

Holmston Primary School

December Newsletter



Next Term

I am very excited about the activities that we have planned for the next term. We have the Burns' Competitions for poetry, art and music recital. Primary 7 will be visiting the Sky Skills Academy and have the opportunity of making a short television programme. P6 will be hatching trout before releasing them back into the river. P4, 5 and 6 will be going to the City Halls in Glasgow to enjoy the '10 Pieces' concert performed by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. During March we will be having our STEM week. If you use Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths as part of your work and would be prepared to talk to the children about this, please contact the school.

Monday 19 th December	Primary 1-3 Christmas Party pm
Tuesday 20 th December	P5 – P7 Bag Pack Morrisons P5 rehearsal at Church
Wednesday 21 st December	Glee Club perform at Ayr Central 11.15am P6/7 Christmas Party Drama Club Show 6.00pm
Thursday 22 nd December	Winter Service led by P5 Auld Kirk 9.45am P4/5 Christmas Party
Friday 23 rd December	School Closes at 2.30pm
Monday 9 th January	School re-opens 9.00am

I would like to remind parents that they should report to the office before being escorted to classes. Please do not enter the school from any entrance other than the main one. For all our pupils safety, I would ask you respect this request. If you have any concerns, queries or compliments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Hardy
Head Teacher

Article 28

You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

It is a most wonderful time of the year and I know that the pupils are very excited with all the activities going on. The Christmas tree is up and the festive celebrations are well underway with lots of wonderful learning experiences and showcases to share our learning with the parents and families of Holmston. December is always very busy with parties, nativities, services and pantomimes and I would like to thank all the parents that have supported us either in the running of these events or walking with us to the various venues.

Primaries 1, 2 and 3 have been working very hard rehearsing and performing our Nativity, "Straw and Order" and the hall looks very festive with the backdrop and Christmas card designs by the pupils. Putting on any performance requires a lot of additional work and I would like to thank all the staff for their time and effort.

The Glee Club are out and about bringing festive cheer to members of the community including visits to Nursing Homes and Ayr Central. I hope to see you at our Christmas Service on Thursday 22nd December at 9.45am in the Auld Kirk. This year the service will be led by the Primary 5 pupils.

I hope you all have a relaxing and happy Christmas and New Year.

The Scottish Showcase

All the pupils from Primary 1 to 7 participated in our successful Scottish Showcase. It was a fantastic event to celebrate St Andrew's Day and share the learning about Scottish Culture with our families. A lot of hard work and effort had gone into learning poems, songs and social dances.

Day of Dance

Primary 5 and Primary 6 have enjoyed learning Scottish Social Dances and took part in the Day of Dance at Troon Town Hall. Many of the primary schools from across the Authority participated.

School Website

I hope you have taken the time to visit our new school website at: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/holmstonps/>. The website will be developed over the coming months to include class blog pages. All letters sent home are being put on the website to further improve communication. The 'latest news' section will keep you up to date with various activities going on in the school and school notices. In this section you can find instructions to download Microsoft Office for free and discounts for the 'Burns Alicht' event that are available until Christmas Eve. There is also a link section on Internet Safety. Maths Challenges will be posted on a regular basis for parents and pupils to try and solve together and on our creativity page you can write a brief book review or tell us about your favourite book. We will also be adding a Parent Voice page very soon. If you have any feedback on the website or ideas that you would like to include please let me know.

P7 Transition Disco

As part of the on-going transition activities, P7 enjoyed a Christmas disco at Belmont Academy on the 14th December. Most of the Cluster Primaries came along and this gave an opportunity for our pupils to make new friends before they move to S1. Throughout the year there are a range of transition events including visits from the staff and students and lessons in different subjects including PE.

Parent Voice

Thank-you to the Parent Voice, the parents and staff who helped to make the Christmas Fayre hugely successful. Overall, about £1,400 was raised – a fantastic amount. The Family Fun night was also a great success – thank you to Mrs Masson for organising this. There are already plans underway for a Burns Supper Event and if you can help the Parent Voice in any way please contact them through their email or come along to the next meeting. Holmstonparentvoice@yahoo.co.uk

Parental Questionnaire – a full analysis will be available next term.

I would like to thank everyone who returned a parental questionnaire form. At Holmston we are committed to self-evaluation, with two of our values being 'honesty' and 'courage'. We will continually strive to improve the service we offer. We appreciate that some people wish to remain anonymous. However, to ensure we can address any concerns, it is helpful to be able to speak personally with parents to talk through any issues. When parents have stated they disagree or strongly disagree with the majority of statements and have not put a name or additional comments it is not possible to follow up and work to improve this.

Developments from your comments and feedback include:

- reviewing the procedures for the infants leaving school
- increasing the number of out of class activities available to P1-3 in the autumn term
- re-designing the school website to further improve communication

All returns will be included in the statistical feedback. I would also like to state that any reflections or comments, either positive or negative, would never result in any form of discrimination against pupils or parents as some of the comments suggest. This would be highly unprofessional and against all of our school values. I hope that we can continue to build the ethos at Holmston based on our school values wherein parents feel they can come into school to discuss any issues, at any time.

The issue of parents parking on the yellow lines has also been raised again. I am shocked that parents still feel they can break the law by parking on the yellow lines. I am in contact again with the local police to see how we can take this forward. Members of staff at the school have no powers of enforcement on road traffic management and have been advised not to approach drivers. The responsibility to park safely, legally and not on the yellow lines lies with the parents. Once again, I would inform those parents who think it is ok to park on the yellow lines at the start or end of the day that it is selfish, dangerous and unacceptable. I would ask those parents to reflect on their actions in light of the following UNCRC article:

Article 3

All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

