

# Halyrude RC Primary School

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20 October 2016

## Netball

Well done to our two netball teams who took part in the recent Tweeddale Netball Fixtures at the Gytes. The purpose of these fixtures is to allow pupils to experience playing on a full size court in friendly matches. Both teams had great fun and displayed great sportsmanship and teamwork. Well done boys and girls!

## PYT Buddy Up Day

The children in Tweeddale will all buddy up with another child in their school to take part in some fun activities. In Halyrude, we plan to buddy up by swapping class groups on Wednesday 26 October. The purpose of this is to raise the profile of Peeblesshire Youth Trust, a local organisation who undertake some fantastic work with our young people. Children are asked to bring a suggested donation of £1 to raise funds for PYT. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

## Walk to School Week

Next week is walk to school week. Our Junior Road Safety Officers will be talking to the children to encourage them to either walk, cycle or scoot to school. This has real health benefits for the children as well as reducing parking around our school, making it a safer place for everyone. If it is not possible for you to leave the car at home, perhaps consider park and stride – parking a distance from school and walking the rest of the way. The children who travel by bus will be encouraged to take part in walk to school week by walking round the playground when they arrive or at break time.

## Parking/Driving near our school

Linked to the above, we have been aware of some families dropping their children off on the zig-zag lines outside of school. This area is to be kept clear so that children can cross safely. If you are bringing the car to school, please park in a safe place, even if you are running late.

## Sacramental Preparation

Thank you to our families in P3 who have returned their Baptismal certificates. We have passed copies on to Father Wojciech. All children in P3 and P4 who are preparing to receive sacraments are expected to attend mass regularly. It is particularly important for them to attend masses listed below which form part of the preparatory rites for the children. We have included the dates for these masses as well as the date for Confirmation which will again take place in Galashiels next May. We will advise you of dates for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion when we have them from Father Wojciech.

## Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to Gavin Carruthers who has once again audited our school fund accounts. We very much appreciate Gavin giving up his own time to help us in this way.

We also very much appreciate the help from Parents on outings and walking within the local community. The children in the upper school had a great time at the hockey and rugby festival today as

well as the science festival and museum trip recently. Thank you to all parents who accompanied us on these outings.

### **Themed Lunches**

Please see the dates for the diary section for the planned themed lunch dates. The next themed brunch will be a Halloween one on Friday 28 October.

### **Community Learning**

We plan to include in our newsletters items which may be of interest to all members of our school community – including parents and grandparents! Please see below for learning opportunities in our local area.

### **Reading, writing and numbers:**

Anyone wanting to brush up on their skills should contact **Margaret Smail**, Community Learning and Development Service, SBC **on 01721 720975** . You can get help you with skills that will improve your employability, supporting your children's homework and other everyday tasks that involve reading, writing and using numbers.

### **Computing Skills :**

If you are an absolute beginner with computing or if you know the basics but would like some additional help then you can come along to one of our weekly Drop-ins (term time only)

**Tuesdays 10.00-12.00 Peebles Community Centre- Open Doors Drop in.** Learners are also invited to stay for a homemade soup lunch at 12.00 provided by volunteers from Tweeddale Youth Action.

**Wednesdays 10.30- 12.00 St Ronan's Primary School - Family Room Drop In.**

For both the drop ins we have computers and laptops but learners can bring in their own laptops, tablets, notebooks etc.(fully charged please !)

### **ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for Adults.**

Do you or anybody you know in your community need help with your English? There are classes held weekly at Peebles Community Centre for different levels of ability. To book a place or for further information please call Margaret on 01721 720975

### **Staff Professional Learning**

Staff are currently focussing on developing their leadership skills as well as continuing to enhance their skills in French.

### **Dalguise**

The next instalment of £70 towards this residential trip is due by 31 January, by which time a total of £140 should be paid on your ParentPay account. The final £95 is due on 30 April. Please contact Mrs Brunton if you wish to discuss payment for this trip.

### **Poppies**

Poppies will be available in school from 1 November for a minimum donation of 20p. Upper school children will go round each class with the poppies every morning. We will also be discussing Remembrance Sunday and the reasons we remember those who have served our country in class and during assembly.

### **First Minister's Reading Challenge**

Look out for a parent booklet next week explaining the First Minister's Reading Challenge along with a booklet for P4-7 to record their reading progress. We have also teamed up with our local library to encourage reading and we will be sending home library forms along with the parent booklet should your child wish to join our local library. Again, we will introduce this challenge at assembly for our P4-7 children.

### **Groups in School**

In an earlier newsletter we asked for volunteers to help us with our Rights Respecting Schools, Eco, Communications and Playground groups. Unfortunately we have not had any volunteers. If you are able to help, please let us know, we would very much appreciate your support.

### **Read-a-licious**

On Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 November children will walk to Eastgate Theatre to attend the Read-a-licious event which is an opportunity for them to meet and learn from published authors. Again please could we request volunteers to walk with us to and from the theatre? Times will be confirmed at a later date.

### **Shoe Box appeal 2016**

Mrs Thurston is again collecting items for Blythswood Care Shoe Box appeal in connection with St Andrew's Leckie Parish Church. If you wish to contribute to this appeal please return shoe boxes by Wednesday 2 November. Please look for further details in school bags next week.

### **Leaflets/flyers**

Any leaflets handed into school will be given out on a Tuesday.

### **Photographs**

Family and individual photographs will be taken on Friday 18 November. Families with pre-school children can attend from 8.45 after the lines are taken in. Proofs will be given to children that day and all orders must be return by Tuesday 29 November.

### **Building security**

If you are visiting please remember to sign in and wear a visitor's badge. Also could we please ask that only staff open the door to visitors? This is so that we are aware of who is in our building for fire and safety reasons. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Ill health**

Can we please remind all parents to let us know by 8.45am if your child is not expected to be in school that day? In order to prevent the spread of germs please ensure they are feeling better before they return to school. This is especially important in the case of a vomiting bug where the health board instruction is for children not to return until 48 hours after last episode of sickness.

Yours sincerely

*Leigh Brunton*

Depute Headteacher

<b>Swimming Lessons: 10.30am at Peebles pool</b>	
<b>Class</b>	<b>Dates</b>
P6/7	21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> October
P4/5 & P6/7	Swimming Gala 4 <sup>th</sup> November
P2/3	21 <sup>st</sup> April, 5 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> May
P1/2	19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
P1/2 & P2/3	Fun swimming session 9 <sup>th</sup> June

<b>Mass Timetable</b>	
<b>St Joseph's 10am</b>	<b>School 2.30pm</b>
1 November (Holy Day of Obligation)	6 December

10 January	7 February
1 March – Ash Wednesday	2 May
20 March – Feast of St Joseph	20 June – Leaver’s Mass

<b>Dates for diary</b>	
Fri 21 Oct	P6/7 swimming
Wed 26 Oct	Flu vaccines today PYT Buddy Up Day P1-3 Active Schools multi sports
Fri 28 Oct	P4-7 Halloween Party: 9-10am P6/7 swimming: 10.30am P1-3 Halloween Party: 10-10.45am Halloween brunch
Wed 2, 9, 16 Nov	P1-3 Active School’s multi sports
Thurs 3, 17 Nov	P6/7 after school athletics
Fri 4 Nov	P4/5 and P6/7 Swimming Gala
Wed 9 Nov	Parental consultations – more details to follow
10 & 11 Nov	School closed to pupils: Staff in-service day
Fri 18 Nov	Family & individual photographs
Tues 22 Nov	P2/3 + P6/7 read-a-licious, Eastgate Theatre
Wed 23 Nov	P1/2 + P4/5 read-a-licious, Eastgate Theatre P6/7 Sportshall Athletics, Gytes 10am-12
Sun 27 Nov	Signing with the Cross – mass in church for children enrolled in Sacramental preparation. (Reconciliation)
Mon 28 Nov	School closed: St Andrew’s Day holiday
Fri 2 Dec	Christmas Fair 11.30am-1pm – please note this is a change of time from our evening fair
Mon 12 Dec	Christmas concert
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
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 <b>Tuesday</b> 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)
Fri 28 April	School closed to pupils: Staff in-service day
Mon 1 May	School closed May Day holiday
Wed 21 June	Beltane lunch
Wed 28 June	School closes for the summer at 3.20pm