

Holmston Primary School

April Newsletter



Dates for your diary

Tuesdays	Bikeability P5
Wednesdays	Bikeability P6 / P5 Allotments
Monday 1 st May	School closed
Wednesday 3 rd May	P6 and P7 NSPCC workshops
Thursday 4 th May	School closed INSET day
Friday 5 th May	P5 to Coylton PS – Scottish Opera
Wednesday 10 th May	P6/7 pupils Relay Championships Dam Park
Tuesday 16 th May	Primary Outdoor Tennis Competition
Wednesday 17 th May	P7 NEC photos
Friday 19 th May	P5 Scottish Opera at Ayr Town Hall
Week beg 22 May	The Big Splash Fortnight – details to follow
Thursday 25 th May	Netball Tournament at The Citadel
Monday 29 th May	School Closed
Thursday 1 st June	FIB workshop P3
Friday 2 nd June	Reports out to parents Summer Fayre (TBC)
Monday 5 th June	P7 Transition Sports Day – Dam Park
Tuesday 6 th June	P1 Induction Day (1) 9.30am – 10.30am
Thursday 8 th June	P7 Transition Day Belmont
Friday 9 th June	P7 Transition Day Belmont
Monday 12 th June	P7 Parents Meeting at Belmont
Tuesday 13 th June	P1 Induction Day (2) 9.30am – 10.30am
Friday 16 th June	School Sports Day Dam Park pm
Friday 23 rd June	School bump-up Day
Wednesday 28 th June	Prize Giving (TBC) School Closes 1.00pm

Please note that the above dates are subject to change. Please check the website regularly for up-to-date school information.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/holmstonps/>

Richard Hardy
Head Teacher

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 (UNCRC)

I hope you all enjoyed the Spring Break. The pupils have been keen to share their experiences and tales from the holidays. I would like to thank all the parents who attended the recent Parents Evenings. This partnership working is vital to ensuring your child makes the best possible progress. I would also like to thank all the Primary 7 helpers who gave up their time to ensure that these evenings ran smoothly. A huge thank-you also goes to the parents that organised and ran the Book Fayre on the evening. Once again over £500 was raised to purchase books for the school library.

Developing the Young Workforce – STEM and “The Big Splash!”

The school hosted another hugely successful Science Fayre on **Friday 17th March**. I would like to thank all the parents and families that supported the event and took part in the experiments and problem solving. The pupils enjoyed leading the learning for our visitors, as well as trying out the activities.

Parents’ comments included:

“Children were so enthusiastic and really understood what they explained”

“Great experiments. Learned today all the stuff that they didn’t teach me in my day!”

“Very humbling”

and *“Mr Hardy looked like the ‘Mad Scientist’”* I’m not so sure about this one!

Part of the reason for focusing on the STEM subjects is to encourage pupils to consider the skills they need to undertake work in this area when they are older and possible pathways they could take to enter these areas of work. We had visits from several engineers to talk about their careers and the work they do. This is part of the Developing the Young Workforce agenda (DYW). I am very excited about how we will be continuing to promote skills for learning, life and work during May when we will be hosting Holmston’s “The Big Splash!” The context for the learning will be the sea, beach and rivers of Ayrshire and opportunities will be provided for pupils to learn new skills and apply these in a range of new contexts. We will also be focusing on the skills and jobs associated with these areas. Each year group will have different experiences including visits to the Nautical College, life boat station, helping to prepare the shipping forecast, beach visits to Culzean and the fishing industry. Further details will follow but if you feel you can help support the learning in anyway please contact the school. It’s great to have several parents on-board already. Please note that although the school and Parent Voice will be heavily subsidising many of the trips there will be some costs that we will be asking for parental

contributions. As this event affects the whole school we fully appreciate that if there are several children in a family costs can soon mount up. We will, as always, strive to keep costs to a minimum whilst providing exciting learning experiences for the pupils.

Travelling to School and JRSO News

The JRSOs have been busy again organising the school's participation in 'The Big Pedal'. Pupils were encouraged to either cycle or scooter to school. The JRSOs recorded the number of journeys made on two wheels over five days.

I have been disappointed to note that some parents still continue to show such disregard for their own child's and all our pupil's safety by parking on the zig-zag lines even after our recent campaign. We will continue to monitor this situation and once again request that parents stop doing this. Our friends in Holmston Gardens also inform us that some parents are parking in their private car park – this is also not an option. These spaces are for the residents only.

Bikeability

The Primary 5 and Primary 6 have started on their Bikeability training at Level 1 and Level 2. Bikeability is a cycle training programme. It is about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability gives everyone the skills and confidence for all kinds of cycling. Once again, we could not offer this opportunity without the support of two parents, Mr. Elder and Mr. Stewart who help to run the sessions. Thank-you.

Sporting Events

We recently had teams represent the school in football and netball and pupils participated in the Cross Country event at Rozelle. All pupils were superb ambassadors for Holmston and demonstrated an excellent sporting attitude. Hopefully we will be taking some of our pupils to the South Ayrshire Triathlon event later on this term.

School Events

- We have been the WEST FM School of the Week
- P6 pupils participated in the K'NEX Challenge at Belmont
- NSPCC have delivered workshops for all pupils
- Raising money for Red Nose Day – Thank-you for your contributions
- P1 and Glee Club performed at the Ayrshire Music Festival
- P4 led the Easter Service at the Auld Kirk

Parent and Pupil Surveys

Before Christmas, all the schools in South Ayrshire undertook the annual parent and pupil survey. Here are the results from Holmston. We had a total of 58 returns from parents. Only pupils in P4 – P7 are asked to complete the survey (105 pupils). Not all the same questions are asked to the pupils. Overall, the results are pleasing and give us some areas to think about for the future.

Percentage of replies that agree or strongly agree		Parents	Pupil
Safe			
1	My child feels safe at school.	97%	96%
2	Staff work hard to help children develop skills to keep themselves safe online, at home, school and in the community.	100%	96%
3	My child knows where to go for help at school.	98%	95%
Achieving			
4	My child enjoys learning at school.	100%	96%
5	My child is encouraged and stretched to work to the best of their ability.	100%	96%
6	Staff are interested in my child's learning and achievements outside school.	90%	
7	There are regular opportunities to share success with parents and carers.	89%	
Nurtured			
8	I know that people care about my child at school.	93%	93%
9	I get help and support when my child has a problem.	90%	93%
10	The school works hard to make sure everyone feels safe, comfortable and cared for.	83%	
Active			
11	My child takes part in out-of-class activities and school clubs.	90%	84%
12	My child takes part in regular physical activity at school.	99%	
Respected			
13	Staff treat my child fairly at school.	94%	94%
14	The school keeps me well informed about my child and their progress.	89%	
Responsible			
15	The school sets high standards for children's behaviour and learning.	94%	95%
16	Children get to contribute at whole school level through groups and committees.	91%	
Included			
17	The school is good at dealing with concerns or complaints.	85%	93%
18	The Parent Council keeps me informed about their activities.	94%	
Healthy			
19	The school encourages my child to make healthy choices.	93%	91%
20	My child learns about feelings and relationships.	97%	