



Dates for You Diary

Tuesday 29 th August	P4 Swimming starts for a 10 week block
Wednesday 30 th August	P6 Bikeability starts
Friday 1 st September 2.00pm	'Meet the Class' afternoon
Monday 18 th September	P7 Dolphin House residential
Friday 22 nd September	School closed
Monday 25 th September	School closed
Wb 26 th September	Maths Week Scotland
Monday 9 th October	P5 Whitelees Windfarm trip
Wednesday 11 th October	Parents Evening
Friday 13 th October	Harvest Service TBC
Friday 13 th October	School closes for the October Week

Please follow us on Twitter @HolmstonPS

Yours faithfully,

Richard Hardy
Head Teacher

Article 3

All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Holmston Primary School

August Newsletter 2023

Welcome Back

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break. I have been hearing fabulous stories of just some of the exciting opportunities our pupils experienced. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new P1 families to Holmston along with the new families joining us from other schools. I hope you will be able to come along to our informal 'Meet the Class' event on **Friday 1st September from 2.00pm. Due to numbers and space we will only be able to have one family member attend.** We will be continuing with our soft start for pupils in P1- P4 from 8.45am and school starts at 9.00am for all pupils.

The staff for this year are:

P1 Mrs Parris-Brown (PT)
P2 Miss Audino
P3 Miss Hunter and Mrs Davies
P4 Miss Gunning and Mrs Wylie

P5 Mrs Hunter
P6 Mrs Messner and Mrs Taylor (PT)
P7 Miss McKenzie

Principal Teacher: Mrs Malcolm

School Assistants:

Mrs McLaren, Mrs Scott, Miss Bell, Mrs Rowlands, Mrs Ciobanu
EYP: Mrs Murphy
School Office: Mrs Young and Mrs Webster
Janitors: Mr Wilson and Mr Barr
Cleaning Ms McDowall and Ms McInally

If you need to speak to a teacher, please make an appointment through the school office. Although staff are around in the mornings when they collect their class from the playground, please try not to take up too much time as they need to ensure a smooth and prompt start to the day for effective learning to take place.

Please note that the School Office **is closed between 12.00pm – 12.30pm.** If you ring the doorbell during this time, please be patient – we will answer it!

Attendance and Punctuality

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please contact the school office. If your child is late, on arrival they should report to the school office and ensure that a dinner is ordered if they require one.

Parents are reminded that all holidays or trips taken during the school term will be marked as an unauthorised absence unless due to specific circumstances. We know that pupil's development can be adversely affected by a poor attendance record so we urge you not to take your children out of school during term time. The rates of absence and lateness are monitored to ensure they do not become a cause for concern.

Uniforms/PE Kits

The children all look very smart in their uniforms and a gentle reminder that shirts or polo tops should be white and jumpers or cardigans should be green. Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with names. This also includes lunch boxes and gym shoes. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit – white polo shirt, black shorts and plimsolls - with them on the days they need it. In the interests of hygiene, I would advise that pupils further up the school have a clean PE top to change into and a roll on deodorant. No jewellery should be worn and for PE, earrings should be removed or tape provided to cover them. Long hair should also be tied back.

I would like to remind parents that fake nails and nail varnish are **not appropriate** as part of the uniform. Thank-you for your continued support in this.

Water Bottles

We all recognise the importance of our children having access to water throughout the day. Please provide your child with a plastic water bottle that is filled in the mornings. Children will have the opportunity to refill bottles at break and lunch times. Please ensure that the bottle has a 'sports cap' rather than a screw cap – these prevent spillages occurring. Water should be the only drink provided **not** juice.

Birthday Cakes

Some parents choose to send in cakes or sweets for the class on their child's birthday. If you decide to do this, please ensure that cakes are cut up and individually wrapped for pupils. This cannot be done in school. Please also be aware that we have pupils with nut and egg allergies and gluten intolerances.

Any cakes/sweets will be given out at the end of the day to be sent home so that you can decide if your child may eat them.

Allergies

As I am sure you will appreciate we have several pupils at the school with allergies and intolerances. Whilst these pupils try to manage their diet carefully we would ask that you support us in this by not giving your child products containing nuts for snack or packed lunch. This includes chocolates such as snicker-type bars or Nutella. We are aiming to be a nut-free school. Although we encourage our pupils to be caring and sharing, please ask your child not to share any snacks or lunch box items with other pupils.

Further information on school lunches and allergen information documents can be found on the South Ayrshire website: <http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/meals/>

School Improvement Work

This year we are developing our approach to curriculum design for our improvement work. This is based on a Deep Learning process and we will aim to develop the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence through a focus on six global competencies – The 6Cs – Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, Character and Citizenship. This builds on the improvement work from previous years with the aim of closing the attainment gap, raising attainment and maintaining the high standards we have at Holmston. Staff have had initial input during the INSET days and we will roll this out over the year. We will have parental sessions on this and other areas throughout the session.

A copy of the complete School Improvement Plan and the Standards and Quality Report for last year is available soon on the school website. [Holmston Primary School \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://www.holmstonprimaryschool.org.uk).

Medicines

Members of staff **cannot** administer medicines to children without permission. Parents or guardians are invited to come into the school during the day to give their children medicines or alternatively they can complete an "Administration of Medicine" form, available from the school office, giving permission for a member of staff to administer the medication.

Pupils must not be given medicines/tablets to bring to school for self-administration. Although they may have an inhaler if required.