



Holmes Chapel Primary School

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

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Friday 8th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staff News

We would like to welcome a student teacher to our Reception team. Ms Awoyami will be starting her training on Monday 11th November and will be working in school until February half term.

New school meals provider

Our new school meals have gone down really well with the children! They seem very excited with the new menu and presentation of the food. A massive thank you to our brilliant kitchen team!



Events in school

Vikings in Year 5!

On Monday, we had a visitor come in for the day to teach us all about the Vikings. We started the day with him showing us Viking weapons that they would've brought to battle like spears, swords and axes. He also passed around replicas of ancient armour. After break, we headed outside so he could show us how to make a fire using steel and flint. Then we acted out a Viking story about their Gods and Goddesses which was super fun! We also got to play a game which was like a Viking version of chess but there were only three pieces. At the end of the day, we got to act out another play about a chief who has died in the Viking ages and take part in his funeral. We had lots of fun and learnt a lot!

Written by Abbie and Robyn K Class 5





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>

SEND/Behaviour drop-in – Wednesday 13th November 2pm

To enable and encourage more opportunities for parents to share/raise concerns with school and to be able access timely support, we hold regular SEND/Behaviour drop in sessions. The informal sessions are held in school. Parents will be able to chat to Mrs Bradford our SENCO & Head of School, and Mrs Lavin our Learning Mentor. The next drop in session will be on Wednesday 13th November at 2pm. Please let the office know if you are intending to attend by Tuesday 12th November, so that we know numbers - thank you. We look forward to seeing you.

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/>



Reception classes phonics stay and learn sessions – week beginning Monday 18th November

Reception parents are invited to join their child's class for a phonics session during the week beginning Monday 18th November to find out more about how we teach phonics and early reading in school. Further information is being sent to Reception class parents by class teachers.

Foodbank donations – Friday 29th November

A reminder that 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.

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

In addition to these items, the foodbank has asked for some Christmas items - selection boxes, Christmas cake/chocolate log cake, Christmas crackers, tinned ham.

Please bring your optional donation into school on Friday 29th November – thank you so much for your support. Please note that this replaces our usual request for donations for PTA Christmas hampers.

Presentations to Parents

Each year our Year 3, 4 and 5 children hold an assembly for parents to showcase their learning.

Dates for these this year are as follows:-

- Year 3 – Thursday 8th May at 9.30am
- Year 4 – Wednesday 21st May at 9.30am
- Year 5 – Wednesday 5th June at 9.30am

Reminder – Our school website

Our school website has a wide range of useful information about our school community, curriculum, and what we are working on this year as well as practical information about school meals, uniform, our school dogs and how to help your child at home. Please follow this link to find out more:-

<https://www.holmeschapelprimary.org.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>

Community News

Please see below a message from Holmes Chapel and District CommuniCARE



Holmes Chapel and District CommuniCARE

Do YOU have any spare time during the School Day?

CommuniCARE take local residents who have no transport to medical appointments around the village and to local hospitals. At present we really need more drivers to operate our service to the Community.

YOU could really make a difference.

If you are able to help us, please ring our dedicated phone number **07856 469508** or see our website at **www.holmeschapelcommunicare.org.uk** or if you would prefer, have a chat with Pat Macmaster on 01477 533992.

Thank you!



Holmes Chapel Christmas Fair – Sunday 1st December 3-7pm

Children from our singing club will be performing at the Holmes Chapel Christmas Market and Fair from 5.30pm to 5.50pm – please join us there!

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.

November 2024

Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th	Anti-bullying week (including Odd Socks Day – Tuesday 12 th)
Thursday 14 th	SEN/Wellbeing drop in session 2pm
Friday 15 th	Children in Need – wear a Pudsey accessory optional Bake sale
Week beginning Monday 18th	Reception classes phonics stay and learn sessions
Friday 29 th	Foodbank Donations – own clothes

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
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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 4 th	Year 1 visit to Macclesfield Silk Museum
Thursday 6 th	World Book Day
Friday 21 st	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 26th	Year 4 Wider Opps concert for parents in school hall 2.30pm
Monday 31 st to Wednesday 2 nd April	Year 5 residential

April 2025

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

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Principal

Vicki Bradford
Head of school

