



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 8th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Events in school

Village Christmas Fair – a big thank you to all the children who performed at the Village Christmas Fair on Sunday 3rd December, and to the staff who supported them. The children sang a range of lovely Christmas songs and represented the school brilliantly. Thank you!

Newsround - Today we have had a visit from a small crew from BBC Newsround filming some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children talking about Christmas and what they are looking forward to in 2024. The programme including our Year 5 children will be broadcast during the last week of this term and the programme including our Year 6 children will be broadcast during the first week of the spring term. Thank you to all the children who took part in this exciting event.



How we teach spelling

This year, we have introduced a new spelling scheme across school called Spelling Shed. The children have lessons across the week learning spelling rules, the history behind the language, applying their knowledge of phonics and using various strategies to help them to become independent spellers.

Children in KS2 will be coming home with a Spelling Shed login this week. This login allows the children to complete home learning assignments that their teachers have set for them based on recent spellings rules delivered in class. These 'assignments' are in the form of games accessed through the Spelling Shed website. The assignments will go live on Monday, 11th December. When your child logs in, they will see there is an assignment set for them and they can then choose a variety of games to practise these spelling rules on. These will change each week based on their current learning. Spelling Shed have produced a useful home tutorial which gives you information on what it looks like for the children and what parent / home features can be accessed. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVHb4srs0RU>

Please note, your child only has access to Spelling Shed and not any other shed on the website. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.

Please also note KS1 children will be able to access Spelling Shed at home from January onwards.



[EdShed Parent guide - Spelling Shed MathShed QuizShed](#)

If your child is using EdShed at school, this video will show you how to log into their account and access the games, assignments and challenges.
www.youtube.com



Forthcoming Events

Reception Nativities

The children in reception would welcome you to join them for their nativity performance on:-

- Tuesday 12th December at 10am – Class Ra Miss MacWilliam's class
- Wednesday 13th December at 10am – Class R Mrs Noble/Mrs Winter's class

Key Stage 1 Performances – Year 1 and 2 classes

The children in Year 1 and Year 2 would welcome you to join them for their performance on either:-

- Wednesday 13th December at 2pm (audience admitted from 1.45pm onwards)
- Thursday 14th December at 6pm (audience admitted from 5.45pm onwards)

Year 4 music concert

The children in Year 4 would welcome you to join them for their Wider Opportunities concert on:-

- Wednesday 20th December at 2.30pm

Christmas Events

- Christmas fun run - Children are invited to take part in a Christmas fun run around the school grounds on the morning of Wednesday 20th December. Please wear PE kit/sports clothing and wear or bring suitable trainers. Children can also wear a festive accessory. If you would like to make an optional donation to charity on this day, we will be sharing any money collected between St Luke's Hospice and The British Heart Foundation (more details to follow)
- Christmas lunch – Wednesday 20th December. Christmas lunch will be served in the school hall. Orders should already have been returned to school
- Christmas parties – Thursday 21st December. Children are invited to wear party clothes for the day (please make sure their outfit and shoes are suitable for playing outside). We invite you to send in a voluntary donation of £1 towards the cost of party food by Monday 11th December. Thank you
- Santa's Sleigh visit – this will take place on Thursday 21st December

Punctuality – a reminder

Please note that the school day starts at 8.50am when the register is taken in the classrooms. We really appreciate you making every effort to ensure that your child arrives in school in good time to settle into class ready to start work. Our gates are open from 8.40am and will be closed just after 8.50am. Please come through the main door/school office if you arrive after this time.

Are you having a clear out?

We would be delighted to receive any donations of picture books in good condition suitable for children aged 4-7 years for our Reading for Pleasure book baskets in school. Please drop your donations into the office – thank you in advance.

Are you interested in becoming a Midday Assistant in school?

We are currently looking for Midday Assistants to work with children during the lunch break. Please speak to or email the office for further details, or look on our school website for a job description and application form - <http://www.holmeschapelprimary.org.uk/page/vacancies/121467>

Internet safety

With the Christmas festivities just around the corner, many of our children are looking forward to receiving gifts. For many this may be devices that allow them to go online. The Skips Safety website has lots of brilliant tips about how to keep your child safe when they are online. They have produced a poster summarising these top tips - a paper copy of this poster will be sent out next week. Follow this link to the website for more information about online safety-



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
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.

December 2023

Monday 11 th	Year 3 and 4 Boccia tournament at HCCS 3.30pm
Tuesday 12 th	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
Friday 15 th	Y5 Viking Day
Wednesday 20 th	Fun run and Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 20 th	Wider Opps music concert for Year 4 parents 2.30pm
Thursday 21 st	Christmas parties
Friday 22 nd December – Monday 8 th January	Christmas holiday – school closed

January 2024

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

February 2024

Friday 2nd	Reception visit to Jodrell Bank
Tuesday 6 th	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 6 th	Young Voices – Manchester
Thursday 8 th	Year 4 Greek workshop
Monday 12 th	Year 3 and 4 Basketball at HCCS 3.30pm
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
Tuesday 27 th and Thursday 29 th	Parents' Evenings

March 2024

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

Other key dates for your diary –

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

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

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Headteacher

