Holly House

St. Mary’s Hospital

Parkhurst Road, Newport

Isle of Wight, PO30 5TG

Telephone: 01983-822099 ext 6411

Email: [cathy.armstrong@iow.nhs.uk](mailto:cathy.armstrong@iow.nhs.uk)

17 April 2018

Dear Head Teacher,

**Celebrating 70 years of the NHS**

The NHS is turning 70 on 5th July 2018 and the Isle of Wight NHS Trust would like to invite all primary school children to enter a competition!

We want to give all primary school children the opportunity to celebrate our big birthday by creating a birthday card. The cards will be compiled and judged by NHS staff. Once judged, they will all be displayed in community areas such as supermarkets, schools, GP surgeries and on public transport.

Cards can be any size but must have the students name, year group and school on the back. The cards should bold, bright and beautiful! We would love to see lots of pictures, perhaps of staff (nurses, doctors, paramedics) and patients (babies, children, adults and older people) or the hospital or something that they would like to thank the NHS for.

There will be a winner for each year group, and the winners will receive a £10 book voucher. Deadline for entries is **5th July 2018.** Entries can be sent to the address above, or I am able to come in to pick them up from your school.

Winners will be announced on **16th July 2018.** All children entering the competition will receive a certificate.

With 3,200 staff and 350 various different roles the NHS is the largest employer on the Isle of Wight, and we feel that we need to do more work in engaging with younger students. In line with our 70th birthday, we feel that this is a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of one of the nation’s most loved institutions, to appreciate the vital role the service plays in our lives, and to recognise and thank the extraordinary NHS staff – the everyday heroes – who are always there to greet, and care for us.

To support you in this, I am happy to come into your school to talk to students, deliver an assembly or give teachers and support staff some pointers on how to introduce this to students.

There are resources available for you to access to learn more about how schools can get involved in the NHS 70 celebrations, they can be found here: <https://www.nhs70.nhs.uk/get-involved/teacher-and-educators/>.

If you feel your school will be able to get involved please contact us on the e-mail address or telephone number above. We would be delighted for you to be involved in the celebrations.

Yours Faithfully

Cathy Armstrong

Volunteers and Careers Coordinator