



Headteacher: Mrs S Lockwood
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Maybury

Holmesdale Infant School
The Avenue
Dronfield
Derbyshire
S18 2LR

Tel: 01246 413284

e-mail : info@holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk
web : www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk



September 8th 2023

Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new reception children who are starting school on Monday 11th September. This is the start of an exciting learning journey for you all. We hope that all the children (and grown ups!) are very excited. However, never underestimate how tiring this is for all the children, especially during the first few weeks. We are all here to support them (and you) during this time.

During the first term PSHE is a focus both in planned lessons and in informal interventions. As a well-being school we are nurturing and supportive helping to make our children feel safe and valued. Children are encouraged to talk about their thoughts and feelings to the adults in their classrooms who they know will listen. Staff support children to build friendships helping them to learn how to care for each other and show kindness. Throughout their time at Holmesdale children are encouraged to develop the many skills needed to help them navigate through school and life and to build resilience to cope with the many challenges life will offer. Our aim is that all our children are happy, confident people, who love life, school and learning.

As a school we celebrate individuality and successes both in class and in our celebration assemblies. This year we are going to share photographs on Parent Hub of the children who have been awarded in celebration assembly, where permission has been granted. Celebration Assembly will be on a Friday this year.

Below is further information about some of the systems and requirements in school. Staff are usually around at drop off and collection and will happily discuss any small day to day issues that you may have. You will also soon have the opportunity to come into school and meet your child's teachers. We are really looking forward to getting to know you all as you join the Holmesdale family.

(Please remember to bring your child's birth certificate for the office staff to check on Monday)

Yours Sincerely

Sarah Lockwood
Headteacher





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THE SCHOOL DAY

All classrooms doors open at 8.40am. Children must be in school by 8.50am. After this time you take your child to the main entrance and office. School finishes at 3.20pm, all children are collected at their classroom doors.

The staff find it really helpful when parents queue as most of you do. It helps them to ensure that the children have gone home safely. We would politely ask the Willow parents to queue along the fence and down the main entrance path to help with this (staff will be around to help guide you).

Please be punctual and help your child to arrive on time for school. A late start can cause anxiety and of course vital learning time is lost.

PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

Please inform the class teacher/office in the morning when you drop off your child if they will be going home with another parent or carer. If this person is not known to school you must provide a password. Please be patient with staff if they need to check arrangements as they are following safeguarding procedures.

PARKING

Please do not park in the staff carpark at any time unless you have a special permission. Please park considerately i.e. not on grass verges, not blocking driveways or entrances to school, not on the yellow zigzag lines and not in the private parking bays on Hassop Close. There is a carpark by the playing field next to Stonelow Junior School that can be used. This option relieves congestion on The Avenue. These requests are to help keep everyone safe and to strengthen our already positive relationships with the local community.

ILLNESS, APPOINTMENTS, ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is ill, needs to leave school or arrives late for any reason including dental or medical appointments you MUST let the school office know. There are many childhood illnesses that you may encounter. Below are some links to help you and guidance as to whether your child needs to be off school or not.

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance on infection control in%20schools poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance%20on%20infection%20control%20tools%20poster.pdf)





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<https://derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk/our-services/5-10-years/childhood-illness>



PUPIL PREMIUM

Please remember to complete the local government form see if your child is entitled to pupil premium funding. This money helps in school but can also help to pay for trips and some uniform. Follow the link below:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

SICKNESS

To stop the spread of sickness and diarrhoea bugs, children must not return to school until **48 hours have passed since the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting**. Please see our policy on the school website.

<https://www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/Diarrhoea%20&%20Vomitting%20Illness%202019.06%20V02.pdf>

We appreciate your understanding with this.

MEDICINES

We cannot give any non-prescribed medicines. You will need to fill in a medicine form at the office giving permission for a dosage of any prescribed medication.

PLEASE REMEMBER DO NOT BRING NUTS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS OF ANY TYPE OR QUANTITY INTO SCHOOL. WE HAVE CHILDREN WITH SEVERE NUT ALLERGIES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH

NO DOGS

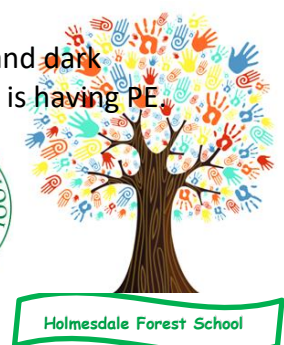
We have a no dog policy on our school site please. Do not leave your dog tied up at either school entrance please. This is for health and safety reasons. Some of our children and grown-ups are frightened of dogs.

SCHOOL MEALS

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to a free school meal. Children will choose what they are having for lunch during morning registration. If your child would like to swap from packed lunches to school meals or vice versa, the kitchen requires two weeks' notice.

PE KIT

All children come to school wearing their PE Kits on PE days. Please wear white tops and dark shorts/joggers/ and school sweatshirts. Your teacher will let you which day your child is having PE.





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OUTDOOR CLOTHING

Please ensure your child wears the appropriate clothing for outdoors depending on the weather. Coats should be waterproof and have a hood. Reception children need waterproofs and wellingtons in school. **Please name all clothing.**



SUN SAFETY

Please ensure that in hot weather your child comes to school with sun protection cream already applied. We suggest the Factor 50 once a day. Your child can top up the cream but they have to do this without adult support, which can be tricky!

WHAT TO BRING EACH DAY

A NAMED water bottle and book bag each day. Packed lunch bag if required. Please no toys in school. Children can **only bring water** to school, no juice or fizzy drinks, these will be disposed of and water will be given instead.

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

Please ensure you supervise your child/ren, at all times before and after school when on the school grounds. We politely ask you not to let the children use the outdoor areas directly outside the classrooms and nursery. School staff are not responsible for your children before school starts and when school finishes.

VOLUNTEERS

We will be asking for volunteers in school soon. This will be largely during the afternoon sessions. Please look out for further information

2023-2024 DIARY DATES

The yearly diary of school events will be made available shortly, we are just finalising one or two events. Any events in green are ones that parents and carers will be invited to. We are booking several trips and will be sending information soon about payment plans. We have worked hard to plan all the events through the year with the different companies and agencies involved. We will do our utmost not to change these dates however we cannot promise this. Should any dates change we will give you as much notice as we can, however sometimes this is not always possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read all the above information.

