



Holmes Chapel Primary School

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

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Thursday 24th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term of this school year, we would like to wish goodbye to Mrs Vaja and Miss MacWilliam and wish them well with their respective new ventures.

School Meals

After half term our school meals will be provided by Mellors Catering Services. More information about the company can be found by following this link:- <https://mellorscatering.co.uk/>

Starting from Monday 4th November a school meal will cost £3.00. Meals can be ordered and paid for on Parent Pay. The new menus can be found on our website page:-

<https://www.holmeschapelprimary.org.uk/page/school-meals/7031>

Anti-bullying week (including Odd Socks day)

Anti-bullying week will take place from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November. This year's theme is 'Choose Respect'. We will show our support with an Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12th November. For further details visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance page by following the link below:-



<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2024-choose-respect/anti-bullying-week-2024-choose-respect>

Children in Need – Friday 15th November

To celebrate Children in Need this year, children are invited to wear a Pudsey Bear accessory to school if they would like to. We will be holding a bake sale at morning playtime for children to buy a cake – all cakes cost 50p each (please bring money in a named envelope). We would welcome donations of cakes for us to sell – all profits will go to Children in Need. Left over cakes will be on sale in the playground at the end of the school day. If you would like to make a further monetary donation, please visit the Children in Need website - <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>



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>

Foodbank donations – Friday 29th November

On Friday 29th November we will have a non-uniform day to raise the profile of the brilliant work our local foodbanks do for our community.



Information about Middlewich Foodbank

Our foodbank is part of [The Trussell Trust](#)'s network of 428 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our local communities, as well as across the UK. The Foodbank Network was founded in 2004 after four years of developing the original foodbank based in Salisbury. Middlewich opened its doors as a foodbank in 2014. Since then [The Trussell Trust](#) has helped communities work together to launch foodbanks nationwide in a wide range of towns and cities.

In 2023/24, food banks in the Trussell Trust's network provided 3,121,404 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, 1,144,096 were distributed for children.



As a network, we want to see more people helped out of crisis and fewer people needing foodbanks in the future. That's why The Trussell Trust and local foodbanks are working together to develop new ways to help people out of crisis through programmes like [More Than Food](#).

To find out more about The Trussell Trust visit www.trusselltrust.org.

The Middlewich and Sandbach foodbanks would welcome donations of the following items:-

Instant Coffee	Tinned sandwich meat	Tinned vegetables
Tea bags	Tinned potatoes	Tinned pulses
Tinned ready meals (like steak, chicken, pies, etc)	Long grain rice	Pasta sauces
Tinned spaghetti	Tinned fruit	Tinned rice pudding
Tinned tomatoes	Tinned custard	Pasta
Tinned soup	Tinned sponge puddings	Breakfast cereals
Tinned Baked Beans	UHT Milk	Fruit squash
Long Life Fruit Juice	Jam	Biscuits
Sugar	Toilet rolls	Shampoo
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste Soap	Shower gel

Please bring your optional donation into school on Friday 29th November – thank you so much for your support.

Reminder of our NO NUT POLICY - Lunch Boxes and Snacks

As you are aware, we have a small number of children in school with quite severe nut allergies. We really appreciate you supporting us in caring for these children by not sending nuts or any nut based products for snacks or in your children's lunch boxes. Many thanks.

Please also be aware that we have a child in year 5 with a severe milk allergy.

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

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



Friday 25 th	Inset day – school closed
Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November	Half term – school closed

November 2024

Monday 4 th	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)
Thursday 14th	SEN/Wellbeing drop in session 2pm
Friday 15th	Children in Need – wear a Pudsey accessory optional Bake sale
Friday 29th	Foodbank Donations

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 19 th	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

March 2025

Tuesday 4th	Year 1 visit to Macclesfield Silk Museum
Thursday 6th	World Book Day
Friday 21st	Red Nose Day
Monday 31st to Wednesday 2nd April	Year 5 residential

April 2025

Friday 4th	Term ends at 1.20pm
Monday 7th – Monday 21st	School Closed
Tuesday 22nd	Summer term starts



Wishing all our families a very happy half term break!

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Principal

Vicki Bradford
Head of school

