



Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School
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Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Plans for this School Year

During our INSET day on Monday 4th September, the staff and governors celebrated our achievements from the last year and identified our priorities for this year's School Development Plan. A copy of this will be available on our website once it has been finalised.

In line with the Ofsted focus on Quality of Education, we will continue to prioritise the successful implementation of a rich and engaging curriculum that builds on the children's skills and knowledge. This means continuing to focus on developing writing and maths skills throughout school, as well as promoting a reading culture throughout school with a focus on reading for pleasure. We are particularly pleased with the successful implementation of Little Wandle to support phonics and early reading, and this will continue to be a priority during the coming year.

We put a lot of work last year into ensuring that our post-Covid curriculum is coherently planned and implemented to enable children to make progress and to gain high levels of knowledge and understanding of a range of curriculum areas. We will continue to refine this over the coming year, as well as ensuring a wide range of enrichment opportunities are offered to enhance our curriculum.

As always, a strong focus will continue to be on developing the personal and social skills of our children so that they are able to grow into resilient, respectful and well-rounded individuals, who know how to be safe in our changing world.

We have plans for improving the learning environment for the children, including refurbishment of some of our toilets and smartening up some of our teaching and communal spaces.

As you can see, another busy and exciting year ahead, as we work to make our great school even better!

Ofsted

Our last Ofsted inspection took place in July 2015. Previously, schools graded 'Outstanding' were exempt from inspection. However, this has changed and we are now in the Ofsted inspection window, which means we can expect an inspection anytime between now and September 2025. Criteria for inspection has changed dramatically since July 2015 and as a result only 18% that were previously outstanding are retaining that standard.

We will receive one day's notice that inspectors will be visiting and are required to notify parents as soon as we are notified by Ofsted. Parents/carers will be given an opportunity to participate in a survey which will be sent out on the day of notification. It will be a 2 day inspection and inspectors will make their judgement based on a whole range of evidence gathered before and during the visit.

We are working as hard as we can to be prepared for inspection and to feel ready to embrace the experience! It will be an excellent opportunity to affirm what we do are doing well and to give us some next steps for development.



Meet the Teacher

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher evening on Wednesday. All information from the evening is available on the school website.

Autumn Term Parents' Evenings – Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October

Our Parents' Evenings this term will be online. This meeting is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, to let you know how your child has settled into school and how we will be supporting your child over the coming term. It is also an opportunity for you to share any information with the teacher that you feel is particularly relevant. The meetings will be on Wednesday 18th October (evening – times tbc), Thursday 19th October (evening – times tbc).

The booking system will be live from Friday 6th October and a separate letter with information about how to book and how to access your meeting, will be sent out in due course.

Parents' Evenings in the spring term will be face to face and will take place just after February half term – Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th February (times tbc).

Reminder of our NO NUT POLICY - Lunch Boxes and Snacks

As you are aware, we have a small number of children in school with quite severe nut allergies. We really appreciate you supporting us in caring for these children by not sending nuts or any nut based products for snacks or in your children's lunch boxes. Many thanks.

Please also be aware that we have a child in year 4 with a severe milk allergy.

Adult behaviour

At Holmes Chapel Primary School we believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn and work. We strive to ensure that our school offers a warm and nurturing environment. All members of the school community and visitors should demonstrate mutual respect in order to feel safe and work together. Any behaviour that may lead to feelings of harassment, alarm or distress to members of our community, will not be tolerated and action taken. Please see our Adult Behaviour Poster for more information - these posters are also on display around the school building and school grounds.

REMINDER – dogs and scooters/bikes

Please remember that we do not allow dogs on the playground at drop off and pick up time – thank you for your cooperation.

Children are welcome to come to school on a bike or scooter but for the safety of everyone should not ride them in the playground please. We are currently installing bike/scooter racks near the Jubilee Walk and Middlewich Road entrances. Unfortunately there has been a delay with delivery, but we hope to have these up and running very soon.

PTA Christmas cards

As is traditional, children will be creating Christmas Cards for you to purchase. In order for us to ensure delivery in plenty of time, we will be designing the cards over the next couple of weeks. We are using the same provider as last year – My Child's Art. Details about how to view and order your card on line will be sent home shortly.

Reminder School Attendance, including Persistent Absences and Holidays during Term Time

The government has a persistence absence threshold of 10%. The absence threshold of 10% means that if a pupil is absent for 38 sessions (19 days) of school, they are classified as persistently absent. Schools are urged to inform parents of this threshold and to advise parents that fines will be made for persistent absence, unless there is evidence of a justifiable reason for such absence, for example, significant illness. Failure to make payment will result in legal action for failure to ensure regular attendance at school under Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996.



| Timeline | Penalty Charges |
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| Paid within 21 days | £60 per parent per child |
| After 21 days and before 28 days | £120 per parent per child |
| After 28 days | The parent will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrate's Court on the grounds of having failed to secure their child/ children's regular attendance |

As you are aware, I am not allowed to grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstance is usually a one-off, unique situation that is of significant emotional, educational or spiritual value which outweighs the loss of teaching time. It is my duty to strongly urge parents or carers to avoid booking holidays, appointments or visits overseas during term-time. In addition, it is important that I advise you that under the legislation there is an expectation that schools will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to those parents who take their children on an unauthorised leave of absence (holiday) in term time.

Calendar of Events

Please see below calendar dates for the new academic year. New dates have been added in bold.

More dates to be added soon!

September 2023

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| Wednesday 20 th | Y5 and 6 Netball Tournament A at HCCS at 3.30pm |
| Monday 25 th | Y3 and 4 Netball Tournament at HCCS at 3.30pm |
| Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th | Book Fair 3.30-4pm |
| Friday 29 th | Inset day for school staff – school closed |

October 2023

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| Monday 2 nd | Y5 and 6 Tag Rugby at HCCS at 3.30pm |
| Tuesday 10 th | Open Morning |
| Wednesday 11 th | Reception welcome evening 6pm |
| Wednesday 18 th and Thursday 19 th | Parents' Evenings online (times TBC) |
| Thursday 19 th | Mystery Readers 2.45pm |
| Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th | Half term – school closed |

November 2023

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| Thursday 2nd | Y5 Viking Day |
| Monday 13 th | Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying week |
| Friday 17th | Children in Need |
| Friday 24th | Christmas Fair |
| Tuesday 28 th | FLUENZ Vaccinations |

December 2023

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| Sunday 3rd | Village Christmas Market 3-7pm |
| Tuesday 12th | Y4 visit to theatre – The Nutcracker |
| Tuesday 12 th | Reception Nativity for Class RA (Miss MacWilliam) 10am |
| Wednesday 13 th | Reception Nativity for Class R (Mrs Noble/Mrs Winter) 10am |
| Wednesday 13 th | KS1 Christmas Performance (Year 1 and 2) 2pm |
| Thursday 14 th | KS1 Christmas Performance (Year 1 and 2) 6pm |
| Wednesday 20th | Christmas Lunch |
| Thursday 21 st | Christmas parties |
| Friday 22 nd December – Monday 8 th January | Christmas holiday – school closed |

January 2024



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| Monday 8 th | Inset day – school closed |
| Tuesday 9 th | Spring term begins |

February 2024

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| Tuesday 6 th | Safer Internet Day |
| Tuesday 6 th | Young Voices – Manchester |
| Monday 12 th – Wednesday 14 th | Y5 residential |
| Thursday 15 th | Mystery Readers 2.45pm |
| Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd | Half term – school closed |

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Headteacher

