



Important dates at a glance....



**MONDAY 6 MAY
BANK HOLIDAY
SCHOOL CLOSED**

FRIDAY 10 MAY



**P7 PTA YEAR BOOK
PHOTOGRAPHS**

SATURDAY 18 MAY



**NOTIFICATION OF
POST PRIMARY
SCHOOL PLACES FOR
P7 PUPILS**

**MONDAY 20 -
FRIDAY 24 MAY**



**WALK TO SCHOOL
WEEK**

**WEDNESDAY 22 &
THURSDAY 23 MAY
7.00 P.M.**

P7 PRESENT...



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

THURSDAY 6 JUNE



**PLEASE SEND IN ITEMS
FOR PTA FAIR**

**MORE DETAILS TO
FOLLOW**



**THURSDAY 13
6.00 P.M.—8.30 P.M.**

THURSDAY 20 JUNE



**P1 2024- 2025
INDUCTION
AFTERNOON**

Principal's Message

Term 3 is well underway! We really hope the children and staff enjoy the remainder of the school year and in particular that our P7 pupils enjoy a very special final term at HPS. As you will see from our Newsheet and via Seesaw and Google Classroom there is lots going on in HPS! Thank you to the staff who continue to arrange such a wide range of enjoyable curriculum activities both inside and outside the classroom and to parents and carers who are accompanying educational visits and sporting events. *Mrs Crookshanks*



P7 Leavers' Assembly Tuesday 25 June

Tuesday 25 June is the last day for our P7 pupils at HPS. The children will come into school in their uniforms as normal for the final time! We are really pleased to invite the parents of our P7 pupils to join us from 10.30 a.m. that morning. Each child will receive their Record of Achievement. After this presentation, P7 pupils and parents are welcome to stay for refreshments to allow the children time to say a final goodbye as the 'Class of 2024'. The day will finish at approximately 12.00 noon. More details to follow.



MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Enjoy the May Bank holiday especially at the May Day celebrations in Hollywood where some P6 & P7 pupils will be representing the school in the traditional May Pole dancing. Best wishes to P7 pupils Erin, Teigan & Rama. Also P6 pupils Ava, Grace, Lydia and Saoirse.



STAFF NEWS

We were delighted to hear about the safe arrival of Mrs Wilson's baby, Freddie. Congratulations to the Wilson family!



We are hopeful that the weather will be more pleasant during May and June. As we continue to promote outdoor learning, please ensure that your child has sunscreen applied to protect them from the sun.



**IF YOU CAN,
PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL
WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK ON 20-24 MAY.**

NI EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS

You will be well aware from the NI media of the continuing significant reduction in Government funding across the education sector. This is impacting all schools and education services hugely. The Board of Governors and School Leadership Team of HPS continue to work tirelessly to minimise the impact on our school as a result of the reduced Government funding.



to those parents and carers who have already made contributions to our **School Fund** via the Eduspot system. With the ever increasing demands on the school budget our School Fund has become vital in supplementing the finances.



HPS MUSIC

Best wishes to 16 pupils who are currently preparing for music exams later this term.

Well done also to a number of our P5-P7 pupils who recently passed their music exams.



Grade 1 flute:

Olivia Evans

Grade 1 clarinet:

Rory Maconachie

Jamie McClure

Grade 1 saxophone

Susanna Adgey

Grade 1 trumpet:

Charlie Andrews Finn Dooley

Tom Reaney

Grade 2 flute:

Nico Suto-Murphy

Grade 3 violin:

Miller Lu





Our P7 Year Group are busy preparing for their show, Snow White & the Dream Team. There will be two evening performances,


on Wednesday 22 May & Thursday 23 May at 7.00 p.m. and will last approximately one hour. The HPS community are welcome to join us. Tickets go on sale in early May for a small charge. The P1-P6 children will get the opportunity to watch the show in school. Best wishes to everyone involved!





CURRICULUM NEWS


 **P1** children are really enthusiastic about their new topic The Farm. They had a wonderful day at Streamvale Farm. They had also prepared some excellent questions to ask the staff at the farm too!


 **P2** are enjoying their Gardening & Growing topic. They recently had a lovely Spring Walk around the grounds of HPS looking, listening and smelling the signs of Spring. (Sadly they couldn't spot any lambs so improvised by dressing up as lambs instead!) They also had a wonderful day at Mount Stewart earlier this month. One of the highlights was playing with toys from Victorian times


 **P3** have thoroughly enjoyed their topic on World Explorers. Planning, designing, constructing and testing paper planes was more challenging than first thought, but was a big success! They concluded this topic by presenting excellent talks about their favourite holidays. Well done P3!

 **P4** pupils had a fantastic day at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre at the Oxford Island Nature Reserve. They enjoyed pond dipping, bird watching and a minibeast hunt in the woods.



 Both **P5** classes have been learning about Life in Early Times during the Stoneage period. They are very excited about studying the Egyptians topic this term.

 Beware of some **P6** lookalike Vikings along the top corridor of HPS in the coming weeks! They are looking forward to re-enacting a day in the life of a Viking!

 The **P7** Year Group participated with interest and enthusiasm at a recent Health Education awareness workshop 'Say no to drugs'. The children used puppets to act out short dramas highlighting the dangers of drugs and how to say no to drugs.

 HPS staff continue to ensure that your children feel safe and cared for at all times and know who they can talk to in school if they have any worries or concerns.

Bear Programme

 We welcome EA Officer Julie-Anne Bell. She will be delivering a series of sessions with our P3 Year Group called the **Bear Programme**. The engaging activities will build on work done by the HPS team encouraging children to express their feelings and emotions. During the interactive sessions, they will also focus on self care and ways in which children can manage worries they may have. The importance of recognising our strengths and that of others and how to show kindness and gratitude will be highlighted too. 

NSPCC
Learning

We also use excellent resources produced by the NSPCC. Later this term, Mrs Gibson, our Vice Principal and a member of the HPS safeguarding team, will lead an assembly for our Key Stage 1 pupils to emphasise about the importance of how they can keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries.



EDUCATIONAL VISIT



SCOTLAND



P7 Trip to Edinburgh

A large group of **P7** children and staff had a wonderful 4 day educational trip to Edinburgh. Visits to Edinburgh Castle, Dynamic Earth, SeaWorld were just some of the places visited during the trip. They even managed to go to Glasgow Science Museum and Blair Drummond Safari & Adventure Park. The trip was extremely successful. The children and staff returned home safely with many happy memories of the wide range of activities and experiences. There was something for everyone! It was also very encouraging to hear compliments about our children from hotel staff and members of the public at the various venues. **WELL DONE P7!**




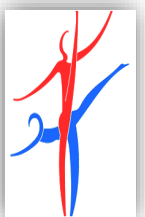
Eco News



New gardening equipment for HPS

 Ards and North Down Council parks department kindly gave HPS some new tools and gardening equipment as part of their Growing Club scheme. **P4**, Room 14 enjoyed meeting Ryan an expert gardener from the Council. He came with the new equipment and helped them prepare the polytunnel for growing some fruit and vegetables this Spring. We look forward to working more with Ryan in the coming months.

 **P5** pupil, Eva Duffy, represented HPS at a UK British School Gymnastic Association (BSGA) National Final. Having qualified 1st in the regional U11 Tumbling competition final earlier this year, she recently travelled to England to compete against 20 other children from across the UK. We were delighted to hear that Eva finished 3rd overall and received a bronze medal. Eva has also been selected for the performance pathway programme for the NI gymnastics squad. Congratulations Eva!





SPORTS SECTION



Sports Weeks

We are really excited about what we have planned for the children this term! Following the huge success of our Sports Weeks in recent years we have planned to use a similar format. Feedback from the children, was resoundingly in favour of an all-inclusive Sports Week. The dates are outlined below.



YEAR GROUP	DATE
P1 & P2	MAY 7 - 10
P5	MAY 13 - 17
P6	MAY 20 - 24
P3 & P4	JUNE 3 - 7
P7	JUNE 10 - 14

In addition to the daily timetable of class work, during this designated Sports Weeks, Mr Atcheson (PE Curriculum Leader) and the staff have worked really hard to devise lots of activities that will take place outdoors at HPS and in the PE Hall. Team and some individual events, races, agility challenges, etc. reflecting elements of our PE curriculum, are included for every child to be involved in throughout the week. It is a great opportunity for pupils to showcase teamwork, respect, fair play and will allow all pupils to celebrate their achievements in sport.



Parents, carers, family members and friends are invited along to watch some of the events. In the coming days, your child's teacher will provide you with more details about the date and



time arranged for you to join us.



P5 – P7 HOUSE COMPETITIONS

All P5-P7 classes have taken part in another event to earn points for their House and the accolade of designing their own House Crest to be displayed in school. Pupils worked independently to create a crest they felt best represented their House incorporating House colours and some values they believe their House should uphold. (e.g. kindness, sportsmanship, loyalty, teamwork). Winners will be announced soon!



The House Championships will get underway in the coming weeks. There will be lots of points to be earned by all pupils. Each P5-P7 class will be competing in House hockey, football and netball matches.



HOLYWOOD CRICKET CLUB Thanks to coaches from Hollywood Cricket Club who are leading cricket sessions for our P4 –P7 classes this term.



Rugby Our rugby squad participated in a regional tournament at Malone RFC.

They braved the elements dealing with all the seasons in one day! Despite this they played some super rugby showcasing their attacking game, scoring some fantastic tries throughout. Many thanks to Ulster Rugby for organising the event and to all the parent helpers.



PTA NEWS



PTA updates are posted regularly on the PTA FB page. Please search and like Holywood Primary School PTA.



We're delighted to announce that the HPS Summer Fair & BBQ is returning! Thanks to the parents and carers who have already offered to help with the planning of this special event which is on:-

Thursday 13 June
6.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

It's an evening of what PTA events are all about - fun, friendship and fundraising!



Check emails in the coming weeks asking the HPS community for contributions and help.

Please start gathering up from home new bottled items, cuddly toys and gifts for tombola stalls. We are also having a pre-loved (good condition) toy stall. We have set **Thursday 6 June** as the day for all these items to be brought into school.



out for the PTA Raffle tickets which will be sent home later this term.

Could you personally, or do you have any contacts that would be willing to, donate a prize for the Summer Raffle? If so please contact **Ruth Brownlow** on ruthjds@hotmail.com or **Kathy Murray** on kathymurray138@hotmail.com

P7 YEAR BOOK We are grateful that some of our P7 parents have kindly offered to help put together a P7 Yearbook for the children. We have been producing a P7 Year Book for the last 18 years.



Photographs to be included in the Year Book will be taken on **Friday 10 May**.

The information each child contributes, is put together in a lovely keepsake. The children will receive their Year Book on their last day at HPS. Thanks to the PTA for funding this special memento.

