

Health Information

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Health Protection Team have noticed an increase in outbreaks of gastrointestinal infection in schools in recent weeks. They would like to provide some information on norovirus, as this is the most likely cause of gastrointestinal illness in schools and communities.

Norovirus (winter vomiting virus) causes diarrhoea and vomiting, is very infectious and can cause large numbers of children and staff to be affected at once. Symptoms include sudden onset of nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/ or diarrhoea and will usually last 12 to 60 hours. A person can become infected as a result of contact with an infectious person, contact with a surface contaminated with the virus or ingesting contaminated food or drink.

If a child becomes ill at home they should remain off school until free of diarrhoea and or vomiting for 48 hours.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 12 th December	PC Gilmour to deliver workshops to P5 – P7
Wednesday 13 th December	P7 Christmas Dance at Belmont
Thursday 14 th December	P1- P3 Nativity 1.30pm
Friday 15 th December	P1- P3 Nativity 9.30am Dance Club Dance competition pm
Monday 18 th December	P1 – P3 Christmas Party pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Gaiety Panto – Cinderella am
Wednesday 20 th December	P4 – P5 Christmas Party pm
Thursday 21 st December	P6 – P7 Christmas Party pm
Friday 22 nd December	Winter Service led by P4 9.45am Auld Kirk all welcome School closes 2.30pm
Monday 8 th January	School re-opens 9.00am



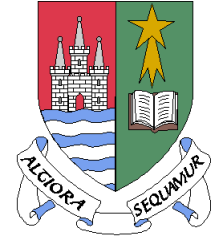
Richard Hardy
Head Teacher

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)

Holmston Primary School December Newsletter



I cannot believe that it is already December. The Christmas tree is up and the Hall decorated with festive pictures. December is always very busy with parties, nativities, services and pantomimes alongside all of the usual learning that takes place.

Primaries 1, 2 and 3 have been working very hard rehearsing our Nativity, “A Midwife Crisis” 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 rehearsing and will be bringing festive cheer to members of the community. I hope to see you at our Christmas Service on Friday 22nd December at 9.45am in the Auld Kirk. This year the service will be led by the Primary 4 pupils in partnership with Southcraig Campus.

Now that the days are darker and colder, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. I would like to remind you that football hats and scarves are not permitted in school.

The Scottish Showcase

All the pupils from Primary 1 to 7 participated in our hugely successful Scottish Showcase hosted by Head Boy and head Girl, Ian and Alana. 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 songs and social dances. We received some very positive feedback from parents. This year the tickets sold out very quickly and as a result we may need to limit the number of tickets per family for future events.

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.

P7 Transition Disco

As part of the on-going transition activities, P7 are invited to a Christmas disco at Belmont Academy on the 13th December. All the Cluster Primaries come along and this gives 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 and Christmas Fayre

Once again a huge thank-you goes to the Parent Voice, and the parents and staff who helped to make the Christmas Fayre very successful. The whole morning was very busy and Santa was very pleased with all the children! It was great to see so many families come along and support the event. Overall, approximately £1,300 was raised.

I would also like to thank Mrs Logie for organising the Christmas Cards again this year. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed making these and the finished cards look fantastic.

The Parent Voice has also agreed to fund the purchase of books for the pupils. These will be given out during the Christmas parties as a present from Santa. We are hoping that Santa himself will deliver the presents to the P1-P3s at their party.

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

Competitions

Congratulations to Lyle in P4. His card design was chosen as the winning entry in the lamp-post banner competition for Holmston. The banner can be seen at the bottom end of the main street in Ayr.

Well done to the swimmers that took part in the Ayrshire Primary Schools Swimming Gala which was held on Saturday 18th November. I would like to thank the parents that led at this event. Without your support the pupils would not have been able to participate in this.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week was in November and was the focus for a special assembly during the week. We also had a visit from our campus cop, PC Gilmour. He also spoke to the pupils about Internet Safety and cyber-bullying. PC Gilmour will be coming back to deliver workshops to the P5-P7 focusing on being safe online.

Pupil Groups

Digital Leaders and ICT

Our Digital Leaders attended a Lego Mindstorms Training event at Kincaidston Primary School at the end of November. They learned how to build and programme the Lego Mindstorm Robots in advance of a Cluster competition to be held in the new year. They all enjoyed their day and getting to work with pupils from across the Cluster schools. We hope that they will share their skills by teaching some of the other pupils (and staff!) how to use this technology.

At this time of year, Santa may be thinking about giving laptops to boys and girls that have been good. Pupils have access to the complete Microsoft Office package through their Glow log on. This can be downloaded on up to five machines. Further details about how to do this can be found on the school website on the 'Latest News' section or contact the school.

Rights Respecting School Committee

Our RRSA leaders have been busy finalising our playground charters. These charters are based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The pupils from across the school have worked together to produce these charters which remind pupils about how to respect everyone's rights and have a positive playtime.

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs)

Our JRSOs led an assembly on staying safe during the winter months. They gave good advice to the pupils including making sure that you wear something bright, having good footwear, looking out for edges covered by leaves and tips for safe cycling in the winter.

They have also noticed parents are parking again on the yellow lines outside the school, in the staff carpark or over neighbours' drives. We would like to remind you that this is not permitted and we will consider the action we may take if this continues. Please keep all our pupils safe by not parking here.

Playground Leaders

Our playground leaders have received training from the Active Sports co-ordinator on teaching pupils to play a range of playground games using the new equipment. They started off distributing the equipment in the infant playground and have extended this into the upper playground. Many of the pupils have commented that this has improved lunchtimes.