



Holmston Primary School August Newsletter 2025

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 29th August from 2.00pm – 2.55pm. 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 Miss Hunter	P5 Mr Gaffney
P2 Miss Stewart and Mrs Malcolm	P6 Miss Gunning and Mrs McCreath
P3 Mrs Messner and Mrs Davies	P7 Mrs Hunter
P4 Miss McKenzie	
RCCT/Intervention Miss Taylor	Support Teacher Mrs Breuls
PT Mrs Malcolm	DHT Mrs Reid
School Assistants:	
Mrs Scott, Mrs Bell-Sammut, Mrs Rowlands, Mrs Macauley, Mrs Ciobanu	
EYP: Mrs Murphy	
School Office: Mrs Young and Ms Parkhill	
Janitors: Mr Wilson and Mr Barr	
Cleaning Ms McDowall and Ms McNally	

If you need to speak to a teacher, please make an appointment through the school office. Although some 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!

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 unless it is an inhaler.

Dates for You Diary

Monday 25 th August	P4 Swimming starts
Friday 29 th August 2.00pm	'Meet the Class' afternoon
Friday 19 th September	School closed
Monday 22 nd September	School closed
Friday 26 th September	Flu immunisation programme
Monday 29 th September	P7 Dolphin House Parent Meeting 3.00pm
October	Black History Month
1 st and 2 nd October	Authority Collaborative Improvement Visit
Thursday 2 nd October	Childsmile Fluoride programme P1-4
Friday 3 rd October	Childsmile Fluoride programme P1-4
Wednesday 8 th October	Parents Evening 1
Thursday 9 th October	Parents Evening 2
Friday 10 th October 3.00pm	School closes for October break
Tuesday 21 st October 9.00am	Pupils return to school
Friday 24 th October	P3 Church Service Auld Kirk (TBC)

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.



Attendance and Punctuality

You may have seen or heard about South Ayrshire Council's 'Every Learner Every Day' campaign on social media and local radio describing the commitment to providing every learner with the opportunity to succeed. Research shows that attendance and punctuality is closely linked to attainment and achievements in school.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please report this via ParentsPortal or 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. 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.

Please ensure that your child has a waterproof jacket with a hood and suitable outdoor clothing. We aim to be outside as much as possible at lunchtime and breaktimes. Classes also take their learning outdoors at different points during the week.

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: [School meals - South Ayrshire Council \(south-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Water Bottles

We all recognise the importance of our children having access to water throughout the day. Please provide your child with a named 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.

School Improvement Work

This year we are continuing to develop our approach to curriculum design. This is based on a Deep Learning process and we aim to continue developing 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 will continue to develop their skills during the INSET days and staff meetings over the year. We will look at approaches for involving the pupils more in their learning and listening to their voice in designing our curriculum. We will have parental sessions on this and other areas throughout the session. This year we are also part of the South Ayrshire Reads programme which focuses on the science of reading and approaches to teaching reading. Staff have already participated in a launch on the INSET day. A copy of the complete School Improvement Plan and the Standards and Quality Report for last year will be available soon on the school website. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/holmstonps/>.