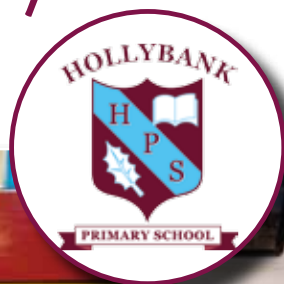




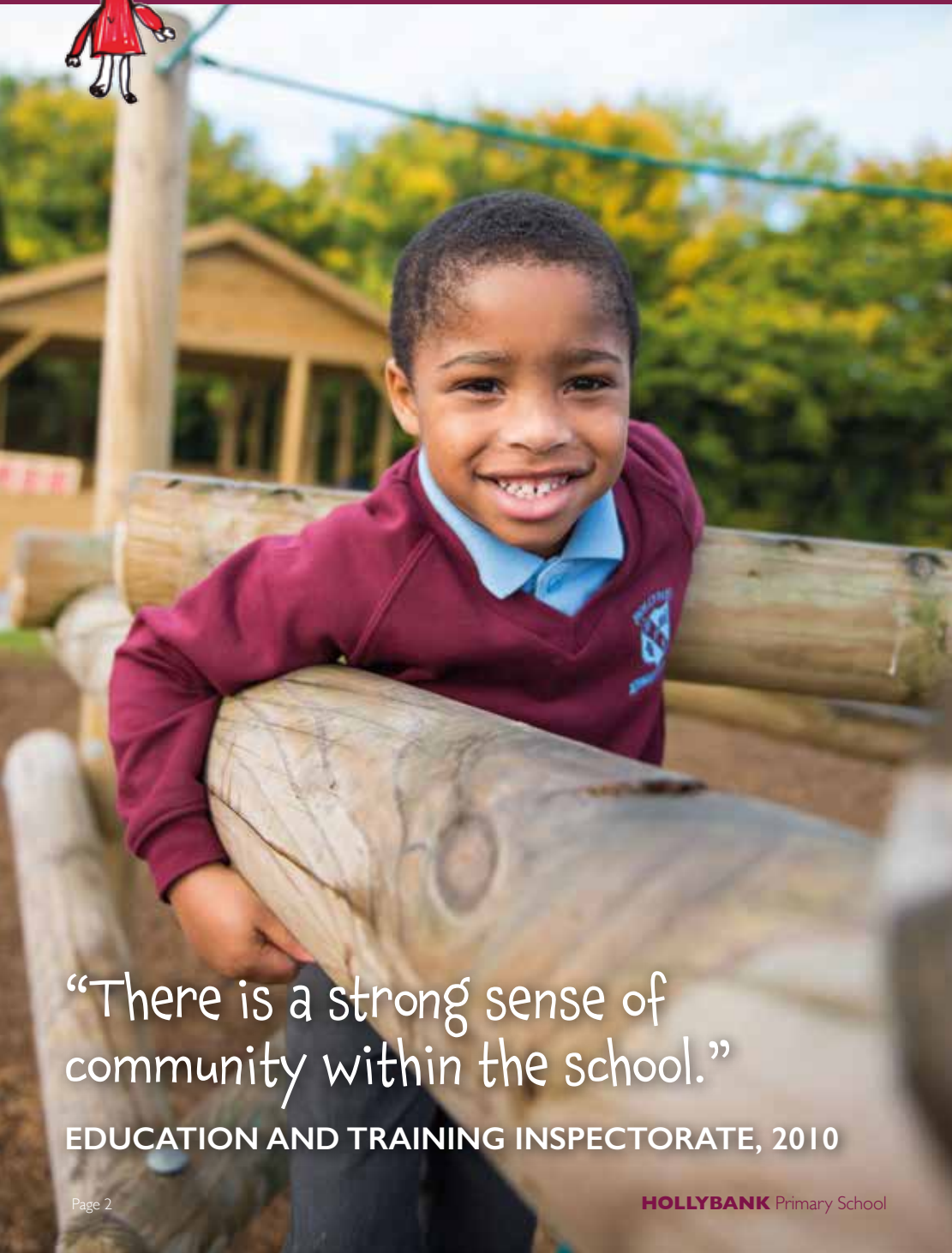
# Hollybank Primary School



# PROSPECTUS



# WELCOME



“There is a strong sense of community within the school.”

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE, 2010

Welcome to Hollybank Primary School. We hope this prospectus will give you a short insight into the ethos, environment and learning opportunities that our school provides. It is a very friendly, welcoming school and I am confident that you and your child will be happy with Hollybank as a first class choice for primary education. Of course, we can only provide a snapshot of life at Hollybank in a prospectus as there is no substitute for a tour of our wonderful school. Only then will you experience the warm ethos of our school, the energy and enthusiasm of our children and the hospitable atmosphere of our vibrant and newly refurbished classrooms. If you would like to visit us please do not hesitate to contact the school, via the details at the back of this prospectus.

At Hollybank Primary, we aim to make learning fun, purposeful and challenging. We value each one of our pupils as individuals and ensure inclusion is fostered so pupils develop equality and understanding. We are extremely proud of all our pupils and celebrate this success regularly. Our school shows a strong commitment to the care and welfare of our students and will always respond quickly, sensitively and appropriately to any concerns children or parents have.

Our school is an integral part of the local community, regularly participating and contributing to local events. Our school choir contributes to local church services and nursing homes, and our pupils are often involved in council activities such as tree planting, PSNI safety events and sporting activities. We are very proud to be one of the schools involved in THRIVE, an initiative lead by Family Connections to enhance the futures of all the young people in our area.

These links extend to post primary schools in the area through projects and activities which help the transition process for our Year 7 pupils, with many past pupils returning to participate in work experience or just to lend a helping hand!

“School is bright and welcoming, and children are very accepting of new pupils, especially those from different cultures.”

**GOVERNOR, 2019**





# WHO WE ARE...



Hollybank Primary School is a bright, modern building set on the edge of Monkstown Wood and provides a safe haven for all our pupils. With fantastic views of the surrounding natural area, the school also benefits from being close to major bus routes, train lines and the local university campus.

The accommodation consists of:

- A dedicated Autism Specific Classroom, called 'The Hollybank Hive'
- A lively and well resourced PreSchool Setting
- 8 newly refurbished and well-resourced classrooms
- A modern computer suite
- A spacious art room
- A calming Zen Den
- Two educational support rooms
- A Nurture Nest
- An interactive Foundation Stage suite
- A vibrant well stocked library
- A parent meeting room
- A large multi-purpose hall
- A full size football pitch
- A sizeable zoned playground with water, sensory, games and sand areas
- A modern outdoor classroom used for Forest Schools activities and break/lunch activities
- A polytunnel
- A gardening area with raised beds
- A peaceful willow dome
- A spacious sports' field
- An adventure playground



Our experienced staff works diligently to provide the children with both a happy and stimulating environment, that ensures every child reaches their maximum potential through an education tailored to meet their needs. Our parents are dedicated to helping us provide high standards of social, physical, academic and pastoral opportunities. Whilst our pupils have been fulfilling their role as ambassadors for our school we have received countless compliments from the wider public on their positive, friendly and respectful attitudes.

**HOLLYBANK** Primary School

"Staff certainly are valued and individuals' commitment and positivity is clearly evident."

**GOVERNOR, 2019**



"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

**HOLLYBANK** Primary School



# PASTORAL CARE & CHILD PROTECTION

The pastoral dimension of our school involves all our staff and children. Our most recent inspection report stated:

**“Among the strengths are the welcoming, inclusive and supportive ethos throughout the whole school, the effective strategies to promote positive behaviour and the consultation with the children in the compilation of class rules. Individual merit systems, for example, the Principal’s Tea Party are in place and highly valued by the children: there is clear evidence that the reward system has a positive impact on the children’s motivation, confidence and self-esteem. The relationships between the children and staff are very positive...”. Education and Training Inspectorate, 2010**

Every student has unique talents and abilities which we nurture and develop. Pastoral care is of utmost priority and is emphasised through our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and our Positive Behaviour Policy. Our preventative curriculum ensures all pupils are aware of the risks and dangers of the modern world, and also helps them acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

Hollybank Primary School seeks to provide an environment in which children, staff, governors and parents work together as a caring and supportive community of learners. We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which not only develops the academic skills but also the social principles of respect, fairness, trust and responsibility. Each day a ‘Pupil of the Day’ is chosen to receive compliments from their peers and have the golden star cushion added to their chair!



**“Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”**

RITA PIERSON



**“It was such a joy to walk in and feel the lovely atmosphere and the positive vibe in Hollybank PS.”**

**VISITING TEACHER JUNE 2018**

We encourage all children to communicate a concern directly or through their class worry box, and parents are encouraged to contact us with any concerns. Please be assured that all matters will be treated sensitively with appropriate attention and confidentiality.

Through the use of standardised tests, on-going assessment and teacher observation, some children are identified as underachievers or having special educational needs. Where appropriate, children receive an Individual Educational Plan which contains targets specific to their particular needs. Underachievers receive carefully monitored interventions where necessary and mentoring sessions to boost confidence or attitudes to self or school.

**“Hollybank has exceeded our expectations of a Primary School: our child is reaching goals we never thought possible. His confidence is flowing, he really has found a special place at Hollybank- long may it continue, and the school goes from strength to strength.”**

**PARENT SURVEY 2019**

# EARLY YEARS

Primary One and Two form the Foundation Stage which seeks to build on the experiences from Pre-school and Nursery, and to provide a smooth transition into primary school life.

Play Based Learning forms the basis of learning in these year groups through indoor and outdoor learning experiences. These play activities are well planned and age appropriate to provide a fun challenge that will develop positive attitudes to learning, promote achievement of early success and encourage motivation.

“We are really happy with our child’s progress this year, especially in his reading, we cannot thank the teacher enough.”

**PARENT REPORT FEEDBACK 2019**



## KEY STAGE ONE

Primary Three and Four build on the learning achieved in the Foundation Stage in a more formal way. Continued emphasis is placed on the personal, social and emotional development of the cross curricular skills of Using Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. In Key Stage One the pupils have the opportunity to develop their Thinking Skills and Problem Solving strategies through Activity Based Learning both indoors and outdoors.

“We have noticed a big difference when it comes to doing numberwork, his confidence is really growing in mathematics.” **PARENT REPORT FEEDBACK 2019**

## KEY STAGE TWO

In Primary Five, Six and Seven pupils continue to extend their knowledge and are encouraged to make connections between their learning areas. STEAM challenge days (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) provide a wonderful opportunity for independent and collaborative learning with an emphasis on Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. There is a strong emphasis on pupil responsibility for their learning, encouraging all pupils at this stage to self-reflect and to improve on their learning targets. Primary 7 develop these skills further by running their own business each year.

“Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something.  
It’s our goal in life to find it and keep it lit.”

**MARY LOU RETTON**



# PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support you have given my son, without doubt you gave me back my boy.”

PARENT REPORT FEEDBACK 2019



“The Principal and the teachers work conscientiously to ensure that communication with the parents is effective and maintained through regular newsletters, a newly established school website, open days, information meetings and a range of valuable courses for parents. There are well established and excellent links developed with the other local schools, including pre-school, primary and post primary schools, which enrich the children’s educational and social experiences and ensure smooth transitions.” *Education and Training Inspectorate, 2010*

In order for effective learning to take place positive behaviour is essential. All classes create a Class Plan for Learning which is based on respect, fairness and responsibility, further reinforced by our Three Golden Rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe. Our Positive Behaviour Policy highlights numerous rewards pupils receive, for example: Cheeky Monkey, Going For Gold and Principal's Tea Party. Therefore the ethos of the school is highlighting the positive and diminishing negative behaviours. Class Dojo is used in all year groups to encourage all positive behaviour and track pupil progress.

# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We in Hollybank Primary School believe a close partnership between home and school is vital, so we value these relationships and foster them in a number of ways. Parents are invited to assist in school on a voluntary capacity or join school more formally as a member of the PTA. We send home a weekly newsletter, amongst other written communication and our website is updated regularly.

Teachers communicate and share details of daily learning through Seesaw posts and photographs. Introductory parent meetings are held in each year group at the beginning of each academic year. In addition parents are invited to parental consultations and annually receive a written report on their child's progress.

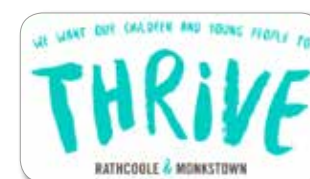
We hold an annual Parent Praise Event where pupils can show off their learning and share successes with their parents and carers.

We also run several parent focused events to support parents during their children's education, such as 'Monday Moan', 'Wednesday Walkers', 'Thursday Chat and Cheer Up' and 'Breakfast Bingo.' All events are very informal and all parents/carers are very welcome.

We have an open door policy in Hollybank Primary School, where parents are welcome to arrange appointments with teachers if they are concerned about any area of school life.

“I love coming into this school to do Time to Read, it's so welcoming and I wish I could go back to school. My school days weren't like this.”

TIME TO READ VOLUNTEER MAY 2019



## ATTENDANCE

We are always striving to emphasise the importance of good attendance and celebrate monthly attendance through a whole school competition, alongside annual 100% award badges and certificates. We share a joint attendance policy with the local schools who are part of the THRIVE project campaign.



# SCHOOL LIFE

## PI BUDDY SYSTEM

At Hollybank we are extremely proud of the pastoral care taken for our pupils and by our pupils. Our P7 pupils buddy up with a P1 student the minute they arrive in school, on that daunting first day. This helps the younger pupils settle in with ease and creates a very special bonding opportunity, which is developed throughout the year. It has proven to be a great success for all involved.

## HOLLYBANK PREFECTS

Each year P4-P7 pupils nominate and vote for senior prefects who act as great ambassadors for the school throughout the year. These pupils are a wonderful addition to the school as a whole, always volunteering for extra responsibilities and supporting the Principal and staff on many occasions. They are excellent role models within our school.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

We very much value pupil voice in Hollybank, seeking to develop their aspirations and provide them with opportunities to inspire. Each year a new school council is elected working as innovators to develop the school for others. They help monitor and reward positive behaviour around school and manage the play equipment at break and lunch, always fulfilling their responsible role to the highest degree.



## ICT

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and I pads. Our well-resourced computer suite is timetabled so all classes can forge strong links between ICT and other subjects.



## WEEKLY WIGGLE

Each Friday everyone in Hollybank, staff and pupils alike enjoy the benefits of an invigorating weekly wiggle in our pleasant surroundings.

## PRINCIPAL'S TEA PARTY

In Hollybank we always seek to celebrate the success, achievements and efforts of our students. This is done regularly in class but also in our weekly Class of the Week competition, where Cheeky Monkey joins the winning class for a week.

Furthermore, each month a selection of pupils receive invites to a Principal's Tea Party, where children are served breakfast by the Principal at a Mad Hatter's Tea Party...a tradition enjoyed by pupils and Principal alike!

## HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

Each Friday a child from each class finds a Hot Chocolate Friday reward stuck under their chair, for being Ready, Respectful or Safe.





# SCHOOL LIFE



**“THE SCHOOL GIVES GOOD ATTENTION TO ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO ADOPT HEALTHY LIFESTYLES.”**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
INSPECTORATE, 2010



## WIDE AWAKE CLUB (7:50am-8:50am)

This is an essential service for working parents and is open to all pupils from Pre-School to P7.

## EXTENDED SCHOOLS

We offer a range of after school activities which include:

- Art Club
- Scripture Union
- Lego Club
- Football
- Recorder
- ICT
- Hockey
- Table tennis
- French Club
- STEAM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Maths)
- Eco Club
- AQE Club
- 2-3 Club (for P1-P3)
- Gardening Club
- Heartstart



# SCHOOL TRIPS

Throughout their time in Hollybank, all students have many opportunities to explore new experiences through school trips.

Some of the trips our pupils have enjoyed so far include:

- York
- Edinburgh
- Corrymeela
- Belfast Zoo
- Streamvale Farm
- Crawfordsburn Scout Centre
- W5
- Loughshore
- Monkstown Wood
- The Waterfront Hall
- The Braid Museum
- Carrickfergus Castle
- The Tayto Factory
- Ulster Folk and Transport Museum
- Cinema
- Crusaders' Football Club
- The Giant's Causeway
- Aurora Leisure Centre





# SCHOOL UNIFORM



Our school uniform consists of a white or blue polo shirt and a maroon sweatshirt or cardigan with each item of uniform displaying the school name and logo. The uniform is popular with the children and economical for parents. Wearing a school uniform helps the children develop a sense of unity and pride in their school. All children are expected to wear the uniform. It is available alongside an optional PE uniform from our PTA.



# ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The Principal is authorised by the Board of Governors to admit children based on the admissions criteria listed below.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account the information which is detailed on, or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child, and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated.

In the event of the school being oversubscribed the Board Of Governors will apply the criteria as set out below. The criteria are listed in order of priority:

1. CHILDREN OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE.
2. CHILDREN WHO HAVE A SIBLING ATTENDING HOLLYBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL.
3. ELDEST OR ONLY CHILD IN THE FAMILY.\*
4. APPLICANTS WILL BE ADMITTED ON THE BASIS OF THE INITIAL LETTER OF THEIR SURNAME IN THE RANDOMIZED ORDER SET OUT BELOW.

**H A I Z O V M Y E K X F D T S B R P U L M A C N G C Q W M C J**

**\*NOT APPLICABLE WHERE THE ELDEST CHILD ATTENDS A SPECIAL SCHOOL.**

The Board of Governors reserves the right to request supplementary evidence to support or verify information on the application form. The provision of false or incorrect information, or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by primary schools, can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's form.

During the summer term an induction programme will begin to welcome our new P1 pupils, which includes an afternoon for the children to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom.

	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2011-2012	22	22
2012-2013	24	24
2013-2014	18	18
2014-2015	27	25
2015-2016	17	16
2016-2017	24	23
2017-2018	30	27
2018-2019	20	20
2019-2020	20	20
2020-2021	28	24





# PRE-SCHOOL

At Hollybank Pre-school we strive to create a warm and stimulating environment where learning is fun, and activities promote and extend our children's curiosity and awareness of the world.

We learn through play and exploration both indoors and outdoors so that the children reach their full potential emotionally, physically and socially. We nurture each child as an individual whilst fostering an acceptance of diversity in a caring and friendly atmosphere.

We offer funded places through the government PEAG scheme and we are subject to inspections by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) ensuring that the highest level of education and welfare provision is sustained for every child in our care.



THE PRE-SCHOOL IS OPEN MONDAY- FRIDAY,  
8:50am-12:00pm FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE  
AGES OF 3 AND 4 YEARS OLD.





# Hollybank Primary School

**DEVENISH DRIVE  
MONKSTOWN  
NEWTOWNABBEY  
BT37 0HF**



**TEL: 02890 864944**

**WWW.HOLLYBANKPS.CO.UK**

**EMAIL: [info@hollybankps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@hollybankps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk)**

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

<b>SCHOOL STARTS</b>	<b>8:50 AM</b>
<b>BREAKTIME</b>	<b>10:40-10:50AM</b>
<b>LUNCHTIME</b>	
<b>P1-P3:</b>	<b>12:00-12:30PM</b>
<b>P4-P7:</b>	<b>12:30-1:00PM</b>
<b>SCHOOL FINISHES</b>	
<b>P1-P3:</b>	<b>2:00PM</b>
<b>P4-P7:</b>	<b>2:00PM</b> Tuesdays only
	<b>3:00PM</b> Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday