



## Holmston Primary School January 2021 Newsletter 1

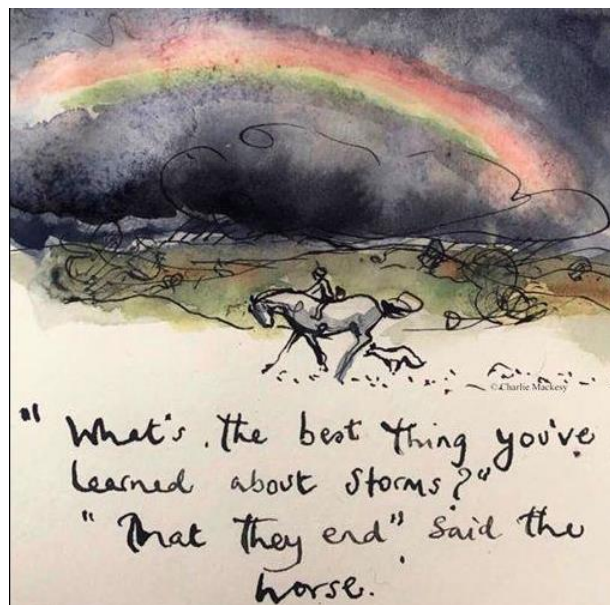
The new year and Christmas already seem like a long time ago! We know that many of you have been able to access Teams or 2Simple depending on your child's class. We know initially there have been a few teething issues with the technology on a national level and more locally with parents having to re-install, have passwords changed and generally remembering how to work Teams. The same is true for the staff as more functions are now available to help support you and your child during this time. As you will know the First Minister has now stated that this period of lockdown will continue until mid-February which will be around the February holiday. We will await further information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

We have listened to feedback and are trying to organise our Teams more consistently and we will try to ensure that work is easy to locate. Older files and folders will be archived.

During this lockdown, the video-calling feature has been opened and we hope your child has managed to join in with some of the class drop-ins or live sessions, including the maths sessions with Mr Morrow. All our classes have offered live check-ins. We are looking into how we can use voice overs in PowerPoints to further support your child at times that work for you - as we know not everyone can tune in at specific times.

We appreciate this is a challenging time again for all our families and there are many hardships and sacrifices that have to be made. With the home-learning, once again, do what you can, when you can. You have to make sure you are looking after yourselves too. In order to do this, you should make sure that any work does not become a fight. Don't worry if only some of it gets completed. Don't worry if you cannot do any work for a few days but please try to encourage your child to read, read, read! Let us know if you have any issues. Do what you can do and what works for you and your family. When we eventually get through this period, we have an excellent staff team that will make sure your child is exactly where they should be. Don't panic - you or your child will not be getting into bother! We just need you to keep in contact with us.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/holmstonps/> This the link for the school website. In the Home Learning section, you will find a range of additional work split into year groups. There is also a 'useful links' section with links to lots of educational websites. Also follow us on Twitter @HolmstonPS for regular updates.



## Sumdog Competition

Over the past week, Sumdog has been running a South Ayrshire Competition. I am pleased to announce our P4 class was the highest scoring class in the Authority on Saturday! Well done Primary 4! They are at present second in the leaderboard!

## Key Worker Hub

Our Support Assistants and EYPs are running a key worker hub for our families. This service is only available where no other child care is available, no adults are at home and strict criteria are met. This is to ensure the safety of all our community. I would like to thank all the staff who are running this.

## Future Events

Whilst we are unable to have many of the school events in the usual way, we will try to make as many available as possible. Here are some of the up-coming events

- Scottish Poetry and Burns Competition. Pupils will be set a poem by their teacher and where possible we would like them to upload their performance. These will be judged by myself and Mrs Reid on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. We are hoping to have a special assembly available for the 25<sup>th</sup> January to mark Burns Night. We are also asking the pupils to learn the song Caledonia. Remember - wear something tartan on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>!
- Holocaust Memorial Day – 27<sup>th</sup> January
- Fairtrade Fortnight – 22 Feb – 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Show Racism the Red Card Competition – March 5<sup>th</sup>
- School closes for February holiday Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 3.00pm

Work as a team, do what you can and stay safe!

Richard and the Holmston Team

