. Their actions have been noted by various members of staff.

P2 *Beth Reaney*

P4 *Maisie Walker*

P6 *Susanna Adgey*

Ella Carty

P7 *Oscar Mulholland*

Taylor Hamilton

Emmy Jackson

Rudy Grainger

Josh Browne

Ethan McMillan

Enjoy reading on the school website the reasons why each of the children were chosen.



CONGRATULATIONS to P1 pupil Zara Gunning, who recently won 3rd prize for her Christmas tree artwork. Zara was one of a number of P1 pupils from Holywood PS who entered the Holywood competition. She received her prize at the town Christmas Switch On event.



HPS are working in partnership with Concern Bookshop in Holywood to promote the enjoyment of reading and raise concern for others and the environment. P1 and P2 pupils had a colouring competition. You can see some of the lovely pictures in the shop window on Church Road. Congratulations to our prize winners Evelyn Gordon (P1) and Xavier Fellows (P2).



PTA NEWS



Thanks to everyone for supporting our PTA. The funds raised will be used to buy new resources for the children.



£100 CASH
23 LUXURY HAMPERS
(each worth between £20 & £30!)
TICKETS: £1 EACH

If you and family members and friends wish to enter the great Christmas raffle please either complete the Raffle reply slips OR go online to Eduspot to pay by:- **FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER.**

CHRISTMAS FIRESIDE QUIZ



Please return your completed sheet with £1 attached by Friday 15 December.



THE OVERALL PRIZE WINNER RECEIVES A £20 VOUCHER FROM M & S!



Jingle Bell Rock The very popular Jingle Bell Rock has returned! This year EVERY CLASS will be attending! The children will jump, jingle & jive their way to Christmas! During school, each class will be dancing, playing games and much more in the school hall. This will take place on:-

Wednesday 20 December for all P1-P3

Thursday 21 December for all P4-P7.

Each pupil will receive a Christmas gift.

COST: £ 3.00. Please pay online via Eduspot.

Christmas jumpers or festive clothes can be worn on your child's Jingle Bell Rock day.



Each year, the P7 children have an end of term treat. On Monday they are travelling to the Strand cinema in Belfast to watch Wonka followed by pizza for lunch! THANK YOU to the PTA who have kindly subsidised the trip.



At recent School Council meetings, class representatives have been putting ideas together proposing activities for the year ahead. Look out for some of these plans next term!



School Uniform



We appreciate your support as we encourage the children to wear their uniform with pride. Please ensure that children present themselves neatly each day. In readiness for the new term, we ask all families to check that each uniform item is labelled. In particular labels named with a pen, as names tend to fade when going through the washing machine! A number of lost property items are difficult to return to pupils as they are unnamed. THANKS for your help.