



**Holmston Primary School**  
**August Newsletter 2019**

**Medicines**

Members of staff **cannot** administer medicines to children without permission. 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 medication.

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

**Dates for You Diary**

Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	P7 parents Dolphin House and P7 Info meeting 3.15pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	P1 photographs for SAC Live
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Meet the Class 2.00pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	P6 visit to Culzean
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	P4 visit to Vikingar and Largs
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	P7 away to Dolphin House
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	P7 Return from Dolphin House
Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	P7/S1 Ayr Academy Transition Day 1
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept.	SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	INSET day
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	School closes 3.00pm
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	INSET Day
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Pupils return 9.00am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tamfest

**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.**

<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 informal ‘Meet the Class’ event on **Friday 30<sup>st</sup> August from 2.00pm.**

At the end of last year Mrs Slider and Miss Lynch left the school. We wish them all the very best for the future. We welcome four new teachers to the school: Miss Reid, Mrs Parris-Brown, Miss Audino and Miss Johnston. I’m sure they will enjoy being part of our learning community. Mr Wilson is working away on a temporary contract and we welcome back Mr Coccozza as our janitor. We also welcome Mrs Rowlands as part of our support team. We also had the pleasure of meeting baby Freya, Miss Gunning’s daughter at the start of term too.

The staff for this year are:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| P1 Mrs Parris-Brown and Miss Audino                                     | P5 Miss Reid     |
| P2 Miss Lynch   | P6 Mrs Hunter    |
| P3 Mrs Messner and Mrs Taylor   | P7 Miss McKenzie |
| P4 Miss Johnston  |                  |
| Health and Wellbeing and Nurture Miss Dickson                           |                  |
| Digital Literacy Mrs Davies   |                  |
| Pupil Support Teacher (0.6) Mrs Bate                                    |                  |
| School Assistants   |                  |
| Mrs Rae, Mrs McLaren, Mrs Scott, Miss Bell, Miss McKelvie, Mrs Rowlands |                  |
| School Office Mrs Duffy and Mrs Young                                   |                  |
| Janitors Mr Coccozza and Mr Barr  |                  |
| Catering Ms Kirk and Mrs Cuthbert                                       |                  |
| Cleaning Ms McDowall and Ms McNally                                     |                  |

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**

### **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 all holidays or trips taken during the school term will be marked as an unauthorised absence unless due to specific 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. 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.

I would like to remind parents that jewellery, fake nails and nail varnish are **not acceptable** as part of the uniform. We would also encourage pupils to keep coloured hair dyes and shaved hair patterns for holiday haircuts - these are **not appropriate** for school either. 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 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.

### **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.

### **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/>

### **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 teaching and learning to develop creative thinking, thinking with a growth mindset, resilience and problem solving. We will be reviewing the language we use in reporting to parents and track progress in line with all schools in South Ayrshire. This will involve changes to the reporting systems and number of levels pupils move through. We have already started work with the staff on this and will hold parental workshops and information sessions to support you in understanding this new system. We will continue to develop our approaches to teaching and learning in mathematics. We will be reviewing our school vision statement and behaviour policy and will be consulting with all our stakeholders on this. We will be staging a P4 – P7 show in March and our Ayrshire themed fortnight in May will be based around Trade, Retail and Enterprise in Ayr. We will, as usual, be looking for your expertise to support us in this

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.