



Holmston Primary School March 2021 Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware our P4 to P7 are planned to start back on the 15th March. We are really looking forward to getting all our pupils back in. It has been really nice to catch up with our P1 to P3s over the past couple of weeks. When we have asked the pupils in P1 to P3 what they have enjoyed the most about being back at school the usual reply is 'being able to play with my friends again'.

To ensure everyone's safety at this time we will return to our staggered entry and exit times and keep the classes apart. We cannot let pupils finish early from different classes and we would ask that your child is not late arriving in the mornings. Pupils will be able to go straight into classes from **15 minutes** before the start time but please try to arrive as near to the start time as possible.

Please see the tables below to remind you about timings and doors to enter and exit the school. These are the same as before.

Group	Start Time	Break	Lunch	Finish	Classes
A	9.00am	10.30am – 10.45am	12.15pm – 12.45pm	2.45pm	P1, P3, P6, P7
B	9.15am	11.00am – 11.15am	1.00pm – 1.30pm	3.00pm	P2, P4, P5

Arrival and Exits
9.00am P1 – P1 door P3 – Ashgrove Street playground door P6 – P6 side door P7 – P4 door
9.15am P2 – Infant playground door P4 – P4 door P5 – P1 door

We are continuing with all our Covid restrictions and would ask all parents to comply with the following points which are aligned to the content of the Jason Leitch letter sent out previously:

- Adults and young people over 12 years old should wear **face coverings** at drop off/pick up
- Stick to **one adult** at pick up/drop off
- Adults should keep **2 metres apart**
- **Avoid** car sharing
- **Self-isolate** if anyone in your household has symptoms
- **Only enter** the playground if necessary

We would also ask that parents do not wait in the playground or encourage their child or other siblings to play on the trim trail or in the playground after school. We appreciate that some parents may need to wait for another child but if this is not the case please leave the playground to avoid congestion and keep all our community safe. This is especially important with the return of all our pupils. Please do not block the school gates.

Playground

We will keep the classes separate at playtimes. Breaks and lunches will also be staggered to assist with the numbers of children moving around the school building at any one time. Each group will have an allocated area of the playground. The playgrounds used for breaks may vary.

Lunches

We will contact you next week with the menu of school lunches. School lunches are free in P1 – P3 and cost £2.15 for P4 – P7 unless you have applied for free school meals. Our lunches are now supplied by Forehill Primary Kitchen. As before, school lunches will be in the hall and packed lunches will be in classes. Each class will sit separately and lunches are staggered.

Key Worker Hub

I would like to thank all the staff that have worked in the hub over the past few weeks. They have carried out a fantastic job in supporting our other key workers keeping the country going.

Online learning and face to face learning

I would like to thank the parents that have taken the time to give such positive feedback about the online learning provided. All of the staff have developed new skills and worked in different ways to ensure your child has been able to continue with their learning. As usual, they have gone above and beyond. I am very proud of Team Holmston. We know how challenging it has been for all of you too and thank you for your continued support and effort during this time.

As we return to face to face teaching, staff will no longer be working in Teams or posting any work in Teams. Pupils will still use Teams in school to ensure that if we do face this situation again, for example, a class needs to self-isolate that they are confident in accessing work. If a parent decides they are not going to send their child back due to covid-19, general work can be found on the school website. You can also use the BBC materials, the online e-Sgoil materials or the West OS tile on GLOW. Class teachers will be unable to provide work in this situation as their time will be focused on providing classroom learning.

Health and Safety

All staff at the school are able to self-test for Covid-19 twice a week. We will continue to follow all the safety guidance whilst in school with regular hand washing, face masks for adults and two metre social distancing. We will provide all the equipment needed for your child. All your child will need to bring in is their packed lunch and water bottle. School uniform should be worn and please ensure your child has appropriate clothes for going outdoors such as appropriate footwear, waterproof jacket, hats and gloves as the classes may spend extended time learning outside. At this time, we are still unable to have parents in the school building.

We will continue to review and adapt as we receive further guidance and if you have any questions please email into the school.

We are really looking forward to seeing all of our pupils back soon. Stay safe.

Richard and the Holmston Team