



Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School
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Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Events in Christmas performances

We have been superbly entertained this week by our Reception class nativities and by our KS1 performance of 'Santa's on Strike!' A massive thank you to all our wonderful children who performed and sang brilliantly and to all the adults in school who worked so hard preparing for the performances.

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. **Please note toast will not be available on this day**
- 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. Thank you
- Santa's Sleigh visit – this will take place on the morning of Thursday 21st December

Uniform/PE kit – a reminder

We really want the children of Holmes Chapel Primary School to take pride in their appearance and feel part of our school community. We have noticed recently that a number of children are wearing 'skins' under their school uniform. While we understand that this is to keep your child warm in school, these are being worn with shorts and t-shirts and therefore the uniform no longer looks smart. We are happy for skins to be worn with PE kits and under long uniform trousers and under a long sleeved uniform jumper. Please encourage your child to support our uniform policy – thank you for your cooperation.

Bacon baps – Morning playtimes on Fridays

Following the success of bacon baps on Fridays with KS2 children, we will be offering these to children in Year 2 and Year 3 every Friday after the Christmas break. Please order this on your Parentpay account.

End of day reminder

We have had a few occasions recently where children have told their class teacher that they meet an adult outside the school gate because they have a dog with them. We are concerned that these children are then going out of the gates unaccompanied. If you are waiting outside the gates with your dog, please let the office know in advance and/or consider asking another adult to accompany



your child to where you are waiting. Please also reiterate to your child that they must return to the school building if for some reason you are not where they expect to meet you, so that we know they are safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lost Property

We have a range of lost property items which will be put out for you to look through at the end of each day next week. Any items not claimed by the end of Thursday will be re-purposed (branded items will go to the PTA and any plain items will be donated to a charity).

After school clubs for spring term

Information about after school clubs for the spring term has been sent out over the last few weeks. A late addition will be a craft club run by Mrs Winter after school on Thursdays for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Places are limited to 12 children so will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. A letter will be sent out on Monday with further details.

Before school clubs for spring term

A reminder that Sports Coaching group are offering a before school club on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings starting in January. The club runs from 7.45-8.45am (drop off from 7.45am onwards for an 8.00am start). For further details, please contact Sports Coaching Group at <https://www.sportscoachinggroup.co.uk/> or the school office for further details.

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>

A further message from the Children's Commissioner about The Big Ambition

Thank you so much for your incredible efforts in sharing 'The Big Ambition' survey with the children and parents at Holmes Chapel Primary School.

We have had an amazing response from nursery, primary and secondary schools across England and as a result I've decided **to extend the closing date to Friday 19th January 2024** to allow even more children the chance to have their say.

This will give schools, children and young people an extra month over the festive season to take part in 'The Big Ambition'.

Children and parents can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

'The Big Ambition' provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell policy makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. Let's make sure that the children and young people of Cheshire East are represented in the results.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas!

Very best,



Dame Rachel De Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

Community News

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church invite you to 'Journey to the first Christmas'. You can join the journey, see the Roman centurions and King Herod, visit the shops in Nazareth, journey to



Bethlehem, see the shepherds and angels, visit the wise men and collect treasure, then finish at the stable where Jesus was born. You can visit on Friday 15th December from 6.00pm to 8.00pm, and on Saturday 16th December from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Some of our children have made angels to decorate the church.

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

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
Monday 22nd	Year 1 visit to Macclesfield silk museum

February 2024

Friday 2 nd	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

