

# Halyrude RC Primary School

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Our values:  
Achieving, Included, Respectful

16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new term in Halyrude, I hope you have all had a lovely holiday. A special welcome to our new children and families. It was lovely to see everyone this morning and all the children have settled into their new classes and are enjoying meeting up with their friends.

This newsletter contains some important dates and a few reminders. For those of you who are new to the school, we always list diary dates at the bottom of each newsletter.

## Drop off and Pick Up

It was lovely to see parents dropping off their children in the playground this morning. From tomorrow, please could you drop your child off at the wooden gate and they can then go and play with their friends in the playground? Staff will be there to supervise the children. If your child needs additional support at this time, please let us know if you would like to stay with them in the playground.

At the end of the day, children in P1/2 and P3/4 will leave via the door at the front of the building. Children will wait in a line until their teacher has been able to see who is picking them up. Please give them a wave when your child is at the front of the line.

The older children will leave via the main door and the wooden gate.

A reminder that children should not arrive before 8.30am. This is when Nancy, our playground supervisor will be present. Could we also ask that children enter and leave via the pedestrian gates and not the car parks for safety reasons? Thank you.

## School Lunches

School lunches can be booked online using Parent Pay. The deadline for booking lunches is midnight the night before lunches are to be taken. It is also possible to book for a longer period of time, e.g. a week, or 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? Please also remember that if you no longer require lunches to cancel as this saves wasting food. If your child is unexpectedly unwell and you cannot cancel on the day, please let us know and we will cancel. 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.** Thank you.

### 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. We do not allow juice in class, if it spills it causes a sticky mess and it is also important for children to stay hydrated by drinking water regularly throughout 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.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs MacNeish who was married during the summer holidays and is now Mrs Selman. Lovely news!

### 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. Our general school email address is monitored by both Mrs Learmond and myself so that if either one of us is absent or out of school messages can be read.

### Xpressions App

Xpressions is a communications app run by Groupcall and we would encourage you to download and use the app. It is important that you allow notifications so that you are aware when a message or newsletter arrives. We send newsletters/communications via e-mail and the app. You can also notify us of any absences via the app. It is also important that you have provided us with the most up to date e-mail address and mobile number as this is how the app recognises you.

### 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, winter boots or wellies. We ask that shoes are strong enough for playing outside in all weathers and that children do not wear trainers as school shoes. 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.

Please send your child with a coat every day, even if it does not look like it is going to rain. The children will be outside unless the rain is very heavy as fresh air and exercise helps with learning. Thank you.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will begin next Monday. The club is open to everyone who wants some breakfast before school. It will run in the dining hall from 8.30 – 8.45 in the morning and there is no charge for this. Please note, this is not a childcare facility, if your child does not need breakfast they should play in the playground as normal. We are very grateful

to Peeblesshire Foodbank for supporting us and donating the food we require to run the club.

### Family Mile

All classes participate in the daily mile which involves them jogging or walking around the playground with their class each day. On a Friday, we do this at 8.45 and parents and family members are invited to join us. The first family mile will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August. We look forward to seeing you then.

### Stay and Play

Parents of children in P1 are invited to come into school after the family mile to stay and play on Friday 1st September from 9am – 9.20am. If you are unable to attend, a grandparent may wish to come instead.

### Reading Schools

We are delighted to have been awarded the Core Reading Schools award by the Scottish Book Trust. Miss Prenton has been leading the work on this award and will continue to do so this year, please look out for more information on reading this term. We hope to be able to apply for our silver award this year.

### 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. Children should carry their bus pass with them each day. If your child has a bus pass, please ensure that they use the bus as another child may be waiting for the place. If you no longer require a bus pass please return it to us. Thank you.

### I-Pads

If your child has an iPad at home, please ensure that it has been updated if required and is fully charged. Children should bring their iPad to school with them every day.

### PE and Music

Music will take place for all classes on a Monday morning and PE will be on a Thursday. Children are welcome to keep their PE kit in school however if you wish your child to bring it home on a Friday then please return it on a Monday. Your child's class teacher will also teach PE during the week.

PE uniform is black shorts, a white plain t-shirt (no logos) and gym shoes. Please name all items of clothing. Thank you.

### 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. Our general school email address is monitored by both Mrs Learmond and myself so that if either one of us is absent or out of school messages can be read.

### Medication in School

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics by the doctor we would appreciate it if you could space the dose so that it is given at home. Giving prescribed medication in school is something staff do on a voluntary basis and is not something that we are obliged to do. Due to staff being on lunch duty etc. it is really helpful for us if medication can be given at home. However, if your child does require prescribed medication that must be given in school, please ensure that you hand more in to us when the medication is due to run out. Thank you. Before any prescribed medication is given, parents must complete a prescribed medication form in school.

### Meet the Teacher

There will be an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and meet their teacher on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August from 3.20 – 3.50. The children will leave school as normal, please then come into school via the main door and sign in. If you cannot make this date, please do not worry as there will be opportunities in future to come into school.

### Forest Schools Family Learning

A reminder that we have two family learning sessions in outdoor learning with Branching Upwards, the dates are listed below. There will be an opportunity to sign up for one of the sessions with your child/children but in the meantime, if there is something you would particularly like to find out about please let us know. Thank you.

### Family Holidays During Term Time

Our attendance figures at Halyrude have traditionally been very good at around 96%. Over the past two years, this has dropped to 92% due to the number of people who are removing their children from school for family holidays. This is classed as unauthorised absence. Children missing school is very disruptive, they often come back having missed out on learning and on what has been happening with their friends. Please can we ask that children are not taken out of school for family holidays? We are required by Scottish Borders Council to monitor attendance and we may be in touch with you during the year if we are concerned about the impact of frequent absence. Thank you for your support with this.

### Data Check

In the next few days a data form will be issued to your child. Please check that we have the correct mobile numbers and email addresses for you. Please sign and return the form, even if there are no changes. Thank you.

### Reporting

We use the Showbie app as a means of reporting to you throughout the year rather than giving you a final report card. Showbie contains pictures and comments about your child and their work as they learn and play in school. If you have not already signed up, please do so. If you require another code to access Showbie, please let us know. Thank you.

### Tesco Tokens

If you are shopping in Tesco, please vote for us using the blue tokens as our Parent Council are hoping to raise funds for our school garden through this grant. Thank you.

### Term Dates

For holiday dates this year, please click on the link:

[School term dates for 2023-24 | Term, holiday and closure dates | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/school-term-dates-for-2023-24)

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

#### Free School Meals/Clothing Grant

All children in P1 - 5 are entitled to free school meals. Regardless of whether your child is in P1 – 5 or in P6 – 7, If you think they may be eligible for free school meals or a clothing grant I would encourage you to apply by clicking on this link.

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20040/clothing\\_meals\\_and\\_transport/480/free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_help\\_with\\_schoolwear](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20040/clothing_meals_and_transport/480/free_school_meals_and_help_with_schoolwear)

Free school meal entitlement can also give access to additional support if it is required.

#### Dates for the Diary

This section will be updated on our newsletters throughout the year.

Date	Event
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Meet the teacher event in school, 3.20 – 3.50pm. Please come in to look at your child's classroom and meet their teacher.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Stay and play for P1 parents.
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	4 – 6pm Forest Schools Family Learning
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	1.30 – 3.30 Forest Schools Family Learning
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Open evening for new families 6 – 7pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu vaccines Last Day of term
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	In-service day – school open for staff only.
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	First day back for children.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween party during the school day.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Parental Consultations (in person) – after school and evening appointments available. More details to follow nearer the time.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew's Day holiday – school closed.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas carol service: 6.30pm. More details to follow.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas parties – in the afternoon.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day of term.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	First day back for staff and children.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	First day back for staff and children.

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Parental Consultations online
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	First day back for staff and children.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day holiday – school closed.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	In-Service day – school open for staff only.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Halyreads Festival – more details to follow
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Sports Day
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Reserve Sports Day if the weather is wet.
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> , Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Forest Schools – one day per class.
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers mass at 1.30 in church
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 leavers assembly in school
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Last day of term.

Yours sincerely

*Leigh Brunton*

Head Teacher

