



Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School
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Thursday 21st December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Events in School

Some of our lovely Year 5 children took part in BBC Newsround talking about Christmas traditions. You can watch their segment of the show by following this link:-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/67765382>

Our Year 4 musicians performed brilliantly at a concert for parents on Wednesday afternoon, showcasing the learning they have engaged in with their music teachers this term. Some children who have lessons with peripatetic teachers in school also performed. Thank you to everyone who took part – you are all superstars!

Our Christmas fun run went well on Wednesday morning, with all children who wanted to take part running around the school grounds. Thank you very much for your donations, which will be shared between St Luke's Hospice and The British Heart Foundation.

We have had a visit from Santa today, and all the children in school have had the opportunity to meet him as part of our final day celebrations. All classes have had some party food and played some party games. A whole school assembly was enjoyed this afternoon, with some fantastic singing of Christmas songs and carols.

Praise assemblies

Every week each key stage holds an assembly to share achievements and give praise certificates. We recently held a competition to update our praise certificates and would like to thank Leah and Hollie in Year 6 for their fantastic, winning designs.



School Development Plan 2023-24

Since setting our priorities for our School Development Plan for this year on our Inset Day in September, we have continued to work hard on developing our curriculum, with a particular focus on maths and English.

Our Little Wandle phonics programme continues to have a really positive effect on phonics and early reading in Reception and Key Stage One, and this is beginning to have a real impact on reading in Key Stage Two. Our Key Stage Two children are accessing books from the Take One Book scheme to build on their reading skills and engender a passion for reading. Application of spelling in writing is



a focus which we are supporting with the introduction of the online scheme Spelling Shed, which many children are now able to access at home to enhance their learning.

To develop maths through school we are continuing to embed the DfE supported NCETM programme (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Maths) which promotes Teaching for Mastery. Teachers are engaging in an ongoing programme of training and support with our Trust. For further information about NCETM, follow this link to their website:-

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/about-the-ncetm/>

We are also ensuring that our foundation subjects offer our children a clearly sequenced, with spaced learning opportunities to enable the retention of skills and knowledge.

The personal development of all our children, including disadvantaged children and those with special needs, continues to be a high priority. Staff have engaged in further training to develop their confidence and skills in supporting the whole child in all aspects of school. We have an excellent pastoral team in place to support the wellbeing and resilience of our children, as well as to support behaviour.

Please see our school website for further information and a copy of our School Development Plan.

Responding to the results and comments from our Parent Survey in July 2023, we are continuing to review how we communicate with parents and work is going on in the background to address this. Improving experiences for children during the lunchtime break was highlighted by some parents and has also been a priority. We are offering a range of indoor clubs for those children who sometimes find the outdoor environment challenging, and we have engaged support from Sports Coaching Group to run organised outdoor sports activities for three lunchtime sessions each week.

Behaviour was also highlighted by some parents as a concern. Our Behaviour Charter shares with parents and children our high expectations and the strategies we use to create a positive learning environment for all children. These expectations are constantly revisited with the children in class, during PSHE sessions and in assemblies. Our Inset Day in January will be another opportunity for all our staff to engage in refresher training in our trauma informed approach and de-escalation techniques. We regularly access Outreach services from external professionals to support us with advice and training.

As always, we are striving to ensure that all our children are happy and engaging fully in school life, and we look forward to continuing to work on this next term. We really appreciate all your support.

PTA News

Our recent successful Christmas fair made an amazing profit of £1,959.76 and the uniform sale raised £52.50. Thank you to all the people who helped out and to all parents and teachers for your continuing support.

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>

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.

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 22 nd	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.

Wishing all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a relaxing break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 9th January 2024!

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Headteacher

