



Holmston Primary School Newsletter January 2022

We wish you all a Happy New Year and we hope you managed to have an enjoyable holiday. We are now back into the swing of school and working within new Covid 19 guidance regarding self-isolation. As always, we are aiming to give your children the best experiences that we can within the given guidelines and as you will see we have several whole school events to look forward to this term. Unfortunately, we are still unable to have parents into school or have assemblies to share our work with you but please follow us on Twitter (@HolmstonPS) to get an idea of all the exciting learning happening across the school.

Covid 19 Update

Since our return to school in January we are now experiencing our highest number of cases with our pupils and staff since the pandemic started. Over the past week, we have had more cases in total than during the past two years. We are continuing with all our Covid restrictions including staggered starts and finishes and would ask all parents to comply with the following points:

- 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**
- Follow the **self-isolation guidelines** if anyone in your household has symptoms including if someone at home is positive, please ensure children have reported negative LFT results before coming to school.
- **Only enter** the playground if necessary

If your child is unwell or displays any of the covid symptoms, please undertake a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) and report the result. We ask you to be extra vigilant at this time. We do need to be extra careful in school with so many children and staff in closer contact so if pupils start to display symptoms we will contact you.

Staffing

Schools are very dynamic places and there are always inevitable staff changes. Next week, we will be saying a sad farewell to Mr Locksley and Miss Riddell, both of whom have secured permanent posts. We have fully appreciated their dedication to your children and all the hard work they have put into the school. They will be greatly missed but we wish them all the best. We will be looking to fill these posts in the near future.

School Improvement Work – Meta-Cognition and Self-Regulation

This term we are very excited about launching a programme of work and approaches to developing the pupils' meta-cognition and self-regulation strategies in order to help them improve their own learning. This builds on the work of thinking with a growth mindset, making thinking visible and creativity. More information will be coming out to you about this.

Active Sports

Our Primary 4 class will have a ten-week block of swimming lessons this term. This has been part-funded by the Authority.

Pupils in P1 and P2 are taking part in an after-school dance club led by one of the Belmont Dance Leaders, Emma. Emma was a former pupil at the school and an amazing role-model for our younger pupils (as well as great dancer!).

Primary 1 Registration 2022/23

The P1 registration process will continue to be completed on-line via the Case Management System. All children who will reach the age of 5, between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023, should be registered for education between Monday 17 – Friday 21 January 2022 by following the link below (please note that the system only goes live on 17 January 2022): <http://ow.ly/FgMX50HnG2A>

Free School Meals for All Primary 5 Pupils

Since August 2021 all pupils in P1 to P4 have been entitled to a free school lunch during term time. From 06 January 2022, the expansion of the free school meals programme now extends to all P5 pupils as well. This is a great opportunity for all P5 pupils to enjoy a nutritious, freshly cooked school lunch and further information on menus and school food regulations can be found on the South Ayrshire Council website.

Events for this Term

- The Burns' Competition – wb 24th January. The final will be held in school on Friday 28th. Children can wear Kilts or uniform with Tartan on this day as well as the 25th January.
- Internet Safety Day – 8th February
- British STEM Week – wb 7th March
- World Book Day 28th March
- Parents consultations will be during the last week on the term wb 28th March

As always, if there is anything we can support or help you with, please email or phone into the school office. We appreciate the frustration that can be caused by the on-going situation but I know that through working together we will ensure our children and community is not disadvantaged.

Best wishes, stay safe,

Richard and the Holmston team.