



# Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School  
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Holmes Chapel  
Cheshire  
CW4 7EB

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Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Staff News

We have recently had some changes to our kitchen staff and have very sadly had to say goodbye to our kitchen supervisor, Mrs Karen Jones. Karen has worked in the kitchen for the last 14 years and was a valued part of the team. We would like to thank her for her dedication to her role and wish her well for the future.

Last week we celebrated the life of Mrs Chadwick at her funeral. In the coming weeks we will be arranging some tributes to help us remember what an important part she played in our school community. We will be involving the children and some members of her family in this – more details to follow.

## Olympians Celebration Event

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January, two of our Year 6 children, Dylan and Jessica, were invited to attend an event hosted by Holmes Chapel Parish Council, to celebrate the success of Olympians Tom and Emily Ford at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Dylan and Jessica have written about the event:-

We want to tell you about our amazing experience meeting Tom and Emily Ford.

On January 10<sup>th</sup> January we went with Mrs Waddington to St Luke's Church Hall to watch a presentation about Tom and Emily Ford who are both rowers who went to the Paris 2024 Olympics and won medals – Emily won bronze and Tom won gold! They are both from Holmes Chapel.

We watched a motivational video about Tom and Emily's journey and how they became so successful in rowing. Then the Youth Council asked them loads of questions, which were very inspiring and interesting to know. Then everyone had food and got a picture with them. We wore their medals. It was very inspiring for us to keep trying to accomplish our dreams. Tom and Emily have offered to come into school and talk to everyone about their journey.

We had a really great time – we loved having the opportunity to meet people from the Olympics.

(Thank you to Gail Griggs for a lovely photo memory of the event)





## RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

Big Garden  
Birdwatch

This week our Eco Councillors have been preparing for the big garden birdwatch run by the RSPB. They have installed some new bird feeders in our school grounds and are encouraging children to observe birds using our outdoor classroom as a bird hide. Mr Lavin has talked to the children in assembly today to share information about the big bird watch and how to take part. Please see the attached document for you to complete if you would like to take part. For further information, please follow this link:-  
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

## Aspire Trust Writing Competition 2025

We are excited to announce the Aspire Trust Writing Competition 2025! All children are invited to compose an entry at home and bring it into school to be entered into the competition by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. All entries will be judged by our Trust School Council representatives, Trustees and staff in the Aspire central team. There will be first second and third prizes for each school for each category, as well as overall prizes across the Trust.



## Aspire Trust Writing Competition 2025



The Aspire Trust Writing Competition 2025 to open to all children in the following categories:

Year group	Writing task
Reception and Year 1	A piece of writing with any number of words
Year 2 and 3	A piece of writing with any number of words
Year 4 and 5	A piece of writing of up to 300 words
Year 6	A piece of writing of up to 500 words

**Book token prizes!**

**Closing date: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Prize giving: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (World Book Day)**

Please ensure your entry is clearly labelled with your name and class and give it to your class teacher

Please note that the writing competition has been included as a task in some year group homework grids so can be done as this term's homework.

## Forthcoming Events



**Children's Mental Health Week** takes place from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February exploring the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the *Inside Out 2* characters. For further information visit the website following the link below:- <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



National Support School  
designated by  
 National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



## Non-uniform day – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

To promote Children's Mental Health Week and to support Visyon (a mental health support service free of charge to the local community) we are inviting the children to wear non-uniform on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Your child can choose to take part and to bring a voluntary donation of £1 into school on the day. Visyon will be running a workshop for parents in school in March on a date to be confirmed shortly.

## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**'

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025>

Safer  
Internet  
Day 2025 | Tuesday  
11 February

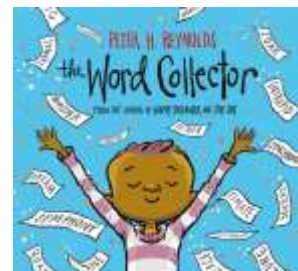
Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

[saferinternetday.org.uk](http://saferinternetday.org.uk)

## World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day this year, we have chosen the book 'The Word Collector' by Peter H. Reynolds to generate book-related activities across school. The book is an inspiring story about the transformative and profound power of words.

Children are invited to dress up as a word/favourite word (eg. Sporty, Glamourous, Emerald). More details to follow soon.



## PTFA News

We would like to announce two exciting new events to add to your diary!

Discos – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April (times to be confirmed)

Spring Fair – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1-4pm (more information to follow)

## Community News

The future is ours to make

Holmes Chapel Cricket Club  
Girls only (primary school age Yr3+)  
Every Friday  
5.30-6.30pm  
First session for new players is free!  
Holmes Chapel Comp Leisure Centre (small hall)

To reserve your free place, complete the form via the QR code  
Contact Sam (07950466590) or Giovanna (07896088553)

## 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.

### January 2025

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Height and weight checks for Reception children
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### February 2025

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children's Mental Health week
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mystery Readers
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Young Voices concert (Manchester)
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Non-uniform Day – voluntary donation of £1 for Visyon</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Safer internet day
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Half term – school closed
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Online residential information meeting for Year 5 parents – 4.30pm</b>

### March 2025



Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 visit to Macclesfield Silk Museum
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Online meeting at 5.30pm for Year 6 parents – SATs information and residential information</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Red Nose Day
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 3 Singfest event at Congleton Town Hall 12.15-1.30pm</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Wider Opps concert for parents in school hall 2.30pm
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> to Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 5 residential

### April 2025

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Term ends at 1.20pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Closed
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Summer term starts
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 visit to Crowden River Valley
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PTFA Discos</b>

### May 2025

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bank holiday – school closed
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	SATS week for Year 6 pupils
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Presentation for Parents 9.15am
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PTFA Spring Fair 1-4pm</b>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Class photos
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Half term – school closed

### June 2025

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Presentation for Parents 9.30am
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelter
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Come and Play with the Halle at The Bridgewater Hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	HCCS Transition days for Year 6
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Bikeability

### July 2025

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 Bikeability
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 residential
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 visit to Macclesfield Forest
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	End of year reports to parents
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leaver's performance for parents 2pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leaver's performance for parents 6.30pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Term ends at 1.20pm

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty  
Principal

Vicki Bradford  
Head of school

