



Holmston Primary School

March Newsletter

I cannot believe that it is the Easter Holidays already. This term has certainly been a busy one with lots going on and I thoroughly enjoyed the performances of "Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies" last week. A lot of hard work goes into staging a show and I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts. A huge well done goes to the cast as well as the backstage crew and technicians for a fantastic production. After the Easter holidays we hope to be offering the chance to purchase a copy of the show on DVD

The Primary 3s are very busy preparing our Easter Service which will be on **Thursday 29th March 2018 at 9.30am** in the Auld Kirk – weather permitting! I hope you will be able to join us. Once again we look forward to joining with Southcraig for our Service.

World Book Day Winners!

We were very pleased that thanks to the hard work of the whole school community, under the direction of Mrs Messener, we achieved a silver award in this year's World Book Day Competition. The prize is £1000 worth of books for our school library. Please have a look at our work under the creativity tab of the website or have a look at all the winners on the World Book Day website. The pupils and staff had a fantastic day dressed as their favourite book characters and joining in with quizzes, competitions and shared reading. Pupils were able to go home with some new books from the book swap too. You may have seen the double page feature in the Ayrshire Post.

Parent Voice

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Parent Voice for agreeing to subsidise the pantomime visit. This is a substantial investment of over £1,300 and means that the pupils will only have to pay £5 for their ticket.

The Summer Fayre will be on **Friday 1st June 2018**. Please keep the date free. If you are able to offer your assistance, please contact the Parent Voice.

It was great to see some new parents at the Parent Voice meeting earlier this month. There will be one more meeting later on next term. Please do come along – we need new members as several of our existing members will be leaving us at the end of this year. Without the work of the Parent Voice our pupils would not have the experiences that we currently offer.

Pupil Equity Fund

You may have read in the media about the continuation of the Government's Pupil Equity Fund. This is additional money given to schools with the aim of reducing the poverty related attainment gap. Over the past year we have been focusing on targeted language interventions and enriching the literacy provision at the school. The impact of these has been very positive. Next year we would like to focus on addressing the gap in Numeracy through a variety of interventions and approaches and providing opportunities to develop Health and Wellbeing with targeted individuals. If you have any suggestions for any school development work please contact me. After Easter, I will be holding a parent workshop on school improvement and evaluation again so that parents can contribute to the annual standard and quality report and school improvement plan.

Start of the School Day

It has come to my attention that we now have several pupils in the playground before 8.30am. There is no supervision for the pupils at this time and, unless attending a specific club or event, or due to inclement weather conditions, pupils are not allowed in the building before 9.00am. We provide supervision in the playground from 8.45am. This should be the earliest time that pupils arrive at school

Please follow school news on the school website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/holmstonps/> and Twitter page: @HolmstonPS

Yours faithfully,

Richard Hardy
Head Teacher

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)

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)

Parent News

Unfortunately, due to other commitments of the small number of parents who volunteer to run the school bank we will have to temporarily close the bank until August 2018. If you are able to give an afternoon of your time to help run the bank, please let the school know and we can pass your name on. We are very grateful to those parents who run the bank. Without parent volunteers we are unable to keep this going. Having a school bank helps pupils to appreciate the value in saving and develops important life-skills. Many pupils put money aside to save for the Dolphin House residential in P7.

We are also looking for any family members with a love of gardening to help out with our allotment – especially over holiday periods. If you are interested in helping out please contact the school office.

On-line payments will soon be available to pay for school lunches. This will eventually be rolled out to include payments for trips. This has been trialled successfully in the secondary schools and further information will be sent out after Easter.

I would like to thank the parents and grandparents who give up their time every week to run the Netball and Football clubs and help at the Sewing club. If you would like to run a club – this could be at lunchtime or after school - please contact the school.

I hope to see many of you at the Parents Evenings this week. This will be the last set of Parents Evenings this year. Annual end-of-year reports will be issued towards the end of next term. If you need to see a member of staff at any time, please contact the school office to arrange a mutually agreeable time. Staff are usually available at the end of the day.

Vandalism to School

You may have seen in the local press that unfortunately our courtyard area was vandalised over the February long weekend with damage to pots, plants and equipment. We were very grateful to the Forehill, Holmston & Masonhill Community Council for presenting us with a cheque for £50 and some raspberry canes to help repair the damage. We will be using the money to replace the pots and plants that were destroyed.

PE Lessons

This term we have had Ayr Rugby Club in delivering lessons to our older pupils along with students from Belmont and Kyle supporting the delivery of PE.

Achievements and Experiences

- RRSA work continues with our ambassadors presenting at the recent Parent Voice meeting.
- Our Head Boy and Girl recited ‘Ode to a Haggis’ at the annual schools’ Burns Supper at the Town Hall. The school Burns competition was of a very high standard this year and very difficult to judge!
- The whole school attended the Celtic Connections Concerts in Glasgow
- P6 Euroquiz team participated in the South Ayrshire competition
- Two P7 pupils reached the final in the SAC Safer Internet Day competition. They received their certificates during an event at the Carrick Centre in Maybole
- Walk Once a Week Campaign – this is being funded for the rest of the school year and we will continue to encourage our pupils to actively travel to school
- Mrs Slider has been busy working with her class and the Glee Club. The P1s and our Glee Club sang beautifully in the South Ayrshire Music Festival at the Town Hall.
- Our ICT technicians took part in the Cluster Lego Mindstorm Competition at Kincaidston. Miss Bell, one of our support assistants has been running a lunchtime club with these pupils to help them prepare. The P7s will now run the club for members of P6
- We had two winners in the Show Racism the Red Card Competition in P1 and P3. They were awarded with their certificates at an event at Hampden Park Stadium.
- We have received the FairAware Award for our Fairtrade work so far. This included our FairTrade afternoon and it was great to see so many parents come along. The work has been led by Miss Pollock
- Maclauren Art Exhibition at Rozelle. Parents will be informed for those pupils who have work displayed

Forest and Farms Fortnight

Preparations are well underway for our upcoming “Forests and Farming Fortnight” which will immerse our pupils in activities related to the theme from Monday 22nd May to Monday 4th June 2018. Activities will include visits from Ayr Beekeepers, Owl Magic, Ayr Planning, Badgers and Scottish Wildlife Trust, RHEETA (‘the wee Ayrshire coo’), the Red Squirrel Survival Trust and vintage tractors.

Among other activities there will be educational outings to Dumfries House, Bellisle Park and Strandhead Farm in Tarbolton. At this point we would like to ask parents and extended families if anyone has experience in related agricultural industries that they could come along and share with the pupils. Please contact the school if you can help.