



**Important dates at a glance....**  
**HPS BUG BUSTER CHECK WEEKEND**  
**2 & 3 MARCH**

**WORLD BOOK DAY**  
**THURSDAY 7 MARCH**  
**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**Consultations**  
**MONDAY 11 - FRIDAY 15 MARCH**  
**P1-P6**  
**CONSULTATIONS**  
**ALL P1 -P7 PUPILS**  
**FINISH AT 1.10 P.M.**

**RED NOSE DAY**  
**FRIDAY 15 MARCH**  
**COMIC RELIEF**  
**Non-uniform Day**

**St. Patrick's Day**  
**MONDAY 18**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

  
**MONDAY 25 MARCH**  
**LAST DAY FOR**  
**PTA EASTER RAFFLES**

  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**27 MARCH**  
**SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR**  
**EASTER HOLIDAYS**  
**AT LUNCHTIME**  
**12 NOON**  
**NO MEALS AVAILABLE**  
**(Non-uniform Day)**

**April**  
**WEDNESDAY 10**  
**APRIL**  
**SCHOOL REOPENS**  
**FOR TERM 3**

**May**  
**BANK HOLIDAY-**  
**MONDAY 6 MAY**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

  
**BANK HOLIDAY-**  
**MONDAY 27 &**  
**TUESDAY 28 MAY**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

## Principal's Message

I hope you had an enjoyable family time during half term and the children are back refreshed for a busy part 2 of our Easter Term. Please spend time reading the number of exciting events and important dates which are coming up soon.  
*Mrs Crookshanks*

## RED NOSE DAY

### FRIDAY 15 MARCH



We have always enjoyed supporting this great Charity Event. This year Blue Peter are turning **RED** to celebrate **Red Nose Day** and they are asking schools to join with them in going 'red to toe.' This means everyone is going to try to wear **red from head to toe** (or wear as much red as we can with the exception of hair colouring) and bring £1 for Comic Relief ! There will also be enjoyable activities and comic relief quizzes as part of our school day. Thank you for your support.



## Consultations

**Monday 11 - Friday 15 March**  
**1.10 p.m. - 2.50 p.m.**

The online booking system for Consultations has worked well. **DURING CONSULTATION WEEK ALL PUPILS FINISH EACH DAY AT 1.10 P.M.** Please ensure all those who assist with after school collection arrangements are aware of finishing times. Thank you.



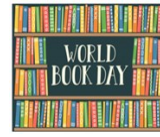
We like to showcase achievements of P1- P7 pupils both in and outside school. If your child has done something notable outside school, please tell us or email the school. We will post it on the 'Success' section on our website. Recent posts show photos and details about our Stars of the Week, Merit Badge Winners and those who have achieved out of school too! We are so proud of HPS pupils!



**Staff News** In the coming days we will be saying goodbye to Miss Lowans who is finishing at HPS after 23 years as Clerical Officer in the School Office. We thank her for her long, loyal service to the school and wish her all the very best for the future.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

**THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024**



To celebrate **World Book Day** on Thursday 7 March, we will be doing a variety of activities throughout the day

to promote the enjoyment of reading. Pupils and staff will be dressing up as their favourite character from a book or comic. As in previous years this is optional for P5 - P7. School uniform must be worn if not dressing up.



Working in partnership with **Concern Worldwide** Bookshop we are very excited about having a second hand

book sale on World Book Day. This not only supports a local charity but helps our eco-promise by reusing books. More information will follow.



**HPS BUG BUSTER CHECK WEEKEND**  
**2 & 3 MARCH**

Last term we gave details of an approach used by many schools. We are asking everyone to take time to check their child's hair for unwanted 'little visitors' and treat any cases as necessary. Despite head lice being common amongst children, many schools and organisations choose not to notify parents. HPS wants to reduce the incidence of headlice as much as possible. We appreciate that many parents regularly check their child's hair and treat it if necessary. Thank you in anticipation of your support!



to Mrs Brown's P5 class who were winners of the mid-year playground competition. The children have tried really hard to play well together, be kind and helpful as well as lining up quickly at the end of playtime. A special treat has been arranged for them.



HPS is an **ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL**. Some pupils at our school have significant food allergies. Please be careful about the food sent into school with your child each day, especially foods which may contain **traces of nuts**.



## CURRICULUM NEWS



HPS Number Day was a great success with all classes enjoying maths activities throughout the day. From solving puzzles to making board games. Indoor and outdoor learning during the day encompassed much of the maths curriculum taught in P1-P7.



P4-P7 have also been enthusiastically involved in the Times Tables Rock Star Challenge.

**Book Amnesty** Please check at home if you have any reading books or novels belonging to HPS. All returns will be greatly received by your child's teacher! THANK YOU!



**NURSERY RHYMES** P1 children have begun a new topic on Nursery Rhymes. They are having a lovely time learning traditional rhymes and being very creative when designing displays depicting various rhymes.



**P2** pupils have been extremely interested in their new topic on Houses & Homes. They are looking forward to being P2 architects and construction builders in their outdoor Building Site! If any parent / family friends are or know builders or an architect that would be willing to talk to the children about their job, please email Mrs Hunter on [jhunter200@c2kni.net](mailto:jhunter200@c2kni.net). Thank you!



**P3** are thoroughly enjoying their topic on World Explorers. They have also recently started to use the popular maths NUMBOTS resource!



**P4** pupils are enjoying an interesting topic on Coldlands. They are learning about the Arctic and Antarctic and how animals adapt to surviving there. They are also planning to use their ICT skills to create Pic Collages about polar regions.



The **P5** topic on Stone Age has already captivated the children's interest. They look forward to creating their own cave drawings and are also enjoying their class novel Stig of the Dump.



**P6** are just starting their topic on the Vikings. They look forward to finding out how Viking families lived, also replicating some of the attire they wore such as fearsome masks and bracelets.

**Breathe.**

P6 Room 12 have recently begun a 4-week mindfulness course called 'Breathe', a pilot project in association with RISENI.



Earlier this week **P7** classes joined other schools at a BeeSafe workshop arranged by Ards & North Down Council. As part of preparing our pupils for the transition to post primary, the interactive learning experience helped inform them about how to stay safe and make the right decisions. Topics include internet safety, bus safety, fire safety, home safety, mental health & wellbeing and anti-social behaviour.



## Eco News



Well done to the ECO Committee who at a recent meeting provided a fulsome report and ECO update to school Governor Mrs Robertson. Mrs Mc Keown is just about to submit a very comprehensive ECO Schools application on behalf of the school.



**WASTE FREE WEDNESDAYS** have begun! ECO Committee members have been giving out tokens to classes for their efforts. Please continue to support this campaign. By having **Waste Free Wednesdays** we all help minimise use of single plastics.



We welcomed actors from the Lyric Theatre who performed a play called *Waster Busters* for the P5 year group. The play used music and drama to raise awareness of littering and plastic pollution. It had a powerful message and tied in very well with our promotion of environmental issues as an Eco School.



## PROJECT ELLA



One of our ECO areas of focus this year is Marine Life. Both P6 classes have had an amazing opportunity to be involved in a conservation project. HPS successfully applied to be part of 'Project Ella' a scheme supported by the Ards & North Down Council. Environmental Officers have met with each class to deliver very informative, interactive workshops. The children learnt about biological life cycles and why conservation of many species is so important. As part of the Project Ella small fridges and a quantity of young sea trout are safely kept in each classroom. This is monitored by the experienced Environmental Officers throughout the project.



When the fish develop to a certain size, our pupils will help to release them into a suitable local stream or river. The children are loving the opportunity to be part of the project and feel they are contributing positively to the environment.

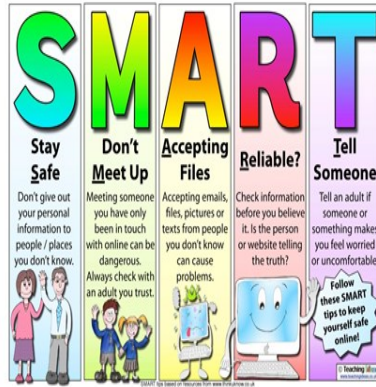
We are asking for some **PARENT VOLUNTEERS** to help with gardening in the school grounds later this term. Mrs Mc Keown will email parents with more details. **THANK YOU** in anticipation of your support.



**BEST WISHES** to a number of pupils who are completing Associated Board Music exams in the coming weeks. Thanks also to the music tutors and Miss Riddell for helping prepare the children so well.

**SAFE USE OF THE INTERNET**

The use of parental controls on devices can help to filter material accessed by your child ensuring it is age appropriate. By regularly talking to your child, having an awareness of what they are viewing or listening to, as well as knowing who they are communicating with, can help protect them from many risks.



**P5 – P7 HOUSE COMPETITION**  
 During February another of our P5-P7 House Competitions was completed. The Sports Quiz was eagerly contested by each class and was great fun. It was a very close outcome. The overall winning House was **BLUE (BALLYMENOCH) HOUSE** who accumulated 100 points, just ahead of **GREEN ( GLENLYON )** who had 95 points! Congratulations and WELL DONE everyone for taking part.

**CONGRATULATIONS...** to our recently appointed House Captains. They have been given these important roles because of their leadership qualities, organizational skills, how they interact with pupils and staff, and also have respect from their peers.

**HOUSE CAPTAINS**

<b>BALLYMENOCH (BLUE)</b>	<b>EMMA REANEY</b> <b>JAMES REYNOLDS</b>
<b>GLENLYON (GREEN)</b>	<b>PETER BOYD</b> <b>FINN DOOLEY</b>
<b>REDBURN (RED)</b>	<b>NATAHSA AGNEW</b> <b>JOSH BROWNE</b>
<b>SEAPARK (YELLOW)</b>	<b>SKYE EGGLETON</b> <b>CALVIN HUGHES</b>

**SPORTS CAPTAINS**

Congratulations to our Sports Captains who show sporting ability and commitment to sport as well as supporting younger pupils in school.

<b>BALLYMENOCH (BLUE)</b>	<b>HOLLIE EDGINGTON</b> <b>RUDY GRAINGER</b>
<b>GLENLYON (GREEN)</b>	<b>LEAH BRADSHAW</b> <b>LUKE WALLACE</b>
<b>REDBURN (RED)</b>	<b>JAMES CROWE</b> <b>HARRY RIDDELL</b>
<b>SEAPARK (YELLOW)</b>	<b>LUCY MINION</b> <b>JONAH McCONVILLE</b>

**TEAM CAPTAINS**

A number of pupils have also been given the responsibility of captaining a team when representing the school in interschool sporting events during the year. Well done everyone!

<b>ATHLETICS</b>	<b>JOSHUA FARRELL</b>
<b>FOOTBALL</b>	<b>TATE LESTER</b>
<b>HOCKEY</b>	<b>SELENA CRAWFORD</b>
<b>NETBALL</b>	<b>ERIN STEWART</b>
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>FRASER MACDONALD</b> <b>LACHLAN ARMSTRONG</b>



Every year parents kindly donate Easter gifts that are placed in each of the baskets. (e.g. chocolate, Easter eggs or novelty Easter items.) Thankyou to our P1 & P7 parents who are donating gifts this year. Please either send items into your child's teacher or drop them off at the School Office before **Thursday 7 March** as the baskets are made up just after this and will be on display in the school foyer the following week.

**CLOSEST FLAG WINS** Easter items are made up into fabulous Easter Baskets which can be won for P1 - P3 and for P4-P7. The children simply bring in 50p. They pick a flag and stick it on an Easter picture board. The closest flag to the secret mark on the board wins the basket! There will also be a raffle for an Adult Easter Basket. Each entry costs £1. **\*\* Tickets will be sold from Monday 11 March\*\*** More details to follow.

**PTA P6 & P7 DISCO** The disco was a huge success just before Half term! Thanks to DJ Alan who played a great selection of popular music. The super dancing (from children and parents!) helped to make it a wonderful evening of fun with friends! Thanks also to many P6 & P7 parents who helped during the evening. They had a great time too!

**SPORTS SECTION**

It's been a very busy start to Term 2. We place huge importance on PE, outdoor and indoor physical activity in HPS on a daily basis for all Year Groups. In addition to this in the last 6 weeks, over 60 P5 - P7 children and 40 P4 pupils have had the opportunity to represent the school at interschool sporting events. Thanks to the HPS staff for organising these opportunities. We also appreciate parent volunteers for recently helping with transport and supervision at cross country, football, swimming and rugby events.

**Rugby** Harry Sheridan current Ulster Rugby Player and former Holywood Primary School pupil, kindly came along to lead a coaching session with our rugby squad. The children loved getting some expert tips, learning new drills and were able to ask Harry about what is like as a professional rugby player.