



# Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School  
Middlewich Road  
Holmes Chapel  
Cheshire  
CW4 7EB

Headteacher: Mrs F. Gresty B.A (Hons), NPQH  
head@holmeschapelprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

T: 01477 533336  
F: 01477 544556

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

## ECO-COUNCIL NEWS

As part of our attempts to encourage the children to be more ecologically aware, the Eco-Council will soon be introducing an initiative called Cut Your Carbon! This has been a national project throughout November, but we felt that it would be even more relevant in December, when all the trimmings of Christmas can have a considerable impact on our contribution to climate change.

The children will therefore be bringing home information about how they can rise to the challenge of completing simple carbon-cutting actions, with the help of friends and family and we look forward to receiving their checklists when school returns in January.

## Charges for school lunch

We have recently received notification from Cheshire East that they are increasing their charges for food purchased for school lunches. In order to manage these costs, we will be increasing the cost of a school lunch to £2.65 a day from the beginning of the spring term 2024.

## Communication

Clear communication between teachers and parents is very important to us. Teachers can be contacted via class email, but please note that these may not be checked every day, and there is no expectation that teachers will respond to emails out of school hours. If you have an urgent message for your child's class teacher, please email the school office. Your email will then be forwarded directly to the class teacher. Teachers are not able to come out of class during the school day to speak on the telephone. If you would like to speak to a teacher, please leave a message at the office. We really appreciate your cooperation with this.

## Reminder – Snacks

Please consider carefully the snack your child brings into school for break time. Ideally this should be a healthy snack that will help your child fill the gap between breakfast and lunch. Sweets are not an appropriate, filling snack. Please also note that snacks should be nut free to protect our children with allergies. Thank you.

## Reminder – Uniform and PE kit

Please ensure that your child follows our uniform policy. On a PE day, children should wear the correct PE kit (see below).

- Coloured house or white plain t-shirt
- Navy/black shorts or leggings/jogging bottoms
- School sweatshirt or plain navy/black hoodie
- Plain black trainers

Children should not wear multi-coloured tops or leggings with logos.

## After School Activities – Spring Term 2024

As the weather will still be inclement and the evenings dark until spring half term, we will not be running any outdoor activities for the first half of this term. After school activities for the first half of the spring term are as follows:-



### Activities run by school staff:-

- Tuesday – Singing Club 3.20-4.00pm (Years 4-6 run by Ms Lackford)
- Wednesday – Coding Club 3.20-4.20pm starting on 17<sup>th</sup> January (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)

### Activities run by outside providers:-

- Monday: Dodgeball with Sports Coaching Group for Years 1-3 (3:20pm-4:20pm)
- Tuesday: Art with Jo Green for Years 1-6 (3.20pm-5.00pm)
- Wednesday: Boxing with Sports Coaching Group for Years 3-6 (3:20pm-4:20pm)
- Thursday: Mad Science\* for Years 1-6 (3.20-4.20pm) from 11<sup>th</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> February (6 weeks)
- Thursday: Dodgeball with Sports Coaching Group for Years 3-6 (3.20-4.20pm)
- Friday: Ball Games with Sports Coaching Group for Years 1-3 (3:20pm-4:20pm)

All after school activities run by outside providers need to be booked through the company leading the club.

### **Before School Activities – Spring Term 2024**

We will be trialling a Fun Fitness before school club with Sports Coaching starting in January. This club will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for Years 1-6. Flyers will be sent out shortly with further information about how to book a place.

### **Plans for swimming this year**

The PE curriculum states that children should leave primary school at the end of Year 6 able to swim at least 25 metres. In the past we have achieved this through children in Key Stage 2 going swimming at the pool at Sandbach High School for Girls. This year, following recommendations from other schools, we will be trialling the set-up of a temporary swimming pool in our school grounds for four weeks in May. The pool will be set up on site and filled, heated and available to use for a period of three weeks. Trained swimming coaches and a lifeguard are provided as part of the package. This will give all our Key Stage 2 children the opportunity to access lessons during the school day, without having to travel on a coach to Sandbach. We also plan to open up the opportunity for parents/carers to pay for younger children to access lessons after school. We will send out further information closer to the time.

### **The BIG Ambition - Information from the children's commissioner**

Please share this survey with the children and parents within your school community.

Children or parents can complete the survey

here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition) . Further resources are available on our [website](#). See this [leaflet](#) which can be shared with parents and displayed in community areas.

It is really important that the pupils at Holmes Chapel Primary School have participated in The Big Ambition survey and had their say.

I want to ensure that the voices of the children in Cheshire East are fairly represented in the findings so that I can share their views with the most senior members of the country.

I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

This survey is for all children aged 0-18, parents, carers / other adults can complete on behalf of children who



are under 6 or for children who need extra assistance.

This is a great opportunity to teach children about politics and why it is important for them to use their voice!

Yours sincerely,



**Dame Rachel De Souza**  
Children's Commissioner for England

**Please also see the poster displayed in the playground, and on our website where you can scan the QR code to take part.**

### **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.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Penalty Charges</b>
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.

#### **November 2023**

Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	FLUENZ Vaccinations
--------------------------	---------------------

#### **December 2023**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Village Christmas Market 3-7pm (Our school choir will be singing at 4.20pm)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 and 6 Dance workshop at HCCS 3.30pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 and 4 Boccia tournament at HCCS 3.30pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 visit to theatre – The Nutcracker
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Nativity for Class RA (Miss MacWilliam) 10am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Nativity for Class R (Mrs Noble/Mrs Winter) 10am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Christmas Performance (Year 1 and 2) 2pm



Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Christmas Performance (Year 1 and 2) 6pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Viking Day
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wider Opps music concert for Year 4 parents 2.30pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas parties
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas holiday – school closed

### January 2024

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Inset day – school closed
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Spring term begins
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 and 6 Boccia tournament at HCCS 3.30pm

### February 2024

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Young Voices – Manchester
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Greek workshop
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 and 4 Basketball at HCCS 3.30pm
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 residential
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mystery Readers 2.45pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Half term – school closed
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings

### March 2024

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 and 6 Basketball at HCCS 3.30pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 and 6 Girl's Football at HCCS 3.30pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Disco
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Presentation to Parents 9.30am
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mystery Readers 2.45pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	School closed for Easter holiday

Other key dates for your diary –

- Year 3 Presentation to parents – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am
- KS2 SATS week – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May
- Year 5 Presentation to parents – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 9.30am
- Year 4 Wider Opps concert at Bridgewater Hall – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June
- Sports Day – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June (KS2 am, KS1 pm)
- Year 6 Leaver's Performance – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** Additional Inset Day for Academic Year 2024-25 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 will now be an Inset day so the children will return to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty  
Headteacher

