



Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School
Middlewich Road
Holmes Chapel
Cheshire
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Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staff News

Miss MacWilliam will be taking her maternity leave from Friday 25th October. I am sure you join me in wishing her well for the forthcoming arrival of her baby. We will keep you posted with news! In her absence, Class 1 will be covered by Mrs May for the remainder of this academic year. Mrs May currently works part time in Reception, so her days will be covered by her job share teacher, Mrs Noble, for the rest of this term.

One of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Vaja, will also be leaving us at half term. We wish Mrs Vaja every success in her new venture. She will be greatly missed by the children and her colleagues!

Parents' Evenings – Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October

Remember to book your appointment to see your child's class teacher on our booking system on the School Spider App. This parents' evening meeting is an opportunity for you to talk to your child's teacher about what is going well for your child and how we will be supporting your child to continue to make good progress during the spring and summer terms. Please note that this appointment is not suitable for your child/children to attend with you. Mrs Bradford, our SENCO will also be available during both parents' evenings to discuss any SEND related concerns you may have. There is no appointment necessary. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fantastic attendance and punctuality!

A huge thank you to all our families for a great improvement in our attendance figures so far this year – please keep it up! There has also been a noticeable improvement in punctuality with a much smaller number of children arriving late to their classrooms in the mornings. This has been proven to have a really positive impact on our children.

After School Clubs – autumn 2 2024 (after half term)

We are currently arranging after school activities for after the half term break.

The following clubs will be run by school staff:-

- Monday – Coding Club 3.20-4.00pm (Year 6 – run by Miss Maddock and Mr Vickery)
- Thursday – Cooking Club 3.20-4.40pm (Year 5 – run by Mrs Hill and Mrs Middleton)
- Thursday – Singing Club 3.20-4.00pm (Years 4-6 - run by Ms Lackford, Mrs Henderson, Ms Beechener)

The following **indoor** clubs will be run by outside providers and will require payment.

- Monday – Dance with Sports Coaching Group for Year 1 – Year 3 3.20-4.20pm
- Tuesday – Pickleball with Sports Coaching Group for Year 3 – Year 6 3.20-4.20pm
- Tuesday – Art with Jo Green for Year 1 – Year 6 3.20-5.00pm
- Wednesday – Dodgeball with Sports Coaching Group for Year 3 – Year 6 3.20-4.20pm



- Thursday – Mad Science for KS2
- Friday – Gymnastics with Sports Coaching for Year 1 – Year 3 3.20-4.20pm

PTA Events

Following our AGM this week our new PTA committee is up and running – welcome to our new committee members. We are always looking for new people to join or to offer help. Please contact our lovely PTA for further information at: hcps.pta@gmail.com

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.

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.

Penalty Notices will be issued for

Term time leave: Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days or

Unauthorised absence: A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10 week period.

Per Parent/Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued **per parent per child**. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or unauthorised school attendance the fine will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Second Offence

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or unauthorised attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Third Offence

On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance, a penalty notice will not be issued. The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.



Calendar of Events

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

October 2024

Monday 24 st	Allotment session for Year 1 (please note change of date)
Wednesday 23 rd and Thursday 24 th	Parents' Evenings in school
Friday 25 th	Inset day – school closed
Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November	Half term – school closed

November 2024

Monday 4th	Allotment session for Year 1
Monday 4 th	Viking Day for Year 5
Tuesday 5 th	FLUENZ
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th	Anti-bullying week (including Odd Socks Day – Tuesday 12 th)

December 2024

Sunday 1 st	Holmes Chapel Village Christmas Fair 3-7pm
Tuesday 10 th	Reception nativity (class Ra) 9.30am
Wednesday 11 th	Reception nativity (class R) 9.30am
Tuesday 17 th	KS1 Christmas performance (Years 1 and 2) 2pm
Wednesday 18 th	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18 th	KS1 Christmas performance (Years 1 and 2) 6pm
Thursday 19th	Christmas parties
Friday 20 th	Term ends at 1.20pm
Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January 2025	School closed

January 2025

Monday 6 th	Inset day – school closed
Tuesday 7 th	Spring term starts
Thursday 9 th	Year 4 visit to New Vic Theatre

February 2025

Monday 3 rd	Children's Mental Health week
Thursday 6 th	Young Voices concert
Tuesday 11 th	Safer internet day
Wednesday 12 th and Thursday 13 th	Parents' Evenings
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st	Half term – school closed

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Principal

Vicki Bradford
Head of school

