**HOLYWOOD NURSERY SCHOOL**

**NURSERY NEWS**

Dear Parent,

Welcome to Holywood Nursery School. This is the start of what we hope will be a very exciting and enjoyable year for you and your child. During the months of September and October our main aim is to familiarise the children with the Nursery School and to make sure that everybody is settled and happy in the new school environment. If during this time you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to any of our staff.

Our kitchen is open every day for parent’s tea and coffee and please feel free to use it as often as you like.

In Nursery School children learn in a thematic way. During the month of September our themes will be:

**OUR NURSERY**

The children will learn all about the Nursery, familiarise themselves with members of staff and learn how to co-operate in large group situations.

The Nursery has guidelines for good behaviour, they are:

1. We treat each other with respect.
2. We do not hurt anybody.
3. (For safety) we do not run or shout in the classroom.

**AUTUMN**

The children will be encouraged to look for the changes that are starting to occur in their environment. Please encourage your child to look for seeds, autumn leaves, conkers, pine cones, etc. which they can bring into school for our Nursery Nature Area.

**CHILDREN’S POST BOXES**

Each child in Holywood Nursery School has their own post box in our hallway. This is where they will store any drawings that they do, and also where Nursery Staff will distribute any notes or information about the School for you as parents. Please check your child’s box regularly to ensure you do not miss out. Post Boxes can also be used for party invitations, birthday and Christmas cards and correspondence with other parents etc.

**OUR STAFF**

This year the staff at Holywood Nursery School will be as follows:

Morning Class Main building (AM1)

Teacher: September Fiona Gibson

 October to June Clare Majury

Ms Majury (Principal) will be available in the school office but will not be working in the classroom initially as she is recovering from knee surgery. Fiona Gibson is doing a great job in the interim covering our Room 1 classroom.

Teaching Assistants: Petra Ellison

 Juliet Alexander

Morning Class New Building (AM2)

Teacher: Pamela Henderson

Teaching Assistant Leah Kerr

Afternoon Class

Teacher: Fiona Gibson/Pamela Henderson

Teaching Assistants: Petra Ellison

 Leah Kerr

Secretary: Lisa McCabe

Caretaker: Maureen Leadbeatter

The staff are all guided and assisted by the Board of Governors who are:
Beverley Todd (Chairperson), Garry Steele, Keith Forster, Lindsay Nolan, Simon Whittaker and Suzi Ardern.

**SELF SELECTION**

In our Nursery School we want our children to be as independent and self reliant as possible. For this reason we are very keen that the children make their own decisions about what they would like to play with. A range of equipment/resources is always available to the children so that they may select and make independent choices. The children will have a wide range of materials to choose from and will be able to select their own resources at the sand, dough, water, creative area and self selection drawers/tubs.



We believe it is important the children have responsibility for their own decision making in Nursery School and also have responsibility for taking care of our resources. At the end of each session in Nursery School tidy up time plays an important part in our day with all the children working together with the staff to reset the classroom for the next session.

**THE NURSERY DAY**

Parents are always interested to learn about the timetable for the day in Nursery School. Our timetable is reasonably fluid but each day the children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities. The Nursery day starts with a period of free play where the children can choose which area they want to work in and choose their own resources.

Every day the staff will bring out the break trolley. Again to promote independence the children serve their own break. When your child is ready for their break they will go and pick their own symbol off the board, they then post the symbol into a box on the break trolley and they can get their own cup and take a seat at the table if one is available.



Children pour their own milk or water and also serve themselves from the food choices. We try to promote healthy eating most days in Nursery School, so the children will have a variety of fruit, bread, cheese, crackers, pancakes, etc to choose from. Remember to check the daily door sheet to find out what we are having for break each day.

When the children have completed their break they tidy up after themselves, mopping up any spills and putting their cup back on the trolley. Most days in Nursery School we have a daily activity. This could be a science experiment, music time, an art activity or cookery (we normally bake on a Thursday). All children take part in this activity but as with everything in Nursery School this is done in a small group to ensure that each child gets a turn and also receives lots of one-to-one adult attention whilst they are completing the activity.

On dry days we like to play outside and children have the option of playing in our outdoor area if they wish to do so. Children put on their own coats, etc and outdoor play is a popular part of the day. Every day we tidy up at the end of the session. We play tidy up music and we all work together to reset our classroom.

At the end of session we have story time. At story time in Nursery School we have a story box which always has something interesting to talk about in it. Then the children will have their story and at the end of story, one child will get the opportunity to blow out the story candle. All the children’s names are in the story candle box and everybody gets a turn. After story time children will sing rhymes and songs which are familiar and often related to the monthly theme.

**OUR NURSERY DAY**



We come school



We hang up our coats



We say hello to our teacher

We can choose our activities





We have our snack



We go outside to play



We tidy up our toys





We listen to a story We sing songs



We go home. See you tomorrow.

**QUESTIONNAIRES**

In early October we will be distributing Questionnaires to all parents asking for your views on how you have found your first few weeks at Nursery School and looking for suggestions for ways in which we can improve the services we offer to you and your children. All Questionnaires are anonymous, there will be a box in the entrance halls of both buildings for you to return your Questionnaires. Questionnaires will be circulated in the first week in October. We would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to complete our Questionnaire. We will circulate a full breakdown of the comments and results to you all after we have collated them.

**SUGGESTION BOX**

Holywood Nursery School is always keen to improve and both buildings have a suggestion box in their entrance hall. Please put any suggestions that you may have in the box. We welcome your thoughts and opinions

**FOOD IN SCHOOL**

We have children enrolled in Holywood Nursery School who have severe food allergies. It is absolutely vital that in order to protect these children, that you do not bring any other food stuffs into Nursery School. Exposure to certain foods could put some of our children at risk of anaphylactic shock. Please make sure that you do not allow your child to bring any sweets, biscuits or any other food stuffs into Nursery School. This will help us to keep all our children safe.



**VISIT FROM DEBBIE DOOLITTLE’S WILD LIFE**

On Wednesday 16th October Debbie Doolittle’s Wild Life will be visiting the Nursery School. Parents are very welcome to come too - the times are as follows:

* Mrs Henderson’s Morning Class – 9.00 am;
* Ms Majury’s Morning Class - 10:15 am
* Afternoon Session - 12:00 noon

Debbie will bring a variety of animals which include a rabbit, hedgehog, barn owl, ferret and fox.

Everyone Welcome!

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

On Friday 11th October and Monday 14th October Ms Majury will be holding Parent/Teacher Interviews. These interviews offer you the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress in Nursery School. Forms will be circulated nearer the date.

Parent/Teacher Interviews for Mrs Henderson’s class will be held on Tuesday
15th October. Forms will be circulated nearer the date.

 **HALLOWEEN**



The Nursery School will close for a week at Halloween. The School will be closed from Monday 28th October until Friday
1st November. Holywood Nursery School will
re-open on Monday 4th November.

**PARKING**

We appreciate that parking spaces around Holywood Nursery School are hard to find but we would ask all parents to please keep the main school entrance clear and not to use the staff car park at any time. In the interests of children’s safety we would ask all parents to ensure that they do not park on the zigzags outside the school.

We have also had a number of phone calls to the Nursery School from residents regarding parking on the Church Road at collection and drop off time at Nursery School. Can we ask you, as a matter of courtesy, to please ensure that when you park at collection or drop off time you do so in a way that will not inconvenience the residents and that steers clear of private driveways, etc. Many thanks for your help and support in this matter.

**DON’T MISS OUT!**

Follow us and keep up to date with our latest news and photos!

You can follow Holywood Nursery School on Twitter ‘@HolywoodNS’ and our website address is www.holywoodnursery.co.uk.

**Follow Us On Twitter Follow Us On**



 **@HolywoodNS**

 **‘holywoodns’**

**POINTS TO REMEMBER**

* Please do be punctual when collecting your child at the end of the session.
* Please let the Nursery Staff know if somebody different is collecting your child from School. We will never allow a child to leave with someone we do not recognise.
* Send your child to Nursery School with a coat. Most days in Nursery School the children will play outside.
* Dogs are not permitted on the School premises. If you do walk dogs to School please ensure that they are tied securely outside school premises.
* In the interest of your children’s’ safety, please ensure that you always close the main gate.
* Please clearly label your child’s uniform.

**ONE TO TRY AT HOME!**

All the children really enjoy the Thursday cookery. Hopefully your children have been telling you all about it! This is one of their favourite recipes and it’s really easy to make at home. A few years ago we made scones and we had a little boy called Luke enrolled at that time. When he tasted our scones he said they were quite good but not as good as his Daddy’s. Luke’s Daddy duly appeared in the next day with a copy of his recipe for scones which he had been given years before by a friend who worked in one of Belfast’s top restaurants. We tried them the next week and had to admit that Luke’s Daddy’s scones were much better than ours and we’ve been using the recipe ever since. We hope you enjoy them as much as we all did!

**Luke’s Daddy’s Scones**

* 1lb soda bread flour
* 3oz butter
* ½ pint buttermilk
* 3oz caster sugar
* 2 large eggs

Mix together dry ingredients.

Whisk eggs and buttermilk.

Combine all ingredients, roll our mix and cut out scones using a round cutter.

Bake at 180˚C for 20 minutes.

**COMMUNITY PAGE**

**HOLYWOOD CULTURE NIGHT**

Friday 21st September – Look us up on facebook.com/Holywoodculturenight or www.holywoodculturenight.com

**ZUMBA FITNESS**

Classes on Wednesdays at Redburn Community Centre, Jacksons Road, Holywood from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm, £5 per class. No need to book and no experience necessary. Contact Joanne for more details Telephone No: 07533 940935 or Email: joanne.hanna70@btinternet.com

**DANCE CLASSES**

Dance classes at First Holywood Presbyterian Church – Wednesdays.

Age 3-4 years: 4.00 pm – 4.45 pm – Pre-School Ballet

Age 5-8 years: 4.45 pm – 5.45 pm – Jazz & Tap

Fun classes in a friendly environment.

Contact Gillian on 07891889909, www.gillianjones-danceacademy.co.uk

**LEO MAGUIRE TAEKWON-DO SCHOOL**

Little Tiger Cubs – Fun and Safe Fitness Training Program for children 3 to 5 years old. Saturdays from 12.30 pm – 1.15 pm. Introducing Basic Martial Arts Skills through a mixture of games, fitness drills and Taekwon-Do training. For more information contact Leo Maguire on 07891191494.

**YOGA SUNSHINE**

New Children’s Yoga Class in Holywood! Yoga Classes for 2½ - 4 year. Classes will run in Holywood Old School, Church Road every Friday morning from 9.45 am – 10.45 am.
Pre-booking is essential – contact Claire on 07779626366 or email: Claire.mykindofyoga@gmail.com.

**HOLYWOOD LIBRARY**

Storytime is held on the first Saturday of the month from 11.30 am to noon. Children aged from 4 to 6 years very welcome.

**ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES PRE-SCHOOL PRAISE GROUP**

**Every Thursday from 10.00am – 12 noon**

Come along and enjoy a friendly chat, crafts to do with your toddlers and sing-a-long time. Coffee, scones and snacks for the kids will be provided.

**REDBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Kids Church – Every Sunday from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm – Ages 4-11 years welcome.**

**1ST HOLYWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Mother and Toddlers meets every Tuesday – 10.00 am – 11.30 am**

**HOLYWOOD METHODIST CHURCH**

Baby and Toddlers meets at 10.00 am every Wednesday morning during term time in the Holywood Methodist Church Hall.

Girls’ Brigade Explorers meets from 6.30 pm to 7.45 pm every Wednesday in the Holywood Methodist Church Cedar Hall.

Sunday School meets at 11.00 am every Sunday morning.

**1ST HOLYWOOD SCOUT GROUP, HEASLEY HALL, CHURCH VIEW**

We have sections for ages 4-18 years – Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. For details phone the Group Scout Leader, Liz Ballard at 90424570.

**TEENY WEENIES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP**

**Assembly Hall, St Patrick’s Primary School, My Lady’s Mile, Holywood**

**Wednesday’s 10.00 am – 11.30 am**

Come along to our friendly group for babies and toddlers of pre-nursery/playgroup age. We have lots of toys, arts and crafts activities, story time and sing-a-long. The little ones get juice and healthy snacks with tea/coffee, a snack and a chat for parents and carers.

We love seeing familiar and new faces each week, everyone welcome.

**BALLYGILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Mothers and Toddlers meets every Thursday morning from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome.**

**HOLYWOOD PLAY COMPANY – The Scout Hall, 22-30 Ean Hill, Holywood - 07837598691**

Are you looking for a childcare solution? Look no further … Holywood Play Company is Holywood’s newest and exciting child care provider. We do pick-ups from local primary schools, we offer a relaxed home from home atmosphere meeting children’s individual needs. We encourage a range of activities including arts and crafts, outdoor play, x box, laptop computer, baking weekly and lots of other games and toys.

Our session runs each day until 5.45 pm (and we cater for the P1 September/October early pick-ups). Visits are always welcome so feel free to come and meet our team and see the after school at work! Tel- 07837598691, The Scout Hall, 22-30 Ean Hill, Holywood, BT18 9LQ, e-mail - holywoodplayco@hotmail.co.uk.

**HOLYWOOD AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

* An integrated after school club for P1 – Y8;
* Quality assured day care;
* Social Services Registered;
* Wrap around childcare and holiday club;
* Safe and Stimulating Environment.

For further information and registration form contact

Holywood After School Club

108/110 High Street

Holywood BT18 9HW

Tel: 02890 427842 or nadia@holywoodafterschool.co.uk

**FOUNDATIONS FIRST**

Foundations First is a small, independent and professional child therapy centre based in Holywood, Co Down.

The developmental journey for any child is individual. It involves acquiring many skills as they learn to engage, interact, and participate with the world around them. As a parent, you know your child best, understand their individual ways and recognise their skills. If you have concerns that your child’s development is different from that of other children the same age, then seeking early intervention is recommended.

**Who We Are** The team at Foundations First was established by two therapists from different professional backgrounds. Anne McCullough is an occupational therapist and Liz Borland is a speech and language therapist. With over thirty year’s experience in child development, they collaborate to use their acquired skills and expertise to support children and their families.

We are passionate about the beneﬁts that **joint multidisciplinary** working can provide for such children and at Foundations First, we value the joint therapy approach. This allows us to draw on the specialist knowledge from both professional ﬁelds, to fully appreciate your child’s strengths and challenges and understand how they function holistically.

**What We Offer**

Helping children achieve their potential and develop skills for lifelong learning:

•Consultations

•Assessments

•Multidisciplinary Intervention

•Therapy Reports

•Liaison with Other Support Services

•Advice - Resources - Home Programmes

If you would like further information, have a look at our website. You can use the contact form to request more information.