



Holmes Chapel Primary School

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

Principal: Mrs F. Gresty B.A (Hons), NPQH
principal@holmeschapelprimary.cheshire.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs V. Bradford B.A (Hons)
headofschool@holmeschapelprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

T: 01477 533336

Friday 29th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staff News

Miss Goodwin, who currently teaches in Year 1 and has been a teacher at our school since September 2023, will be leaving us at the end of this term. Miss Goodwin has secured a new job at a school in Nantwich. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her every success for the future. We are fortunate to have managed to move current staff around to ensure a full time replacement for Miss Goodwin's class. After Christmas Ms Lackford will be re-joining the Year 1 team and teaching Class 1a full time for the rest of this academic year.

From January 2025 Mrs Sellers will be re-joining our Year 2 team, teaching three days across the week (Monday in Class 2a with Miss Walker, and Thursday/Friday in Class 2 with Mrs Williams).

We would like to welcome Mrs Barnes to our Year 3 team after Christmas. Mrs Barnes has worked with us on a supply basis for a few years. She will be teaching Class 3 every Friday with Mrs Kozyra.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Cain to our Reception team. Mrs Cain is an experienced teacher who recently moved into the village and has been volunteering in school this term. Starting in January 2025, Mrs Cain will be teaching in Class R every Thursday and Friday with Mrs Noble.

Foodbank donations

Thank you very much for your generous foodbank donations! All donations will be distributed to the Middlewich and Sandbach Foodbanks.



Forthcoming Christmas events

Reception Nativities

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

- Tuesday 10th December at 9.30am – Class R Mrs Noble's class
- Wednesday 11th December at 9.30am – Class Ra Miss Sanchez'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:-

- Tuesday 17th December at 2pm (audience admitted from 1.45pm onwards)



- Wednesday 18th December at 6pm (audience admitted from 5.45pm onwards)

Christmas Events

- Christmas jumper/accessory day – Wednesday 18th December (PTFA event – bring £1 to be entered into a prize draw to win a children's Christmas hamper)
- Christmas lunch – Wednesday 18th December. Christmas lunch will be served in the school hall. **Please can you order your child's Christmas lunch on ParentPay by Friday 6th December as there will be no separate menu sent out.**
- Christmas parties – Thursday 19th 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 9th December. Thank you
- Christmas fun run - Children are invited to take part in a Christmas fun run around the school grounds on the morning of Friday 20th December. Please wear or bring suitable trainers. Children can also wear festive clothes/a festive accessory. If you would like to make an optional donation to charity on this day, we will be sharing any money collected to a homelessness charity appeal.

Reminder - Courteous Parking

A neighbour on Brookfield Drive has been in touch about inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up times. It would be appreciated if parents could refrain from parking on yellow lines, or across the front of private driveways on any of the roads near to the school when dropping off their children. Please also be considerate about parking on the pavement, as this can impact on parents with buggies.

Please do not park in the parking bay outside school as this is needed for school buses.

We appreciate that parking around the school can be challenging, but please park considerately. We have consulted with our PCSO, Pam Graham, who is working closely with Cheshire East to address parking issues. We would really appreciate your support in improving this situation - thank you.

After School Clubs – spring term 2025

As the weather will still be cold and the evenings are dark until spring half term, we will not be running any outdoor activities for the first half of this term. See below for after school activities during the first half of the spring term.

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 Wall, Ms Beechener)

Details of after school sports clubs will be sent out next week.

New British Sign Language (BSL) Club

From January 2025 we will be running an after school club offering children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to learn British Sign Language. The trainer leading the sessions will be deaf or hard of hearing and if needed, they will bring along a Sign Language interpreter. The sessions will be £6 per session. There will be more information to follow, and a flyer sent out with details of how to book.



New Drama Club



From January 2025, brand new Drama classes taught by a fully qualified teacher specialising in Performing Arts will be taking place.

The classes will be after school on a Thursday 3:20pm to 4:20pm and open to Year 3, 4, 5, and 6. The cost is £6 per session.

Places are limited. See flyer for details or ask at the school office.

Please remember all after school activities run by outside providers need to be booked through the company leading the club. Thank you.

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 4th June at 9.30am

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>

PTFA News

Christmas jumper/accessory day – Wednesday 18th December

The PTFA are inviting children to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas accessory on Wednesday 18th December and donate £1 in exchange for a strip of raffle tickets which will give them entry to a raffle to win a special, Christmas themed children's hamper.



Here's our PTFA date reminders 'cause blimey life is busy in December!

- **Sun 1st** - last orders for Christmas Ornaments
- **Wed 4th** - last pre-loved uniform requests before Christmas
- **NEW KS1 Christmas Shows** - raffle tickets for epic hamper with gifts from local businesses on sale (playground sale dates TBC)
- **NEW Wed 18th** - Christmas accessory/jumper day with raffle tickets for sale in school to win one of 3 special children's Christmas hampers...pics to come! (hint, they're very green 🍀)

- **15th Jan** - first PTFA meeting of 2025 for planning, ideas and chat! (Pub meet-up).
May the force be with you this December :)

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.

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 jumper/accessory day
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
Wednesday 8 th	Road safety presentation for Year 5
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 4 th	Year 1 visit to Macclesfield Silk Museum
Thursday 6 th	World Book Day
Friday 21 st	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 26 th	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
Friday 25 th	Year 4 visit to Crowden River Valley

May 2025

Monday 5 th	Bank holiday – school closed
Wednesday 7 th	Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th	SATS week for Year 6 pupils
Wednesday 21 st	Year 4 Presentation for Parents 9.30am
Thursday 22 nd	Class photos
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th	Half term – school closed

June 2025

Wednesday 4 th	Year 5 Presentation for Parents 9.30am
Monday 16 th	Year 2 visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelter
Tuesday 17 th	Year 4 Come and Play with the Halle at The Bridgewater Hall
Monday 30 th	Year 6 Bikeability

July 2025

Tuesday 1 st	Year 6 Bikeability
Wednesday 2 nd – Friday 4 th	Year 6 residential



Tuesday 8 th	Year 3 visit to Macclesfield Forest
Wednesday 9 th	End of year reports to parents
Tuesday 15 th	Year 6 Leaver's performance for parents 2pm
Wednesday 16 th	Year 6 Leaver's performance for parents 6.30pm
Friday 18 th	Term ends at 1.20pm

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Principal

Vicki Bradford
Head of school



National Support School
designated by

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