

# Halyrude RC Primary School

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Our values:  
Achieving, Included, Respectful

16 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new term in Halyrude, I hope you have all had a lovely holiday. We are looking forward to seeing all the children on Wednesday ready to start the new term.

I would like to share some updates with you in advance of the new term.

## Playground Arrangements and Entering and Leaving School

Children no longer need to play outside in class bubbles however we have decided to have an upper school and lower school area in our playground as playing together in class groups worked well in terms of playground relationships. We will review this with the children after two weeks. The zones will be as follows:

P1 – 4:

Behind the gym hall and in the lower part of the playground including the grassed area and willow house.

P5 – 7: The area from the high wooden fence at the entrance to the school down to the enclosed play area as well as the garden.

Children in P5 – 7 will continue to enter and leave via the main entrance door by the reception area. A P 5 – 7 teacher will let the children in and they should then go directly to class. Children in P1 – 4 will enter via the rear door, P 1 – 4 teachers will meet the children in the playground and will go into school with them.

All children are asked to sanitise their hands every time they enter and leave school. They will also be asked to wash their hands at various points throughout the day. Again, staff will be present to support the children but there will be no change to the way the children entered and left the building last session or the hygiene routines we had in place.

At the end of the day, the children in P5 – 7 will leave the playground via the high wooden gate accompanied by their teacher. Children in P1 – P4 will leave via the door at the front of the building next to Rosetta. P1 – 4 teachers will ensure an adult is waiting for each child before they let them go home for the day.

Parents in the Playground

The restrictions we had in place at the end of last term remain the same. Unless individual arrangements are in place all parents with a child in P3 – 7 are asked to drop their child off at the school gates bordering the pavement in the front playground. At the end of the day, if it is safe to do so please arrange to meet your child slightly further away from school to avoid congestion. If you have an older child, you may wish to ask them to walk home on their own.

Parents with a child in P1 or P2 are welcome to come into the front playground in the morning to drop their child off at the wooden gate. We ask that parents do not come into the rear playground as there are staff there to supervise the children and this gives them an opportunity to come in and play with their friends in the morning. At the end of the day, P1 and P2 parents can wait in the front playground socially distanced from each other. Please do not wait in front of the door for the children, you will see cones set out to stand by. This helps us to see all parents and ensure children are able to see their parents as well. As was the case last term, please ensure only one parent or family member comes into the playground to drop off or collect children. This is to ensure we can implement social distancing.

Please do not park next to the school gates on the yellow lines. We had a number of complaints last year about parents blocking the pavement outside the gates meaning the families had to walk on the road. We would very much appreciate your co-operation in keeping the gates clear and ensuring the children have space to walk safely on the pavements. Thank you.

#### Primary One – First Week Arrangements

**On day one only**, P1 children are invited to come to the door in the front playground next to Rosetta at **9am**. This will allow the older children to come into school and P1 children to come in when it is quieter. Mrs Pearson will meet the children when they come to the door. On this day only, two family members are invited to attend with the children.

From day two, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, P1 children should be dropped off at the wooden gate. All P1 children will be given a P7 buddy on their first day, their buddy will meet them inside the gate and take them to their area of the playground to play. If their buddy is not there, a member of staff will wait with them.

If you have any questions, please ask a member of staff.

#### Bus Travel

If your child travels by bus, they will be dropped off in front of the school in the morning and will come through the playground together into the rear playground. At the end of the day, Nancy, our playground supervisor will take the children to the bus and ensure they are all wearing their seatbelts.

You should already have been sent this information from SBC but if you have not already done so please click on the link and read this important information about changes in the way Scottish Borders Council deal with school transport

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20040/clothing\\_meals\\_and\\_transport/1088/school\\_transport/2](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20040/clothing_meals_and_transport/1088/school_transport/2)

#### I-Pads

If your child has an iPad at home, please ensure that it has been updated, you will see a prompt on the home screen. Please also ensure that your child's iPad is fully charged and sent to school with them every day.

Children in P6 will receive their new iPads when we receive them and children in P4 will also receive them when parental agreements which will be sent home next week have been returned.

Children may be prompted to change their Glow e-mail password. We will do this in school.

### Lunches

Please could we remind you to book lunches for your child online before the children come back to school on Wednesday? The deadline for booking lunches is midnight the night before lunches are to be taken. It is also possible to book for a term at a time. Please could we also ask that you discuss the choices with your child to ensure that they like what you have chosen? Thank you.

Children are also welcome to bring a packed lunch to school which can be eaten in the lunch hall or on one of our picnic benches outside. Please can we ask you not to send nuts or fizzy juice and if you send grapes, please cut them in half from top to bottom to avoid choking.

### Water bottles, Snacks, School Bags and Pencil Cases

Please send your child with a water bottle filled with fresh water each day. There is the opportunity to refill water bottles at our water coolers if required during the day. Children should also bring a small snack such as a piece of fruit to eat at break time.

Your child will be provided with all the equipment they need in school such as pencils, rubbers and a reading folder. They should also bring a school bag for their water bottle and spare socks. Pencil cases can be brought if the children wish to but this is not necessary.

### PE and Music

We are returning to our former timetable of music on a Monday morning and PE for all classes on a Thursday. Music for P1 – 4 will take place very Monday and for children in P5 – 7 in four week blocks beginning with P5/6. The two upper school classes will have PE on a Thursday morning and the younger children in the afternoon. Please send your child's PE kit to school with them on Wednesday morning. We hope that PE kits can stay in school but we will advise you if this is not the case. PE can take place indoors but on a nice day Mr Davidson our PE teacher may take the children outside. There is no need to send children in their PE kit this term as they will change in school. A reminder that our PE uniform is black shorts, a white t-shirt and gym shoes, not trainers. All items of PE kit should be named. Thank you.

### Classes During the First Week

As previously advised, Miss Purves will teach P6/7 on a Tuesday afternoon and a Wednesday while Mrs Macfarlane teaches P5/6. During the first week, Miss Purves will be in P5/6 and Mrs Thomson will be in P6/7. The first day Miss Purves will be in P6/7 will be Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Mrs Macfarlane will teach P5/6 on that day as well.

### Staffing

We would like to welcome Miss Prenton who begins her teaching career with us this term. Miss Prenton is very much looking forward to getting to know the children and families in Halyrude. We would also like to welcome Mr Courteney-Blake who is joining our team of support staff for the next few weeks, initially on a Thursday.

### Absence

Please let us know if your child is unwell and will not be in school or if they have an appointment. We will also contact you if we are concerned that your child is unwell. If we are unable to contact you in the event of absence or illness we will contact the people you have listed as emergency contacts for your child.

### Contacting School

If you wish to speak to us about anything, please either phone, e-mail using our general school e-mail address, [HalyrudePS@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:HalyrudePS@scotborders.gov.uk) (not individual email addresses) or use Groupcall to do so. As per our normal routines, parents should not enter the building with their child in the morning. For fire and safety reasons, we need to know who is in our building and all visitors who have arranged to be in school must sign in after following appropriate safety measures. At present, we are only able to have school staff and essential health professionals in school.

Sometimes, children can be a little upset in the morning, especially if they are new to school. We understand this is upsetting for parents but we will always contact you if your child does not settle immediately or if we have on-going concerns.

### School Uniform and Outdoor Clothing

A reminder that our school uniform is a green jumper or cardigan, black or grey shorts, trousers or a skirt and a white or yellow polo shirt. Uniform is available from Brown and Out or the Castle Warehouse. Children should wear black school shoes, not trainers. We ask that shoes are strong enough for playing outside in all weathers, some children wore pumps last year and this resulted in very wet feet! Children are also encouraged to wear wellies on wet days. We do not ask children to change their shoes during the day although if their feet are wet a spare pair of socks kept in their school bag is very useful. If children have wet feet or are wearing wellies they can change into their gym shoes in school.

We ask that all children follow our uniform policy as it ensures everyone is the same and removes competition and demands for the latest trainers etc. which tends to happen when uniform is not worn.

We hold a stock of good quality second hand uniforms in school. We hope to be able to accept donations again soon and to set up a uniform stall, we will let you know when this can happen.

Please could we also ask that you send a coat with your child every day, even if it appears to be nice in the morning? The weather can change quickly and children will be outside playing unless the rain is very heavy. Children will also be learning outdoors during the school day therefore a coat is required. All items of clothing including shoes, coats and school bags should be named to save us time in matching children with lost clothing. Thank you.

### Term Dates

For holiday dates this year -

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20009/schools\\_and\\_learning/621/term\\_holiday\\_and\\_closure\\_dates](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20009/schools_and_learning/621/term_holiday_and_closure_dates)

Please ensure you scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will find casual holiday dates for Tweeddale Cluster.

Scottish Borders Council currently also have the following consultation about changing holiday dates which we encourage you to complete –

<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/>. Closing date 22 August 2021.

### Forest schools

We are delighted to be working with Mrs Fraser this year who is a teacher in the Tweeddale Learning Community as well as a Forest Schools leader. Mrs Fraser will work with the children in Primary Seven on a Tuesday morning from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August until Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October (inclusive) in the morning. The children should come to school in clothes suitable for outdoor learning and bring school uniform to change into.

The children in P6 from the P5/6 class will also take part in Forest Schools on the above dates in the afternoon. They should come to school in school uniform and bring outdoor clothes to change into.

A letter with full details and a permission slip will be sent home with your child on Wednesday. Please return the permission slip by Friday. Thank you.

The children from P6 in the P6/7 class will have the opportunity to participate in Forest Schools activities next session when the weather is warmer once again.

We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

*Leigh Brunton*

Head Teacher