

I hope to see you at our Christmas Service on Thursday 20th December at 9.30am in the Auld Kirk. This year the service will be led by the Primary 4 pupils in partnership with Southcraig Campus. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dates for your Diary

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| Thursday 13 th December | P1-3 Nativity pm |
| Friday 14 th December | P1-3 Nativity am |
| Friday 14 th December | P4 pupils to visit Southcraig |
| Friday 14 th December | Digital Leaders to Lego Mindstorm Competition |
| Friday 14 th December | Members of P5 and P6 to Bellevue |
| Monday 17 th December | P1-P3 Christmas Party |
| Tuesday 18 th December | Renee Gillan story-telling in P1 |
| Tuesday 18 th December | P4-P5 Christmas Party |
| Thursday 20 th December | Winter Service, Auld Kirk, 9.30 all welcome |
| Thursday 20 th December | P6-P7 Christmas Party |
| Friday 21 st December | 9.20am The Big Sing P5 and P6 parents welcome |
| Friday 21 st December | 2.30pm School Closes |
| Monday 7 th January | School reopens |
| Tuesday 15 th January | P1 Registration |
| Friday 25 th January | P5-P7 Scottish Opera Performance parents welcome 2.15pm further details after Christmas |

Please visit the school website for further information about school activities and an updated copy of the school handbook is now available.

<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.

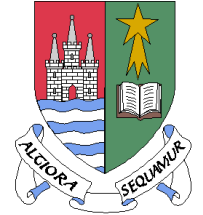
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

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.

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

Holmston Primary School December Newsletter



December is always very busy with parties, nativities, services and pantomimes alongside all of the usual learning that takes place. The Christmas tree is up and the Hall decorated with festive pictures. Mr Gemmell came along to speak about Christmas traditions at our last assembly. Primaries 1, 2 and 3 have been working very hard rehearsing this year's Nativity, "Prickly Hay" Putting on any performance requires a lot of additional work and I would like to thank all the staff for their time and effort.

Primaries 5 and 6 are rehearsing for the 'Big Sing' on Friday 21st December at 9.20am and some of the pupils will be visiting Bellevue Nursing Home bringing some festive cheer to members of the community.

Now that the days are darker and colder, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Christmas jumpers can be worn until we break up. I would like to remind you that football hats and scarves are not permitted in school and even though this is a party season, false nails are not permitted in school either due to health and safety reasons.

Campus Cop Visits

This term Primary 6 and Primary 5 have had a visit from our Campus Cop, PC Blackmore. PC Blackmore works with all the classes in the school at some point in the year on a variety of themes including bullying and cyber bullying, online safety and people who help us. Next term he will be visiting Primary 7

The Global Showcase

All the pupils from Primary 1 to 7 participated in our Global Showcase. It was a fantastic event to celebrate the diversity of Holmston and find out about different countries around the world. I hope you were able to come along – I know some parents were so keen to help out they came in the morning and afternoon! In the last parent questionnaire, feedback included a desire to have more opportunities for parents to work with their child in class. As we have several shows coming up we decided to alter the format of this event to accommodate this. If you have any feedback on the event, please let me know.

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 12th 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, 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.

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.

The Parent Voice also part funded the visit to the Pantomime to ensure that the cost was kept to £5.00.

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

Digital Leaders and ICT

Our Digital Leaders have been busy at the Lego Mindstorm Club in preparation for the Mindstorm Competition in Kilmarnock on the 14th December. They have learned how to build and programme the Lego Mindstorm Robots to solve challenges linked to the theme of 'Space'. I would like to thank Miss Bell for running the club and organising the team tee shirts.

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.

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs)

Our JRSOs have been busy leading competitions to promote travelling safely and encouraging active travel to school.

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.

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.

Primary Engineer Competition

On the 4th December, Holmston hosted the final of the Primary Engineer competition. Schools from all over Ayrshire participated in partnership with GE Caledonia and we had two successful teams. Our P5 team achieved Best Communicators at the Engineer Level and our P3 team were runners up in the Apprentice Level. The cars they made had to go through a series of challenges. The engineers also arranged a visit from a jet engine for us to look at.

Talent Show

Our House Captains organised a very successful talent show this month, hosted by our Head Boy and Girl, two acts from each house went through to the grand finale. A huge well done goes to all the pupils for taking part and congratulations go to Hailey and Ellissia (Belmont), Oscar (Craigie) and Harris (Craigie) for coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd.