



Holmston Primary School November Newsletter 2020

We have all been very busy getting used to additional guidelines, whilst trying to keep as many experiences for our pupils as possible. All the staff are working hard to ensure your children are safe, making progress in their learning and building positive relationships with their peers and classmates. We do miss having parents in the school and we will try to arrange events to make sure you are included in the life of the school. In Primary 1 and Primary 2 we are piloting an online profiling system which will be launched very soon and we will review the impact and effectiveness of this over the next couple of terms. As we move into the winter months, please ensure your child has suitable clothing for the weather. We are trying to get outside as much as possible and a little bit of rain won't be stopping us! Also try to ensure that there is something bright or reflective on your child's coat to help keep them safe during the darker mornings and evenings.

Hallowe'en

The classes took part in a range of Hallowe'en activities – it was great to see some of the pupils that were self-isolating also dressing-up to take part in an online video call. The costumes as always, were fangtastic! A big thanks goes to the Parent Voice for organising pumpkins and goodie bags. The carved pumpkins were put in the playground. A big thank-you goes to the Jack family for putting together over 200 bags!



Bikeability

Primary 7 have started the Bikeability level 2 programme and are learning how to ride safely on the roads. Our Primary 6s will be starting the level 1 soon. We would like to thank the volunteers and parent helpers supporting these sessions.



Maths Inside Competition Winner

In a previous update about Maths Week Scotland, we let you know about a national photographic maths competition organised by the University of Glasgow. One of our pupils took part in the competition and was a runner-up and had another entry highly commended – well done to Lillyanna for her excellent mathematical thinking and questioning. She received an Amazon voucher and certificates during an online award ceremony last week.



If your child has an achievement outside of school, please continue to let us know. We know of several pupils who learned to ride their bikes during lockdown – or learned to cook and have recipes in our school cookbook, copies of which are still available for £5.00.

School and House Captains

As part of our pupil leadership roles, the Primary 7 wanting to apply for the captains' roles had to make a short video explaining why they would be suitable for the posts. These videos were then shown in the classes and pupils voted. Well done to the following pupils, the new Holmston ambassadors!

School Captains: Oscar and Toby

House Captains:
Greenan: Aimee and Carley
Castlehill: Oliver and Chloe
Belmont: Isla and Gurleen
Craigie: Leo and Eilidh

Parents Evenings and Online Book Fayre

As you will know, parents' evenings this November will be by telephone and you will have been sent a time slot. This is unchartered territory for us too and we would much rather them be in the school but we need to keep everyone safe and follow the current guidelines. The parent voice has organised for the book fayre to be online to coincide with this – any money raised is spent on books for the library or classrooms.

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/holmston-primary/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by November 13th, 2020.

Poppies and Children in Need – Wear something red or spotty – or both!

As you will know, the 11th November is Remembrance Day. Usually we sell poppies around the classes but we need to adapt this for this year. It is also Children in Need day next week too. In order to mark both of these occasions we will have a 'wear something red, spotty or both day' on **Friday 13th November**. Donations would be welcome and any donations we receive will be split between the two charities: Poppy Scotland and Children in Need. We will issue the pupils with the poppies next week. Please note football colours are not permitted.

Covid Updates

Thank you for following the latest guidelines and wearing face masks whilst in the playground. Staff are required to wear face masks whilst in corridors and shared areas in line with other places of work. This can also include in the classroom if working with pupils under two meters. We will maintain our staggered timings, keeping classes separate and will continue with the regular hand washing and sanitising. Due to the procedures in place, this made sure that it was only the one class that had to self-isolate after a confirmed case last week.

In the event of a confirmed case, this is passed onto Public Health, who direct us further. All decisions are made by Public Health not the school. If any member of your immediate family shows symptoms, please follow NHS advice and self-isolate until a test has taken place.

You may have noticed that we have our new windows in place, this ensures we can have sufficient ventilation across the school.

Our string and brass tutors will be starting back again in school very soon. We will continue to follow guidance on the subjects such as PE and music and review our provision in light of this. This will also include the provision of after school clubs. We are liaising with our Active Sports co-ordinator about this.

Microsoft Teams

P3 – P7 will be using Microsoft Teams to start to post homework to make sure that in the event of a lockdown or blended learning we can continue with your child's education. With one class self-isolating last week, we found that various updates and issues have resulted in some families unable to access this. I would ask that you take time to refamiliarise yourself with this and make sure that you can access these from devices at home.

Any class with more than 90% pupils accessing Teams to say 'Hi' by the end of November will be awarded with an end of month treat to be discussed with the class e.g. additional playtime, movie afternoon.

It took us a substantial amount of time to support one class to be able to access the site again with forgotten passwords, changes of devices etc. If you do have any issues trying to log on please contact the school. Remember only download the mobile app if you are using a phone. For all other devices e.g., laptop or tablet, use the desktop app.

We would rather have this sorted before any future restrictions are imposed. 'How to' guides are available on the school website, along with additional work for each stage under the home learning section.

Attendance

We appreciate that we are in a very worrying time for everyone and pupils at different times may be asked to self-isolate. However, due to the amount of time pupils have already spent out of school it is important to maximise attendance. We have recently received direction from the authority that council's Maximizing Attendance Policy should be followed. The school will be contacting parents where absences or unauthorised absence fall below acceptable levels and are non-covid related. Every child has a right to an education and it is key that they are in school as much as possible. Thank you for your support in this.

Uniform

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform. Despite previous correspondence, pupils across the school are coming in with painted or false nails, jewellery or items of clothing that are not school uniform. We are the Holmston Community and part of being at the school is to wear the uniform. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed to come to school.

Upcoming Events

Book Week Scotland takes place during the 16th – 22nd November. There will be different activities going on in the class and challenges across the school – further details will follow. There will be a competition for the P4 – P7 for those pupils who have read the most words in Accelerated Reader during November. To add to the number of words read, the pupils need to complete the **Reading Quiz** after finishing a book. This can be accessed online at home. Links to Accelerated Reader can be found on the school website.

Scotland's Diversity and Global Culture Week we will continue with this although unfortunately we will not be able to have our parent showcase but we will share our work on the website and through our Twitter page.

John Muir Award P7 are busy preparing a virtual assembly to share their learning about John Muir and conservation linking this to their Dolphin House experiences. We look forward to sharing this with you.

Christmas - this will be on us before we know it! The kitchen staff are already organising Christmas lunches and information will come out about this soon. P1 are being creative and thinking about how we could produce some form of Nativity and we will get back to you about this. And, of course, Xmas jumpers can be worn from **Tuesday 1st December!** Ho! Ho! Ho!

As always, thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. If we can do anything further to support you and your families, please contact the school.

Stay safe,
Richard and The Holmston Team.

