



**Holmston Primary School**  
**October Newsletter 2019**

**Dates for the Diary**

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	P6 visit to Carnegie Library
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	P1 – P4 Halloween Disco 6.00pm – 7.15pm
	P5 – P7 Halloween Discos 7.30pm – 8.45pm
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Tamfest: 12.15pm Harleys Bar; 3.45pm Arran Mall
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Voice Meeting 7.00pm – all welcome
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Global Showcase workshops 1.30pm – 2.50pm (TBC)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Workshops on new curriculum levels (further details to follow)
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fayre 10am – 1.00pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas lunch
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 – P3 Nativity (further details to follow)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 – P3 Nativity (further details to follow)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 – P3 Nativity (further details to follow)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P7 Sky Academy Visit
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School Panto visit
	ICT technicians Lego competition
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 – P3 Party pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	P4 – P5 Party pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	P6 – P7 Party pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School Closes at 2.30pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	School re-opens

It was very interesting to hear all of the stories about our pupils' adventures during the October Week. Now that we are back, I'm sure it won't be that long until all of the winter festivities get under way! I would like to thank P3 and all the families for contributing to our Harvest Service. Our collection of food this year went to the Salvation Army. The P3 pupils led the service confidently and professionally, well done. I was also very proud of those pupils able to come along to the Auld Kirk Harvest Service to perform our Harvest songs. We were invited along to this community event along with members of the police force, councillors, NHS representatives and the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive tweeted afterwards, "*Wonderful performance – very proud of you all.*" We certainly are!

Our pupil numbers have steadily increased over the past three years and we now have over 200 pupils. I enjoyed meeting most of our families at the recent Parents' Evenings. There was some very positive feedback including, "*Thank you for everything. Play based learning works really well.*" and, "*Thank you for the dedication in looking after and teaching our children.*" There were a few comments around the length of the interviews. This is set, nationally and locally, by the number of hours teachers work and the number of pupils in the classes. However, there are opportunities throughout the year to come and see your child at the school. Most teachers are usually available at the end of the school day for informal meetings or if you wish to make an appointment with the teacher please contact the school office.

Now that the days are darker and colder, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and all clothing is named. I would like to remind you that football hats and scarves are not permitted in school along with false nails or jewellery.

Please keep up to date with the events going on at the school through following us on Twitter @HolmstonPrimary or checking the school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/holmstonps/>

Yours faithfully,

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.

**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.

**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.

### Tamfest 2019

This year's Tamfest is on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October and Holmston will be involved in this vibrant community event. If your child is able to come along and sing on the stage at Harley's Bar please meet us there at 12.15pm or if you and your child would like to take part in the procession please meet us at the Arran Mall at 3.45pm. You can wear your best Halloween costumes and make up. Pupils will be making items in school that they will bring home on Friday to use during the procession.



### Active Sports

Our P4s are enjoying their swimming sessions at the Citadel and I would like to thank the parent helpers who have supported this. Last term pupils from across the school developed their skills from the expert coaches from Prestwick Tennis Club and Ayr Rugby Club.

In partnership with Active Sports we have several opportunities for pupils to work with coaches, either within school or as extra-curricular opportunities again this term.

Day	Activity	Class
Monday		
Tuesday	Multi-Sports	P2/3
Wednesday	Dance	P4-7
Thursday	Netball	P6-7
Friday	Multi Sports club	P6/7
	Sports Leaders from Belmont in PE	P1

We also have several lunch time clubs including gardening, top trumps, euro-quiz and lego-mindstorms led by members of staff and will be looking to start a Glee Club again soon.

If you would like to run a club at the school, please contact the office – we are always looking for help. This could be a lunchtime or after school club and it does not have to be sports related.

### BBC Ten Pieces Concert

Our Primary 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed a visit to the City Halls in Glasgow to be inspired through a range of classic music. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their trip with several of them making great conductors!

### Numeracy Treasure Hunt and Information Session

To celebrate Maths Week Scotland, we held a Problem Solving Treasure Hunt Challenge. Mr Morrow delivered a brief presentation on approaches to mathematics and organised a maths trail around the school for parents and pupils to choose challenges to have a go at. It was fabulous to see so many parents come along. From the feedback at the event we will hold further parent workshops to explore the approaches we use in school and build on the growth mindset workshops held last session. Remember - being better with numbers isn't a special talent; it's something we can all learn. There is no such thing as a maths person!



### Attendance and Punctuality

Parents are reminded that any holidays or trips taken during the school term will be marked as an unauthorised absence except in certain circumstances. 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.

The rates of absence and lateness are monitored to ensure they do not become a cause for concern and in line with Authority Policy. For those pupils who have an attendance rate of below 90% absence, letters will be issued. These letters are kept in your child's file. We currently have an average attendance rate below the authority average and we would like to see this improve.

### Parent Voice

We had a great turn out at the last Parent Voice meeting with lots of new members. I would like to thank all the parents for organising the Halloween Discos on Friday. The P1 to P4 disco is 6.00pm – 7.15pm and the P5 – P7 is 7.30pm – 8.45pm. A huge thank-you also goes to the parents organising the book fayre at the parents' evenings. Once again, with your support, we have raised about £500 to spend of books for the school.