



Important dates at a glance....



THURSDAY 30
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS FINISH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



FRIDAY 1
DAILY MILE SANTA RUN
PLEASE WEAR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS OR FESTIVE CLOTHES



TUES 5 & WED 6
P1- P3 CHRISTMAS MORNINGS
SCHOOL HALL 11.00 A.M

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



WEDNESDAY 13
HPS CHRISTMAS CARD POST



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



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



WEDNESDAY 20
PTA EVENT
(During school)
JINGLE BELL ROCK
P1-P3



THURSDAY 21
PTA EVENT
(During school)
JINGLE BELL ROCK
P4-P7



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



BACK TO SCHOOL
FRIDAY 5 JANUARY
SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that December is nearly here! The Countdown to Christmas has begun. Rehearsals for the P1 - P3 Christmas Mornings, P4 & P5 Christmas Concert, the P6 & P7 Carol Service and other events our children are participating in are well under way. I look forward to seeing many families and friends at our forthcoming events.

Mrs Crookshanks

HPS Open Day
Thursday 11 January 2024



1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

We look forward to welcoming prospective parents 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 school.

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

P1 ADMISSIONS 2024



Details of how to apply for P1 places in September 2024, will be published by the EA on 12 December. 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. We'd really appreciate if HPS families would also tell prospective families about our school. Your recommendation is equally important!



Hollywood Music Festival

Congratulations to both P5 classes and ensemble members. Almost 80 children took part in Hollywood Music Festival this week. The children played so well! The adjudicator, Mr Rea, complimented everyone involved and commended the school, in particular Miss Riddell, for the exceptional music opportunities and obvious inclusive approach provided for all children at HPS! What wonderful feedback! **WELL DONE EVERYONE!**



Choir Events As well as getting ready for HPS Christmas activities and visits to local care homes, we are delighted that our P6 & P7 choir are also preparing for a Carolfest next month organised by the charity St. Anne Trust.

STAFF NEWS Huge congratulations to Mrs Hammond on the safe arrival of her daughter Melissa. Also wonderful news that Miss Dobbin's son Luca was born this week.

Christmas Mornings

P1, P2 & P3 children invite you to their Christmas Mornings.



'Boogie Woogie Nativity'
on **Tuesday 5 & Wednesday 6**
at **11.00 a.m. in the School Hall.**
(Gates open at 10.15 a.m.)

P3 parents are kindly organizing refreshments to be served before each performance.

Carol Service

All P6 & P7 children would like parents and friends of HPS to join them for their Carol Service on:-

Monday 11 December
at **7.00 p.m.**

in St. Philip & St. James' Parish Church.



P4 & P5 Christmas Concert

We look forward to welcoming parents at our Christmas Concert in the School Hall on:-

Thursday 14 December
at **1.30 p.m.**

(Gates open at 1.10 p.m.)

You will recall from recent Newsheets about our pleas over the last six months to the EA to replace the Crossing Patrol person at Church Road. I am DELIGHTED to let you know that the EA have now acted on our campaign. They have completed all the necessary traffic reviews and approval has been given to reinstate a Crossing Patrol person.



All the necessary paperwork and training has been completed allowing Mr Robert Bussell to begin his new role with us next week. Some of you may already know Mr Bussell. He is a grandfather of children who attend HPS and he also attended the school as a child! I have no doubt you will all make him feel very welcome!

We are asking again that members of the HPS community are respectful of local residents when parking near the school at drop off and collection times. Please do not park across driveways and garages. THANKYOU!



Charity

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Charity Appeals this term.

Christmas Charity



Our chosen Christmas Charity this year is the RNLI. Collections will be made at each of our Christmas events in December. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Christmas Cards 2023

Each year we operate a Christmas Post Box Delivery Service. Children and members of staff buy charity stamps and post Christmas cards in the school post box in the Piccadilly area. There is much excitement when our P7 pupils deliver the cards to classes. Stamps can be bought from teachers from Monday 4 December until Tuesday 12 December. **It's £1 for 36 stamps or 50p for 18 stamps.**

The children bring their cards into school on a SET DAY. We have chosen **WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER**. They will post their cards into the school Christmas postbox. The cards will then be distributed to classes the following week.

PLEASE make sure each Christmas card envelope has the name, class and room number of the child receiving the card to ensure correct delivery and to avoid disappointment! **THANK YOU!**

CHILDREN IN NEED



Thankyou for your donations. The total collected was over **£400**.



Thanks also to the HPS community for contributing to the **POPPY APPEAL** earlier this month.



Huge thanks to the families who supported the Book Fair this year. There was such a lovely atmosphere around the school during the week of the Fair particularly when members of the HPS community joined us in the afternoons. The success of the Fair has earned over **£1000** commission which will be used to spend on literacy resources in each Key Stage.



Pupil Christmas Cards

The Christmas Cards created by the children were very popular. All families will receive their cards, tags and paper in the coming days.

CONGRATULATIONS to P6 pupils Emily Noble and Jake Marshall. Their Christmas cards were chosen as covers for Holywood Primary School's Christmas cards which will be sent to other schools and local dignitaries.

Parent Volunteers

THANK YOU to all parents and grandparents who continue to support various activities in school. e.g. Reading Partnership, accompanying classes on school trips, helping at the Book Fair and PTA events. It is greatly appreciated.

CURRICULUM NEWS



P1 children are enjoying activities they are doing as part of their Christmas topic. Lots of decorations will be on show soon!



P2 have been enjoying their Post Office topic. They have walked into Hollywood to post their special invitations to a family member or friend inviting them to come to their Christmas Mornings.



P3 had a great day at a Rugby Blitz with St. Patrick's PS and Glenraig IPS organised by Holywood Rugby Club .



P4 are underway with their WW2 topic, learning about life on the Home Front. They have also been learning about Air raid shelters and the purpose of having Blackouts.



P5 are looking forward to welcoming members of the NI Fire Service. The workshops will highlight the importance of keeping themselves and families safe from fires in the home.



P6 pupils have been very creative in recent weeks including making clay lamps similar to those made for the festival of Diwali. Look out for their detailed body boxes too!



P7 are beginning a new topic on Victorians. During December, they will be discovering the many traditions from Victorian Christmases long ago, some of which people still practice today.



We continue to prioritise the health and well being of our children and staff.

PATHS

All Year Groups continue to embed the educational programme called PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) . The variety of lessons and resources used are designed to promote and empower children to develop social and emotional awareness and interpersonal problem-solving skills.



P6 pupils have enjoyed the recent visits from a team who led workshops linked to the Shared Voices Programme. They had engaging discussions to address prejudice, finding common ground and acceptance of difference.

Our **HPS IN IT TOGETHER** week was a great success for everyone. Each class really enjoyed spending time building and learning together with pupils from a different class.

Having time together to do activities with their own Year Group brought lots of laughter and chatter too!



PRIMARY 3 FINISHING TIMES TERM 2
FROM TUESDAY 16 JANUARY
P3 FINISH EACH TUESDAY & THURSDAY
AT 2.45 p.m.



P6 Residential Trip

Sixty-three P6 children enjoyed an action-packed time at Ganaway Activity Centre. Activities included ziplining, caving, archery, rock climbing, high ropes, an assault course and much much more! Everyone (including the staff!) willingly tried new things and pushed themselves to the limit. It was a memorable time for everyone. Thanks to Mr Field, Mrs Hart, Mrs Riddall, Mrs Gibson and Mrs Cornish for looking after the children so well and to Mr Field for organising the school trip. Enjoy looking on the school website at the Ganaway Blog and also a fabulous video of their great time away.



PTA NEWS



£100 CASH
16 LUXURY HAMPERS
 (each worth around £20 or more!)
TICKETS: £1 EACH



Eco News



The ECO Committee have been visiting classes to promote the focus areas for this year. They have introduced the children to our ECO CODE. The ECO Committee have chosen P7 pupil Betty Buchanan's mascot **Tony the sea turtle**. Tony also has a poem created by P4 R14 which will really help the children remember the ECO Code and key focus topics for this year. Thanks everyone!



SPORTS SECTION



Our P3 & P4 Year Groups have really enjoyed sessions provided by Hollywood Rugby Club outreach programme.



SWIMMING Our P5 Year Group have completed their swimming programme at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre. The feedback from the children, parents and staff was really positive. Well done to everyone! Thanks to our parent helpers who accompanied the classes too. All P7 pupils will participate in the swimming programme in Term 2.

DAILY MILE SANTA RUN



Don't forget on Friday 1 December, we will be taking part in a NI Daily Mile event. All pupils are encouraged to come to school wearing Christmas jumpers or festive clothes as we walk, run or jog our way round the school grounds!



HPS WORLD CUP 2023



Well done to all P1-P7 classes for getting involved with lots of activities linked to the recent rugby World Cup. Thanks to Mr Atcheson who prepared these for everyone to enjoy. The Scavenger Hunt proved very popular! The children worked in pairs or small groups to find the emblems of 20 countries. P5-P7 pupils all earned valuable House points too.



P6 R12 were the overall winners as they were allocated South Africa (SA) to follow in the school competition. SA were the eventual World Cup winners. The children are looking forward to a special treat and some extra playtime!



Thanks to the generosity of the HPS community we have organised a Christmas Raffle!

If you and family members and friends wish to enter the great Christmas raffle please either complete the Raffle reply slips which will be sent home in the coming days OR go online to Eduspot to pay by **FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER**.

N.B. The total number of raffle tickets you wish to purchase can be adjusted in your account. i.e.

It is preset at £5.00 for 5 tickets. If you want to buy more or less tickets simply adjust the total you want to pay. The

Eduspot system registers the number of tickets you have paid for. The PTA will include each ticket bought online in the raffle draw! **The draw will take place on FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER!**

Bearing in mind the economic climate, the PTA have planned a few affordable end of term treats for the children to enjoy as well as raising much needed funds for the school.



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.

CHRISTMAS FIRESIDE QUIZ

A copy of our family Fireside Quiz will be sent home. Please return your completed sheet with £1 attached by **Friday 15 December**. Feel free to make copies for other family members! The PTA will contact the family with the winning entry.

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