



## Important dates at a glance....

### HALF TERM

**FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER  
SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR  
HALF TERM HOLIDAY  
AT  
1.10 P.M.**



**TUESDAY 7  
NOVEMBER  
SCHOOL RE-OPENS**



**WEDNESDAY 8 –  
MONDAY 13  
NOVEMBER  
BOOK FAIR**



**MONDAY 13- FRIDAY  
17 NOVEMBER  
HPS IN IT TOGETHER  
& ANTI-BULLYING  
WEEK**



**MONDAY 13  
NOVEMBER  
ODD SOCK DAY**



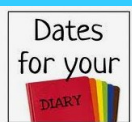
**TUESDAY 14  
NOVEMBER  
FINAL DATE FOR  
Christmas Cards  
ORDERS must be  
submitted by 3.00 P.M.**



**WED 15 - FRI 17  
NOVEMBER  
P6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP  
TO GANAWAY**



**FRIDAY 17  
NOVEMBER  
CHILDREN IN NEED**



**SOME IMPORTANT  
DECEMBER DATES  
FOR HPS CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATIONS  
ARE HIGHLIGHTED ON  
PAGE 3**

## Principal's Message

Thank you to everyone who has helped to ensure a smooth completion of the first part of Term 1. I hope everyone has an enjoyable week off school and has the opportunity to have some quality family time. I would encourage everyone (especially our Primary 7 pupils) to have a good rest in preparation for a busy Christmas term. *Mrs Crookshanks*

## Consultations

Many thanks to all parents and carers who have met with teachers to complete Consultations this term. We appreciate the opportunity to outline expectations with respect to schoolwork, homework, your child's progress to date and areas for development in the coming months. We trust that these meetings were productive for everyone.



All those associated with HPS continue to promote a caring and supportive learning environment for the children.

This is achieved effectively when there is good communication between members of staff, pupils, parents & carers. At the beginning of the school year, parents received the methods of communication for HPS. Thank you to everyone for following this process.

N.B. If parents or carers need to make HPS aware of information in an EMERGENCY during school hours, please contact the School Office on 02890424272. Your child's teacher will be teaching and unable to respond to emails or SeeSaw messages.

Emails or messages received via Seesaw from parents and carers will of course be acknowledged and responded to as soon as a member of staff is able to. This will generally be done within 48 hours and during working hours. Thank you for being respectful of the work life balance of HPS staff by not contacting staff over the weekend. Together strong home and school links will ensure any matters can be attended to in a timely manner. Thank you for your continued support.



Please help us promote the importance of wearing reflective clothing or having reflectors on school bags during the winter months.



Any donations in the coming days for the Poppy Appeal would be appreciated.



**THANKYOU** for all the generous donations for our Harvest Appeal this year.

We welcomed Mr and Mrs Armstrong from Operation Christmas Child. They explained to everyone about where all the donations would go. An amazing 96 Shoe boxes were assembled! Thanks also to local Hollywood business, 3EN Group, who donated three large bags of toys to add to our collection!

### WEDNESDAY 8 -



### MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER

The popular Book Fair will be returning to HPS next month. During the week of the Book Fair the children will get the opportunity to visit the book displays in the school foyer. Please feel free to call in from 1.45 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. each day to browse the large collection of books on sale. Commission from each book sale is used to replenish class novels and enhance the school and class Libraries.



HPS always likes to support events in the community. Over 70 pupils will be participating at the Music Festival. Both P5 classes are preparing well for their performance. Instrumental groups will also be taking part. Best wishes to everyone. Thanks to Miss Riddell and the music tutors for supporting the pupils.



We give our very best wishes to Mrs Hammond and Miss Dobbin as they begin their Maternity Leave. We look forward

to hearing about the safe arrival of their babies! We welcome Mrs Francis and Miss McDonald who will be teaching P7 and P4 when Mrs Hammond and Miss Dobbin are off. We also welcome Classroom Assistant Mrs Thompson who has joined our team this week!

### FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER



Each year everyone at HPS looks forward to supporting the BBC CHILDREN IN NEED appeal.

This will be a non - uniform day. More details to follow!



## ROAD SAFETY

As mentioned in our September Newsheet, we have been campaigning for the EA to reinstate a Crossing Patrol Person at Church Road as soon as possible. I am pleased to inform you that our plea is finally being acted upon! In recent days, the EA has completed Stage 1 of this process by completing traffic assessments on Church Road at peak times during the day. We expect to hear the EA outcome of these findings in the coming days. Until this process is finalized **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY EACH DAY AT OUR SCHOOL ENTRANCES.**



## GENERAL SCHOOL ABSENCE



We appreciate there are many reasons for children being off school due to illness. Please only send your child back to school when they have fully recovered, are ready to learn and not in a position to pass their illness on to pupils or staff. This is particularly important when your child has suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea. We follow PHA guidance. The policy is that children only return to school 48 hours after the last episode. If your child misses days at school, on their return, please send an email or message via Seesaw to their teacher outlining the reason for their absence. We need this information for DE records. **You are not required to contact the School Office regarding absences.** Thankyou!



## BUG BUSTER CHECK



You may recall our school approach to head lice. Despite head lice being common amongst children, many other organisations choose not to notify parents. As well as regularly checking your child's hair please treat and retreat within 7 days as directed. We are asking parents to use this approach as suggested by the school nurse. **THIS INVOLVES A MASS HEAD CHECK! PLEASE TAKE TIME OVER THE HALF TERM HOLIDAYS TO CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR.**

## FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME 2023



The School Nursing team completed the immunisation programme last week. It has since been confirmed that the nursing team will return on THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER to immunise pupils who were absent on Tuesday 17 October.



HPS OFFICE HOURS

8.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

## CURRICULUM NEWS

13- 17 November



## & NI Anti Bullying Week

This year our focus is 'In it together' to coincide with NI Anti-Bullying Week. We are really looking



forward to working together to show the strength and positivity of facing things together. Each day Year Groups will have a different focus and activities to complete. Together we will promote the NI Anti Bullying theme this year **'Make noise about bullying.'**

The first day of Anti-Bullying Week will be Odd Socks Day to

acknowledge that everyone is unique. We encourage children and staff to take part. All you have to do is wear odd socks on Monday 13 November, it could not be simpler!



We celebrated World Mental Health Day earlier this month. Primary 1-7 also participated in the NSPCC Kindness



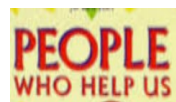
Challenge. Each class took time to create kindness paper chains with acts of kindness written or drawn on them. They had such fun assembling them too! It was a great display showing how kindness can really link us together at HPS!



Following extremely positive feedback received from pupils, staff and parents about the Paws B programme last year, the popular facilitator Patrick from New Ways NI, has returned to deliver interactive workshops with our P6 and P7 classes!



P1 boys and girls have thoroughly enjoyed the activities they have been completing on Percy the Park Keeper. They're also looking forward to planting their own bulbs!



The P2 topic, People Who Help Us is well underway. Sincere thanks to parents and friends of HPS who have taken time to make videos or visit classes to explain what their job entails and how they help others.



P3 children are enjoying their role play activities linked to their Fairy Tale topic. They have been planting Jack's Beanstalk, learning about woodland creatures as well as exploring their favourite Fairytales.



P4 continue to enjoy their Space topic, taking their learning indoors and outdoors! They have shown particular interest in the International Space Station and how to identify constellations in the night sky.



P5 have been finding out about artist Andy Warhol. They are also creating their own impressive Pop art pictures.



P6 have been very creative, making kites and writing their own kite poems relating to the class novel, Danny, Champion of the World. They have also been busy creating multimedia posters and constructing Excel spreadsheets in ICT.



Well done to our P7 pupils who have made AMAZING Iron Man models which are on display in the school foyer. They have been studying The Iron Man by Ted Hughes.



School Council members have been elected. All P4 – P7 children vote for class reps whom they feel will listen carefully and bring ideas and suggestions of others to share with School Council Leader Mrs Heawood. **Congratulations to...**

#### P4

Bethany Williamson Sam McConnell  
Eliza Brittain Rafferty Fellowes  
James Murray Brooke Lavery

#### P5

Tom Reaney Ella Minion  
Grace Hanna Joshua Gough

#### P6

Lydia Snoddy Joe Lockhart  
Megan Fusco Rory Maconachie

#### P7

Frazer MacDonald Emma Reaney  
Scarlett Finnerty Colby Majury  
Blake Houston Erin Stewart

They will be presented with their School Council badges in the coming days.



## Cross Country



**CONGRATULATIONS** to thirty five P5, P6 & P7 pupils who represented HPS in Round 1 of the NI Cross Country League. The pupils had great conditions for the first race at Londonderry Park, Newtownards. In a tough and competitive field they showed perseverance and teamwork to encourage one another across the finish line. Well done to all involved who represented the school so well. We look forward to more rounds in the months ahead!

DECEMBER 2023

You will be aware that December is a busy month at HPS! Below are some of the key dates for your diary. More details will follow next month about each event and others too. THANK YOU!

**TUESDAY 5 & WEDNESDAY 6**  
**P1- P3 CHRISTMAS MORNINGS**  
SCHOOL HALL 11.00 A.M.

**MONDAY 11**  
**P6 & P7 CAROL SERVICE**  
St. Philip & St. James' Parish Church 7.00 P.M.

**THURSDAY 14**  
**P4 & P5 CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
SCHOOL HALL 1.30 P.M.



## Eco News



Well done to our recently appointed Eco Committee members for this year. Pupils who were interested in the role in each class had an opportunity to share with their class why they felt they would be suitable for the post. Before voting, pupils were reminded to think who they felt would be best for the position and not just voting for their friends.

## Eco Committee 2023-24

**P4 Evie Glover Ellie Maxwell Jack Stewart**

**P5 Ellen Ewart Ella Glennie**

**P6 Jamie McClure Harrison Moreland**

**P7 Finn Dooley Miller Lu Harry Riddell**

The first meeting for the ECO Committee included appointing a Chair and Deputy Chairperson. Finn and Harry accepted these roles. The committee are also launching a competition for all P4-P7 classes to devise a ECO code for the year ahead.



Sincere thanks to all HPS families who supported our request by being part of our Autumn Sweep. We really appreciated the time given and enthusiasm show throughout the week.



## PTA News



## Christmas Cards



Your child's personally designed Christmas card will be sent home after half term. If you wish to purchase these exclusive cards please ensure orders are returned and payments made via Eduspot by **3.00 p.m. on Tuesday 14 November** to avoid disappointment.

