



Holystone Newsletter –Friday 16th March 2018

We have been hit by quite hard by illness this week with several staff members affected. This has meant at times it has been a bit of a stretch but I hope we have managed to deal with your messages and queries. Hopefully some of this pressure will ease on our return from the weekend.

Parents Evening – Thank you to the school office whose perseverance in overcoming some technical issues ensured we were finally up and running on Wednesday evening with our booking system. Other than the odd minor issue the system seems to be working well with a very high percentage of appointments now made. If you require any help to book an appointment or have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Enterprise project - Year 5 are taking part in an enterprise project to help them to learn about profit, loss and teamwork. They will be selling Easter Eggs which they will personalise with the name of your choice. Easter Eggs can be ordered before school outside of the Nursery entrance and also on the Key Stage One yard from Monday 19th March until Wednesday 28th March. Eggs will be £3 for 1, £5 for 2. Thank you for your support.

Holystone's 'Amazing Journey'.....100 Things – The children will have noticed that Lynda Nelson, the artist responsible for our fabulous story book character mural in the small hall, is back in school. Lynda has started work on our 'Amazing Journey' project. This project, which will officially launch soon, will help us ensure that, despite the pressures placed on modern schools, we never forget the joy of childhood. It will also help us have a fitting and lasting tribute to AJ Stephenson who sadly passed away in October. Despite his difficulties AJ loved every moment of school and took every opportunity outside of school to live his childhood to the full.

The staff at Holystone believe that all of our pupils should embark on an 'Amazing Journey' during their time at Holystone. They also believe that whilst the National Curriculum and its associated academic attainment is hugely important, there are other things which are equally important in childhood. As a staff we have identified around 80 activities or experiences that we feel will enhance your child's primary school years. They are chosen deliberately not to be specifically linked to academic subjects, rather they are complementary activities beyond the curriculum, things that we hope your child will look back on fondly when they reflect on their time with us.

The activities are many and various and we will look to find opportunities for children to experience as many of these as possible in school beyond the regular diet of English and Maths and other subjects. We also would like you as families to join in with this idea and many of the activities or experiences will be things you can do together outside of school. We hope that over time the children will tick off as many of the 100 things in the list as they can. We will record this journey in school and hopefully by the time your child leaves us in Year 6 they will have experienced most if not all of the things on the list.

We also need your help. The staff have spent a lot of time considering the things they think would be meaningful and fun experiences, however we are aware this could never be an exhaustive list and we also wanted you to feel involved. So I invite your ideas. Please can you let us know whether you think there is anything you think we have missed off the list. We have about 20 activities to add and we would really welcome your views on this. I have attached the list of the activities we as a staff have decided to include and they include some highlighted by AJ's family. You can let me know your ideas by emailing them to enquiries@hpsps.org.uk or by simply jotting them down on a piece of paper and dropping them to your child's class teacher or to the office.

We are a little way off the official launch yet, but I wanted to explain the idea. We do not want this to be a race to be the first to complete the 100. There will be no prize. We would just like to define some of the things we as a community want to enshrine as experiences all children should have across childhood. We will produce a scrapbook for each child where they can tick off their achievements, include photos etc. and this will be something for them to look back on as they head up to High School.

Lynda the artist is putting together a mural, a pathway of Holystone stones reflecting the journey from Early Years to Year 6, and this pathway will be punctuated by a selection of some pictures from the 100 things list. With a bit of luck, we will also have a social media feed added to our website where you or we can upload photos of your children doing some of the activities. Much like our Luke Collins Special Achievement award, AJ's memorial is a celebration of childhood and I hope you will join us in helping our children to achieve as many of the 100 things.

This is the list compiled so far, some of these may not make the final cut:

- Explore a rockpool
- Toast marshmallows on a campfire
- Sit on a horse
- Sleep in a tent
- Build a den
- Paddle in the sea
- Learn and perform a circus skill
- Skim a stone
- Go out in the rain and jump in puddles
- Roll down a hill
- Cross a river using stepping stones
- Stay up late to look at the stars on a clear night
- Make a special friend to share your adventures
- Climb a tree
- Visit a different city
- Build a snowman
- Go on a bear hunt
- Make gloop and have fun getting messy
- Share a story with an older member of the community
- Fly a kite
- Lie on your back and watch the clouds
- Build a sandcastle with a moat
- Visit a farm
- Sleep outside
- Make a snow angel
- Be a pirate for the day
- Climb a big hill
- Learn about another country
- Paint a giant masterpiece
- Watch caterpillars turn into butterflies
- Visit a museum
- Eat home grown fruit or vegetables
- Find a geocache
- Set up a snail race
- Become a superhero
- Walk under the bridges on the Tyne
- Climb a lighthouse
- Hunt for mini-beasts
- Create some wild art
- Learn to weave
- Try a food you've never tasted before
- Learn to sing a song in a different language
- Dance in the rain
- Build a home for bugs
- Pick fruit and make jam
- Go surfing
- Have a flour fight
- Do something helpful for an older person
- Ride on old fashioned transport
- Be evacuated
- Use an old fashioned recipe
- Build a junk model
- Identify 5 British birds
- Grow a tall sunflower
- Raise money for charity
- Learn to skip
- Sleepover at school
- Watch the sunrise
- Play conkers
- Go on a night walk with a torch
- Do a random act of kindness
- Follow a trail
- Do something for our community
- Speak to an older person about their childhood
- Dress up in an historical costume
- Have a sleepover away from home
- Learn a magic trick
- Create some wild art
- Measure the circumference of a tree
- Create a photo montage of your time at Holystone
- Run a mile a day for a month
- Visit an island
- Dig a hole 5ft by 5ft
- Travel on the metro
- Experience life at a museum
- Make your own felt
- Code your own computer game
- Come to school in your pyjamas
- Plant a tree
- Climb to the top of a real castle
- Visit your school house location
- Make a time capsule

