



## Holmston Primary School Newsletter October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank-you for all your continued support at this challenging time. We are continuing to review our procedures as we move forward and will see what the change in guidelines will be for after the October break. In the meantime, we will continue with the staggered starts/finishes and breaktimes with the pupils coming into school at the designated times.

Please remember to socially distance when you are in the school playground; do not linger and wear a facemask if you are able to. Regular handwashing and sanitising will continue whilst your child is in school. We still cannot have visitors into the school and if you wish to speak with a member of staff please phone or email the school office and we will arrange for a telephone appointment with the most relevant member of staff. Mr Hardy and Mrs Reid are usually in the playgrounds before and after school too.

If your child develops any of the covid symptoms please keep them at home until you have undertaken a PCR test and have received a result. During this time, if you cannot self-isolate your child, please keep siblings at home. We would be grateful if you could forward your result to the school. We appreciate this is a difficult time of year with coughs and colds but within the current guidelines we will need to send pupils home if they develop any of the covid symptoms and advise that a PCR test is booked. We know this can be frustrating and the impact this can have on our families, as it has also affected our own staff too but we want to keep our community as safe as possible.

### Staffing October 2020

We have welcomed Mrs Cox, who is covering for Miss Gunning at the moment. Miss Riddle, our covid recovery teacher, is with us on a Thursday and Friday. Mr Kelly, our active sports apprentice, works with the classes on a Monday and Tuesday and we welcome back Mrs Bate, our ASN teacher, on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

### Uniform

Please endeavour to provide your child with the correct uniform for school: **grey/black** trousers or skirt, green gingham dress, **white** polo shirt or shirt and a **green or grey** cardigan or jumper. P7 may also wear their green school hoodies. Please make sure your child has a suitable jacket and shoes for the weather. We will aim to be outside for breaktimes as often as possible. Ensure that your child's name is on all pieces of clothing as we do build up a lot of lost property. This will be available in the playground on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October in the morning.

### Jewellery and Make-up

We have noticed that more pupils are starting to wear jewellery to school. Please ensure that your child does not wear any jewellery to school – this includes necklaces, bracelets, hoop style earrings. The only items of jewellery permitted in school are watches or stud-earrings which need to be taped up for PE (please provide

your child with some tape) or items of religious/spiritual significance. Make-up, nail varnish or false nails are not acceptable in school. We would ask for your support in this.

### Parking

We have been asked by our neighbours to remind parents that drive their children to school to please park responsibly. Some drivers have parked on the zigzags or over driveways and as a result, members of our community have been late for work or appointments, including hospital appointments. We would always encourage where possible pupils to walk or walk and stride. Parking is available further away from the school. Please help to support our community.

### Maths Week Scotland 2021

The whole school had lots of fun during Maths Week Scotland through spotting numbers in the environment, working collaboratively to solve puzzles, taking part in games, a Connect 4 championship, dressing up and taking part in Maths Workshops. It was a lot of fun. Everyone can do maths and it is really important that we all, including parents, put out this mindset message. No one is born with or without a maths brain. The psychologist Carol Dweck identifies that achievement requires, "*a clear focus, all-out effort, and a bottomless truck of strategies. Plus, allies in learning.*" We have also been reflecting on how speed is not important for maths. Everyone becomes quicker at maths as they become more number fluent – speed does not make you a better mathematician! We will hopefully be able to host some face-to-face parents' sessions again soon to explore the issues of mindset and mathematical mindsets – watch this space.



### Out and About

Primary 2 have enjoyed 6 weeks with Little Acorns at Auchencruive and Primary 1 are going to be going after the October Break. P5 have been enjoying their weekly swimming lessons. P3 produced some excellent art work after their visit to the port and seashore. P4 are clocking up the kilometres in their daily mile. P7 are busy finding out all about John Muir in the run up to Dolphin House in November and P6 have visited Dumfries House as part of their learning in science.



Have a relaxing October break and we'll see you back on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Stay safe

The Holmston Team