



## Holmston Primary School

### May Newsletter 2019

#### JRSO news – Safer Streets 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May

During National Walk to School Week, we want to encourage as many pupils as possible to walk to school. In support of this, the Ayrshire Roads Alliance in partnership with South Ayrshire Council are introducing a pilot of “school streets” from Monday 20th May until Friday 24th May 2019. Vehicles will not be able to drive along Ashgrove St between 8:30am and 9:30am / 2:30pm and 3:30pm. Signs will be placed at the entrance to the scheme and they will mark when the scheme is in operation. Only those with permits will be exempt from the closure. The scheme is promoted under Section 62 of the Roads Scotland Act 1984, Police Scotland can enforce the scheme through the issue of a penalty fine.

#### Classrooms and Staffing

Due to an increase in numbers and Holmston being chosen to participate in South Ayrshire Council’s move towards developing play-based learning in P1 for next session, we have had to re-organise our P1, P2 and P7 classrooms to accommodate this. The move has been successful, with P2 having the opportunity of using our new resources although P1 will also get opportunities to use this room too. There will be opportunities for the P2 and P1 parents to come along for a ‘Stay and Play’ session.

We would like to welcome Mr Morrow to the school. He will be working with the pupils and staff to develop approaches to Numeracy and Mathematics across the school on a Thursday over the next year.

#### Dates for the Diary

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	P6 Edinburgh Visit
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> May pm	Sports Day at Dam Park
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> May	NSPCC Parent Online Workshop 3.30pm
Thur 6 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Bump Up Days – Belmont, Kyle
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fayre after school
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Reports out
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> and Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Bump Up Days - Ayr
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers’ Service Auld Kirk 9.30am (TBC)

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)

I hope you all enjoyed the Spring Break and the long weekends. The pupils have been keen to share their experiences and tales from the holidays. I would like to thank all the parents who attended the recent Parents Evenings. This partnership working is vital to ensuring your child makes the best possible progress. I would also like to thank all the Primary 7 helpers who gave up their time to ensure that these evenings ran smoothly. A huge thank-you also goes to all the parents, especially Marion Curragh, for organising and running the Book Fayre. Once again over £500 was raised to purchase books for the school library.

#### STEM Week

Back in March, the school hosted another hugely successful Science Fayre and Week. Thanks go to Mrs Hunter for organising this. I would like to thank all the parents and families that supported the event and took part in the experiments and problem solving. The pupils enjoyed leading the learning for our visitors, as well as trying out the activities. There were various trips including learning with the rangers at Culzean Country Park and at Ayr College.

Part of the reason for focusing on the STEM subjects is to encourage pupils to consider the skills they need to undertake work in this area when they are older and possible pathways they could take to enter these areas of work. We had visits from several engineers to talk about their careers and the work they do. We also await the results from various competitions we entered too!

#### Developing the Young Workforce: Travel and Tourism in Ayrshire

Our themed fortnight in May this year will be “*Travel and Tourism in Ayrshire*”. We will be finding out about the jobs associated with the travel and tourism industry and what makes Ayrshire a great place to live or visit. We have trips planned to Dundonald Castle, the college and the racecourse as well as visits to the school by people who work in these industries. If you feel you can help support the learning in anyway please contact the school.. Please note that although the school will be subsidising many of the trips there will be some costs that we will be asking for parental contributions. As this event affects the whole school we fully appreciate that if there are several children in a family costs can soon mount up. We will, as always, strive to keep costs to a minimum whilst providing exciting learning experiences for the pupils.

## Parent and Pupil Surveys

During February and March we carried out our annual Parent Survey. Here are the results from Holmston. Overall, the results are pleasing and give us some areas to think about for the future. To begin to address some of the lower scoring answers please note the following:

*I receive helpful information about how my child is doing 82%*

*The information I receive about how my child is doing reaches me at the right time 79%*

Next session we will be review our reporting arrangements to parents in line with changes that have been piloted across South Ayrshire, this year. This will involve a shorter written report at the end of the year but termly updates against Curriculum for Excellence levels using a new system of reporting. Parenting information sessions at the start of next session will explain these changes.

*The school gives me advice on how to support my child's learning at home 84%*

So far this session we have led parental workshops on developing a growth mindset and on accelerated reader for P4 – P7 parents. This term we are looking to run a Numeracy session and in partnership with NSPCC there will also be an online safety workshop at the end of May – further details to follow. We will continue to explore how we can further support you.

*The school takes my views into account when making changes 79%*

Over the past three years and this year at the start of June there will be a parental workshop on the School Improvement Plan for next session. There are opportunities to provide evaluations during all school events alongside an open door policy whereby I would encourage you to come in and speak with Katie or myself if you have any ideas. I would also encourage all parents to come along to the Parent Voice meetings. Based on feedback and parental comments last year, we changed the format of the Scottish Showcase to the Global Showcase workshops to reflect the wide diversity of families at Holmston and to provide more opportunities for parents to visit classrooms.

If you have any further comments or reflections on any aspects of the survey please contact the school.

Statement	Agree or Strongly Agree
My child likes being at this school	95%
Staff treat my child fairly and with respect	99%
I feel that my child is safe at the school	95%
The school helps my child to feel confident	95%
I feel staff really know my child as an individual	95%
My child finds their learning activities hard enough	90%
My child receives the help they need to do well	94%
My child is encouraged to be healthy and take regular exercise	95%
The school supports my child's emotional wellbeing	95%
My child is making good progress at school	96%
I receive helpful information about how my child is doing e.g. informal feedback, reports	82%
The information I receive about how my child is doing reaches me at the right time	79%
I understand how my child is assessed	85%
The school gives me advice on how to support my child's learning at home	84%
School staff help my child develop skills to keep themselves safe online	94%
The school organises activities where my child and I can learn together	87%
The school takes my views into account when making changes	79%
I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem	97%
I am kept informed about the work of the Parent Council and/or parent association	88%
I feel encouraged to be involved in the work of the Parent Council and/or parent association	85%
I am satisfied with the quality of teaching in the school	97%
The school is well-led and managed	91%
The school encourages children to treat others with respect	95%
I would recommend the school to other parents	90%
Overall, I am satisfied with the school	92%
The school deals well with any bullying	82%
My child was well supported if they moved to a new school within the last year	100%