



Dates for You Diary

Wednesday 29 th October	Halloween Discos
	P3 Farm visit
Thursday 30 th October	Football Match Riverside Stadium
Monday 3 rd November	P7 Residential Visit to Dolphin House
Thursday 6 th November	P6 visitors for Interfaith Week
Friday 7 th November	Tempest Photography in school
Wednesday 19 th November	P1/P7 dental checks
Wb 24 th November	S1 Registration Week for P7s
	Global Citizenship week
Thursday 27 th November	Panto Trip – packed lunches required
Friday 28 th November	Wear Tartan for St. Andrew's Day
Wednesday 3 rd December	Parent open afternoon 2.00pm
Saturday 6 th December	Xmas Fayre
Wb 8 th December	Nativities TBC
Thursday 11 th December	Xmas lunch
Monday 15 th December	P1/P2 Xmas Party TBC
Tuesday 16 th December	P3/P4/P5 Xmas Party TBC
Wednesday 17 th December	P6/P7 Xmas Party TBC
Thursday 18 th December	P5 Church Service (TBC)
Friday 19th December	School Closes 2.30pm
Monday 5th January 2026	School re-opens

Please also follow us on 'X' (Twitter) @HolmstonPS for updates throughout the term.

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 October Newsletter 2025

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable October break. It was lovely to hear all the stories about the adventures pupils went on. Who can believe we are nearly in November? It won't be long before the festive build up! The clocks have gone back and the weather is definitely autumnal. Please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather and that all items of clothing and coats are named. We will endeavour to be outside as much as possible – coats, hats and gloves are recommended.

I would like to thank our Primary 3 class for leading our Harvest Service at the Auld Kirk in partnership with our friends from Southcraig. You may have seen in the local press about our successful fundraising initiative for children and young people in Ukraine. The P6 led the campaign which involved posters, letter writing and a radio advert too. We put together lots of shoe boxes to hopefully bring some joy at Christmas.



It was wonderful to be able to see so many parents for parents evening again. We hope you liked looking around the classrooms and seeing your child's work. The book fayre raised a lot of money for the school to buy more books for our school library. Thank you to the Parent and Carer Voice for organising and running this.



Contacting the Office and Staff

If you need to speak to a teacher, please make an appointment through the school office. Although staff are around in the mornings, 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!

National Standardised Assessments (NSAs)

During December P4 and P7 will complete their NSAs. These are national online assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. They are undertaken in the class on laptops and Mr Hardy will oversee these. Our pupils are more than familiar with the format of the assessments as they will have completed STAR Reader quizzes and are familiar with Sumdog. We refer to the assessments as quizzes. These assessments are not pass or fail and we use the results to plan for next steps and contribute to the teacher judgements on progress. P1 NSAs will take place in January and these are carried out by Mr. Hardy and Mrs Reid on a 1-1 basis with our pupils.

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 water bottles, lunch boxes and gym shoes. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit – white polo shirt, black shorts, and plimsolls/trainers - 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. PE kits can be kept in school until the weekend or holidays. **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 **make-up, fake nails, and nail varnish are not appropriate** as part of the uniform. Thank-you for your continued support in this especially in the build-up to Christmas.

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.

Events the Term

- P7 will be visiting Dolphin House next week. This forms part of the work for the John Muir Award and will enrich the learning that has taken place in class about the life and work of John Muir.
- P3 have enjoyed a visit to a dairy farm to find out from the experts how milk gets to our tables and about the life and work of a farmer.
- P4 will continue with their swimming lessons at the Citadel.
- The Parent and Carers' Voice organised the very successful Halloween Discos which were enjoyed by the pupils. I would like to thank the parents and carers that organised and helped run the evening and for the planning the Xmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December.
- Our football team have been practising hard and have a few matches coming up.
- Groups of our P5s visit Southcraig every fortnight to learn Makaton signs with our friends. It was wonderful to see the whole class, alongside Southcraig, performing at our Harvest Celebration.
- We will have all the usual Christmas Events – Xmas lunch; the Panto; the parties and Nativity to look forward to as we move into December. Further details will follow.
- Our Primary 5s will lead the Xmas Church Service during the last week – times to be confirmed.
- Xmas jumpers can be worn from Monday 1st December – this is optional.

School Improvement Work

We have been sharing lots of information about the 6Cs – the global competencies that we are working on with the children and have set up profile folders. They will work on these profiles over the coming months as they reflect on their progress through the curriculum and how they are developing these skills for life, learning and work. The profiles will be shared at the parents' evenings before Easter and during class workshops. If you would like to find out more about the 6Cs we are embedding into our curriculum please visit our thinklink page: <https://www.thinglink.com/card/1890365935135490534>

