



Hollybrook Academy
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To Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone enjoyed the half term break, it is hard to believe that we are more than half way through February already. We have had such a busy school over the last few weeks and I wanted to share with you all some of what has been happening. With the weather and light now changing there is also lots to look forward to as we aim to use our outdoor spaces and our community more for our learning experiences. As ever please contact the school if there are any questions or queries about your child's time at Hollybrook.

Kindest regards,
Mrs MacLeod

IPads and Phones: To further support social interaction and positive communication between our young people the staff are encouraging pupils to only use ipads when necessary for learning in classes. Some children use their ipads at break and lunch times however they should not be walking around the school using them. Staff are also reminding pupils that their phones should remain in their bags during class times if they have not been handed into the office. I would appreciate if you would reinforce this message with your child.

Uniform: Many thanks in your continued efforts to support our young people to wear the school uniform and colours. To keep costs to a minimum our uniform remains as a white shirt or polo shirt, black trousers or skirt, school tie and a black jumper (strong hoodie available from office for £10). On PE days your child should bring a change of clothing in their bag.

Transition meetings and Options: Our S3/4/5/6 pupils will all be involved in transition meetings this term. You will have a letter and a date for this meeting sent home. The purpose of these meetings are to discuss the next step in your child's school journey. S6 pupils will be discussing placements beyond school and S3, S4 and S5 pupils will be discussing subject options for next year and possible college placements for some.

Breakfast and snack time: To support healthy eating in school for our young people we continue to supply a free breakfast for your child every morning in Hollybrook, subsidised by the Magic Breakfast. The pupils all get a choice of cereal, beans, porridge or a bagel and a drink of juice. They also have access to free fruit at break times – a banana, apple or orange. Please encourage your child to take up the offer of food that is provided for breakfast and snack time.

School lunches: If your child pays for a school lunch but struggles with handling cash please send it into the school office and the office staff can organise payment for your child. They will let you know when the



money needs topped up to allow you to send in additional money when required. If your child is entitled to free school meals please ensure that the application for free meals is renewed each year by means of the application on Glasgow City Council website.

Outdoor learning: As the weather starts to get a bit better our children will be getting out and about more in the local community exploring local parks and outdoor spaces. If your child has outdoor learning on their timetable please ensure that they bring a change of clothes appropriate for this activity (warm jumper, jogging trousers/ leggings and shoes that are okay to get a bit dirty).

Communication: In our continued attempt to minimise the use of paper we will continue to communicate by means of the school app (Scot Ed) and text messages. Please check these regularly for updates. We also post information on our school website and use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to share photos and information about what your child is doing in school.

Health and wellbeing: Your child is now on their new rotation of Health and Wellbeing on a Friday afternoon. This will last until 24th March and then their last rotation will begin on 21st April. Please ask your child about their activity or contact the school if you would like more information about this. Activities are: Music, Fitness, Stage make up, Gaming, Social games, Storytelling and relaxation, Football, Fitness, Gymnastics, Biking, Café, Cooking.

Spring Disco: Save the date - We have booked to have a spring Disco in Loks in Shawlands on Wednesday 29th March from 7-9pm. More details will follow soon and tickets will be going on sale from 1st march.

Blairvadach: We have 24 pupils going to Blairvadach outdoor centre from 2nd – 5th May. Please ensure the balance of the trip is paid before the end of April.

Climbing: Our S3 pupils have been learning a new skill as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. They have been getting climbing lessons at the Glasgow Climbing Centre.

Velodrome: Pupils from s2-S4 have had the opportunity to learn how to cycle at the Velodrome. This is a new experience for the pupils where they cycle on a track that slopes at a 45-degree angle and on bikes that have no brakes! Well done to all the pupils involved in this 6-week block.

Parent Council: We have our next Parent Council Meeting on Thursday 2nd March at 1.30pm. If you would like to be involved please come along. Being part of the parent council involves attending a few meetings over the course of the year in your child's school and the opportunity to help and support fundraising activities. There is also a parent council budget which parents discuss how this is best used.

Outdoor Spaces: We have been successful in securing funding from the National Lottery community fund which will be used this year to improve our outdoor spaces. Mr Milne will send out an



electronic questionnaire soon to enable Parents and Carers to give any thoughts or ideas on what will be an exciting project for the school.

Nurture Buddies: Our Nurture Buddies have been working with Annette street primary school to support the Primary 3 and 4 children with storytelling activities. This is a new partnership and activity for Hollybrook and one that is proving to be very successful.

Charity: Thanks to the generosity of our school community our S2 pupils have been buying food from the funds raised at Christmas time to support the local food bank. Other classes will also be getting involved in this as the remainder of the money will be spent over the next few weeks at The local shops to send food to the foodbank.

Huge thanks also to everyone who contributed to the earthquake appeal. The final total raised was £400.

Comic Relief: Hollybrook will be getting involved in some Comic Relief activities on the 17th March. More information will follow shortly with regards to this.

Prom: Our S5 and S6 pupils will have a prom to look forward to in June. This will be a chance to dress up, have a nice meal, a dance and share memories of their time at Hollybrook. Venue and date to be confirmed.

Reports: S4/5/6 Tracking reports will be sent home this week to parents and Carers. S1/2/3 reports will be sent home to Parents and Carers week beginning the 6th March. Our next Parents Evening is on the 31st May from 4pm-6.45pm however if you would like to speak to a teacher with regards to your child before then please get in touch through email or phone call.

Industrial Action: Unfortunately, there are a number of strike days planned for this session. Please keep a close eye on the media and our school app for the latest updates with regards to this as these may be cancelled at short notice. A letter was sent home with all pupils today detailing the planned dates for the next few weeks. This letter was also posted on the app on the 14th Feb.

Mascot Competition: This term we have been running a competition to name our school mascot. We have the entries in and will now be looking to get votes from pupils, staff and our school community. Watch out for your voting opportunity.

Easter break: Schools close at 2.30 on Friday, 31ST March. Pupils return to school Monday, 17th April 2023.



