

Uniform

Please ensure that school uniforms are labelled with your child's name. We have already started to build up a collection of lost property.

Dates for your Diary

16 th – 20 th October	School Closed
Monday 23 rd October	Pupils off. INSET day for staff
Tuesday 24 th October	Pupils off. INSET day for staff
Friday 27 th October	P1 – 4 Halloween Disco 6.00pm – 7.15pm P5 – 7 Halloween Disco 7.30pm – 8.45pm
Wednesday 1 st November	Flu Vaccination Day
Friday 24 th November	Scottish Culture Week Showcase. Parents invited. (Details to follow)
Saturday 2 nd December	Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 6 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 th December	P1-P3 Nativity (TBC)
Friday 15 th December	P1-P3 Nativity (TBC)
Monday 18 th December	P1-P3 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December	School Trip to Pantomime
Wednesday 20 th December	P4-P5 Christmas Party
Thursday 21 st December	P6-P7 Christmas Party
Friday 22 nd December (TBC)	Winter Service at the Auld Kirk. Parents invited

If you have any concerns, queries or compliments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Hardy
Head Teacher

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

Article 28 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Holmston Primary School October Newsletter 2017



I cannot believe that it is the October Break already. Autumn has certainly arrived very quickly and the dark nights are dropping in. We will endeavour to have outdoor playtimes as often as possible. Please ensure that the pupils come to school in appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather at this time of year.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to come to the Parents' Evenings. It was a pleasure to meet with you. I truly appreciate the supportive comments and feedback that many of you gave through the 'post-its'. From the feedback some parents raised the issue of the amount of time that was available with the teaching staff. This is set by the amount of time available and the number of parents in the largest classes. As always, if you have any concerns about your child, please contact the office to make an appointment with the class teacher.

I would like to thank the members of the Parent Voice, especially Mrs Curragh and Mrs Elder, for the organisation of the book fayre. We will be using the money raised to purchase more books for the pupils to use in class.

Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA)

The whole school enjoyed our Holmston Celebration of Rights with the classes moving around the school working on wants and needs alongside developing playground and dining room charters. We also enjoyed sharing our learning with parents and family in the afternoon. I hope you managed to see some of the work displayed around the school during the parents' evenings. You can also find out more on the '*Holmston – a Rights Respecting School*' blog page or follow the group on twitter.

The Rights-Respecting School Award will continue to help our pupils to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens both in school and within the wider community. By learning about their rights and about the importance of

respecting the rights of others, pupils will be encouraged to reflect on how their behaviour and actions can affect those around them. This allows us to build and maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all, both in the classroom and around the school site.

JRSO News and Road Safety

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have been busy organising and running a 'Design a Mascot' competition. The winner from each class was presented with their prize during an assembly. The JRSOs were all impressed with the high quality of entries they received. This made their task of judging very difficult.

The JRSOs would also like to remind parents about safe parking at the school and not to park on the yellow lines outside the school. This is dangerous. There are parking spaces further down Ashgrove Street. This year the JRSOs hope to be developing a '*Child-Friendly Driver Charter*' which we will ask all drivers to sign up to.

We have also had complaints about parents parking over the drives of our neighbours. This has resulted in some of our neighbours being unable to get to work or hospital appointments on time. As you will know *respect* and *responsibility* are two of our values. Please demonstrate these when dropping your child off.

Parent Volunteers

If you can volunteer to help in any way, please contact the school office. Extra bodies are always welcome and if you have specific talents, please let us know. I would like to thank those parents who have already volunteered to take clubs this session and the parents who run the school bank. We are looking for additional volunteers to assist with the school bank, without this support we would not be able to run this initiative.

Parent Voice

I would like to thank the Parent Voice for their continued support. They have agreed to increase the funding for the pantomime trip to £850 this year. By

combining this with money from the school budget, we should be able to keep the cost per pupil down to £5.00. Further details will follow. It was a pleasure to see some new faces at the last Parent Voice meeting. For many of our council members, this will be their final year and we need to keep this vital part of the school running to ensure the fantastic opportunities that they provide for all your children continue to happen. If you can, try to come along to the meetings. At present, the Parent Voice members are busy organising the Halloween Discos and Christmas Fayre. Please email the Parent Voice at their email address if you can help:

Holmstonparentvoice@yahoo.co.uk

Dolphin House

I had the pleasure of accompanying the P7 pupils and Miss Gunning to Dolphin House during September. This was a fantastic experience enabling the pupils to enrich their knowledge of the Scottish landscape and geology alongside developing new skills including rafting, hill walking, orienteering and caving. This experience certainly helped the pupils to become more independent and they should now be able to make their own beds and clear tables too! The residential contributes towards achieving the John Muir Award and they shared their learning with pupils and parents during a special assembly on their return. Every single pupil demonstrated that they were excellent ambassadors for Holmston at all times during the week and I was very proud of them. You can see some of the highlights of the trip on our Dolphin House 2017 blog on the school website.

Harvest Service and Food Collection

I would like to thank everyone for sending in food donations for our Harvest collection. This year we are supporting the Salvation Army Foodbank. Major Linda Watson came to visit the pupils during an assembly to explain where the food goes and to thank the children for their generosity. I thoroughly enjoyed our P2s Harvest Service this year at the Auld Kirk and I would like to thank Mr. Gemmell for letting us use the church.