

Halyrude RC Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start this newsletter by saying a very big thank you to all our volunteers who have helped us since we came back to school in August. We have very much appreciated parents giving up their time to walk to events in the community, organise and volunteer at the Christmas fair and support us in school. Without your help we would not be able to participate in the variety of events which help to enhance the learning experiences we offer our children. Thank you on behalf of all children and staff.

Christmas Concert

I'm sure you will agree the concert was a lovely way to help us remember the true meaning of Christmas. The children and staff have worked very hard over many weeks, learning songs and lines and perfecting their performance. I hope that everyone enjoyed the performance, well done to all our children on a fantastic performance and thank you to all staff and parents who have supported us. We appreciate the effort which has gone into organising costumes and also the time given by our parent volunteers during each performance.

Christmas Fair

We are delighted to let you know that the fantastic sum of £708.82 was raised at our fair. This is an increase on last year when we raised £520 and £200 the year before. A special thank you to the great team who were involved in the planning of the event; as well as those who contributed home baking, raffle prizes or volunteered during the fair. We will shortly be meeting with a group of parents to plan the fair for next year.

Dalguise

For those children who are going to Dalguise in 2017 the next instalment is due by 31 January. At that time each child should have paid £140 into their ParentPay account.

Please let us know if you require any assistance with this by calling and speaking to Mrs Brunton in confidence. Thank you.

Tweeddale Support Centre

A message from Mrs Warnock:

Many thanks to all who supported the Meldon class during the Halyrude Fair. They raised the fantastic sum of £56 and very much enjoyed contributing to this festive event.

Charity Collections

Thank you to all our families who supported our recent charity collections. We raised £37 for the poppy appeal and £150 from the P6/7 home baking stall. Thank you also to all our bakers!

Tweed Green

Please see below for a message from Tweedgreen:

Local sustainability group Tweedgreen have been fortunate to receive National Lottery Awards for All funding to set up a Community Food Hub based at the old Courthouse in Peebles High Street. At the moment this is a pilot project for four months, pending receipt of possible further funding and also dependent on the success of the project. Our aim is to strengthen the community socially and environmentally.

The Food Hub offers for sale basic wholefood ingredients such as porridge, lentils, pasta, etc. at affordable prices (10% mark up on trade cost) and in bulk. We are also compiling a database of recipes to inspire people to start cooking using such basic affordable ingredients. We plan to offer basic 'grocery packs' with the week's staples plus recipes for around £20, suitable for an average family.

Social Media

Again we would like to remind our children that the use of social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook is limited to children age thirteen and over. We are aware that some of our children use this form of digital media and this has impacted on learning in school as misunderstandings and disagreements are often brought into school. We will continue to promote the safe use of the internet in school and would ask our families to do the same at home. The age restrictions for the following online platforms/games are listed below:

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat – 13 years
WhatsApp – 16 years
YouTube, Kik – 18 years
Minecraft – 12 years
Call of Duty, Battlefield, Grand Theft Auto – 18 years

Sewing Machine

A very special thank you to Mrs Lafferty who has kindly donated a sewing machine to the school. This will allow us to make and alter costumes for our concerts as well as other craft projects. Thank you also to Mrs MacNeish who has given up her own time to sew costumes at home.

Sacraments

The sacrament of Confirmation will take place in Peebles on 7 May at 12 noon. The sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Tuesday 25 April at 2pm in St Joseph's; First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 28 May, again in St Joseph's at 9.30am. There will be a parent meeting to discuss these sacraments, which is provisionally 23 January 2017 at 7pm.

Resilient Schools

In the event of severe weather, the school may operate under resilient schools procedures. In the event of this happening, parents will be informed by Groupcall therefore it is essential we have up to date contact details for parents and emergency contacts.

For children travelling by bus, the bus company may make the decision to leave school early in the event of severe weather. If this is the case, we would not allow children to travel on the bus until we had confirmed that an adult would be at home to meet them.

Please note; there will only be sufficient teacher cover for children who are able to walk to school. If your child normally travels by bus or taxi they must stay at home. The reason for this is that if parents choose to drive their children to school and the weather worsens, it cannot be guaranteed that they can be collected again. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Thank you

Thank you to Mr Alistair MacDonald for his kind donation to the school. We would like to use this towards new books in our library so that all children can benefit from this generous gift.

End of Term Service

On Thursday 22 December the children in P3-7 will join their peers from Kingsland and Priorsford in the Parish Church for an end of term service. On this occasion we have plenty of in-school staff to walk with the children so we do not require parent volunteers to walk with us. Please see separate letter for arrangements for the church service.

Christmas Parties

Our Christmas parties will take place on Wednesday 21 December in the afternoon. Children can either bring their party clothes with them and change after lunch or go home for lunch. Please remember to cancel lunches which have been booked if your child is going home for lunch.

Happy Christmas

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all children, families and staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas and thank you all for your support this year.

Finally, I would like to share a message sent to me by a member of staff who has given me permission to share it with our school community. We are delighted with this feedback.

'I would like to see myself in this position at Halyrude Primary hopefully until the day I retire! Since joining Halyrude I am impressed with the ethos, friendliness of staff and the happy faces of all the children here. It makes work a pleasant place to belong to. Halyrude has a big family feeling and everyone displays this in their day at school. I would hope to be part of this "family" for many years.'

Yours sincerely

Leigh Brunton
Depute Headteacher

Swimming Lessons: 10.30am at Peebles pool	
Class	Dates
P2/3	21 st April, 5 th & 12 th May
P1/2	19 th , 26 th May, 2 nd June
P1/2 & P2/3	Fun swimming session 9 th June

Mass Timetable	
St Joseph's 10am	School 2.30pm
10 January	7 February
1 March – Ash Wednesday	2 May
20 March – Feast of St Joseph	20 June – Leaver's Mass

Dates for diary	
Tues 20 Dec	Christmas lunch
Wed 21 Dec	Christmas parties pm
Thurs 22 Dec	Joint Schools Christmas Service, Old Parish Church Holidays begin 3.20pm
Mon 9 Jan 2017	School opens 8.45am

Mon 23 Jan 2017	Provisional date for Sacrament meeting in the church
Wed 25 Jan	Burns lunch
Sun 5 Feb	Rite of Illumination Cross – mass in church for children enrolled in Sacramental preparation. (Reconciliation)
Fri 10 Feb	School closed to pupils: Staff in-service day
Mon 13 – Wed 15 Feb	School closed: holiday Re-opens Thursday 16 February
Sun 5 March	Rite of Enrolment – mass in church for children enrolled in Sacramental preparation. (Confirmation and Communion)
Sun 19 March	Presentation of the Gospels – mass in church for children enrolled in Sacramental preparation. (Confirmation and Communion)
Fri 31 March	School closes for Easter holidays 12.15pm and re-opens Tuesday 18 April 2017
Sun 2 April	Presentation of the Creed – mass in church for children enrolled in Sacramental preparation. (Confirmation and Communion)
Sun 23 April	Presentation of the Gospels – mass in church for children enrolled in Sacramental preparation. (Confirmation and Communion)
Tues 25 April	2pm Confirmation
Fri 28 April	School closed to pupils: Staff in-service day
Mon 1 May	School closed May Day holiday
Sunday 7 May	Confirmation Service, 12 noon in the church
Mon 22 May	ChildLine presentations in school
Sun 28 May	First Communion
Wed 21 June	Beltane lunch
Wed 28 June	School closes for the summer at 3.20pm