



Holmston Primary School
August Newsletter 2018

Allergies

As I am sure you will appreciate we have several pupils at the school with allergies and intolerances. Whilst these pupils try to manage their diet carefully we would ask that you support us in this by not giving your child products containing nuts for snack or packed lunch. This includes chocolates such as snicker-type bars or Nutella. We are aiming to be a nut-free school. Although we encourage our pupils to be caring and sharing, please ask your child not to share any snacks or lunch box items with other pupils.

Further information on school lunches and allergen information documents can be found on the South Ayrshire website: <http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/meals/>

Birthday Cakes

Some parents choose to send in cakes for the class on their child’s birthday. If you decide to do this, please ensure that cakes are cut up and individually wrapped for pupils. This cannot be done in school. Please also be aware that we have pupils with nut and egg allergies and gluten intolerances.

Any cakes will be given out at the end of the day to be sent home so that you can decide if your child may eat the cake.

Medicines

Members of staff **cannot** administer medicines, inhalers, epipens etc. to children. Parents or guardians are invited to come into the school during the day to give their children medicines or alternatively they can complete an “Administration of Medicine” form, available from the school office, giving permission for a member of staff to administer the said medication.

Pupils must not be given medicines/tablets to bring to school for self-administration.

A copy of this newsletter and future editions of the newsletter will only be available on the school website. You will receive a text when available. An updated ‘dates for you dairy’ is also available under ‘School Information’:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/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.

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.

Welcome Back

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break. I have been hearing fabulous stories of just some of the exciting opportunities our pupils experienced. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new P1 families to Holmston along with the new families joining us from other schools. I hope you will be able to come along to our ‘Meet the Class’ event on **Friday 31st August at 2.30pm.**

At the end of last year Mrs Shanta and Miss Pollock left the school. We wish them all the very best for the future. We welcome two new teachers to the school – both Miss Lynch, although no relation to each other! I’m sure they will enjoy being part of our learning community.

The classes for this year are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| P1 Ms Slider | P5 Miss Dickson |
| P2 Miss Lynch | P6 Mrs Hunter |
| P3 Miss McKenzie | P7 Miss Gunning |
| P4 Miss Lynch / Mrs Taylor | |
| Creativity across the Curriculum: | Mrs Messner |
| Digital Literacy | Mrs Davies |
| Pupil Support Teacher (0.7) | Mrs MacInnes |

School Assistants

Mrs Rae, Mrs McLaren, Mrs Scott, Miss Bell, Miss McKelvie

School Office

Mrs Duffy Mrs Young

Janitor

Mr Wilson

If you need to speak to a teacher, please make an appointment through the school office. Although staff are around in the mornings when they collect their class from the playground, please try not to take up too much time as they need to ensure a smooth and prompt start to the day for effective learning to take place.

Please note that the School Office **is closed between 12.00pm – 12.30pm**

Rights Respecting Schools' Award

I am very pleased to announce that the school was successful in achieving our Gold Award from UNICEF. Everyone worked very hard and the assessors were impressed with the work that is happening around rights at the school. They identified particular strengths of the school as:

- Strong commitment to children's rights from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and a clear understanding of how rights underpin and support other aspects of school life.
- SLT constantly strive to find new and innovative ways to embed RRS and include the Convention in all strategic planning.
- Prominent visibility of rights in vibrant displays throughout the school.
- Learning connections made across the curriculum, with a solid link to Learning for Sustainability.
- Children bringing rights to life, demonstrating good knowledge and understanding and making them a part of everyday interaction.
- Pupils are empowered to take an active role in their school and wider community.

Attendance and Punctuality

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please contact the school office. If your child is late, on arrival they should report to the school office and ensure that a dinner is ordered if they require one.

Parents are reminded that any holidays or trips taken during the school term will be marked as an unauthorised absence. We know that pupil's development can be adversely affected by a poor attendance record so we urge you not to take your children out of school during term time. I will continue to monitor the rates of absence and lateness to ensure they do not become a cause for concern.

Uniforms/PE Kits

The children all look very smart in their uniforms and a gentle reminder that shirts or polo tops should be white and jumpers or cardigans should be green. Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with names. This also includes lunch boxes and gym shoes. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit – white polo shirt, black shorts and plimsolls - with them on the days they need it. In the interests of hygiene, I would advise that pupils further up the school have a clean PE top to change into and a roll on deodorant. No jewellery should be worn to PE, earrings should be removed or tape provided to cover them. Long hair should also be tied back. Thank-you for your continued support in this.

Water Bottles

We all recognise the importance of our children having access to water throughout the day. Please provide your child with a see-through plastic water bottle that is filled in the mornings. Children will have the opportunity to refill bottles at break and lunch times. Please ensure that the bottle has a 'sports cap' rather than a screw cap – these prevent spillages occurring. Water should be the only drink provided **not** juice.

School Improvement Work

This year we are continuing to focus on three main targets for our improvement work. These are:

- To continue to raise attainment and maintain consistently high standards in the quality of all learners' experiences across the curriculum
- To support closing the attainment gap whilst challenging all learners to meet their full potential by embedding the 'GIRFEC' principles and through the life and ethos of the school
- To increase partnership working with a wider range of stakeholders to enrich the pupil learning experience and develop skills for learning, life and work

Within these targets we will be reviewing the approaches we use to the teaching of writing through developing 'talk for writing' approaches. We will embed the curriculum benchmarks to help us monitor pupil progress as well as reviewing the language we use in reporting to parents and track progress. We will develop our approaches to teaching mathematics by using practical materials, visual diagrams alongside more formal approaches to ensure a depth of understanding. We will be reviewing our school vision statement and behaviour policy and will be consulting with all our stakeholders on this. Over the year we will be agreeing our approach to pupil profiling and continue to build on opportunities to develop the young workforce (DYW). We are aiming to host a variety of parental workshops covering a range of topics. We will be celebrating the STEM subjects in March and our Ayrshire themed fortnight in May will be based around Travel and Tourism in Ayrshire.

A copy of the complete School Improvement Plan and the Standards and Quality Report for last year will be available soon on the school website.

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.