



Welcome to Holmesdale

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you all to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Holmesdale Infant School. We understand that your child starting school for the first time can be an exciting time, but also daunting and unsettling, as you are not sure of what to expect or what the future may hold. We fully appreciate that you all may feel an added worry or anxious because of the ongoing and unfortunate situation we all find ourselves in due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please be assured that we all are very experienced at working with children of this age-group and will do everything we possibly can to ensure your child settles quickly and happily into Reception, whenever that might be.

Our usual methods of getting to know your child and your family, such as visits into school/ home visits, are not possible in these current circumstances however; we want to reassure you that we will do our best to prepare you and your child. We will keep you updated if we are able to plan any visits in the future and as soon as we know more about how starting school will be arranged, we will let you know.

We would ask that you talk to your child about starting school as a very positive and exciting time. They may already feel some worries with not being in educational settings as much as they would normally and may feel that starting school will be a big leap from being at home. Our school is a fun, energetic, inspiring, welcoming, nurturing and wonderful place to be. We want your children to know this and be as excited about meeting us as we are about meeting them!

Using the website

On the school website <http://www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk> you can find a great deal of information such as meeting the staff in school, daily routines, useful web-links etc. We have set up a dedicated page for the new children starting in 2020/2021.

Our aim is to include any information that may be useful. If you have any ideas that you feel we could add, to help support others also, please just let us know.

Getting to know us

We have included short introductory videos from EYFS staff- Please share them with your child so they become familiar with who is who. You might like to look up other staff members on the whole school website also so they become familiar faces. We will try to add a new video each week so that your child can recognise the staff that they will meet in and around school. Our intention is that we will meet with yourselves face to face at some point and we will keep you updated on this when we can.

Getting ready for school

We are aware that your child may not have been in an educational setting as they would have in recent months and you may be concerned about their development and readiness for starting school. This will be a concern nationwide

and something that we all anticipate may affect how things will look and run in Reception classes from September. Rest assured this will be taken into consideration. Please review the Derbyshire keys to school readiness as below. These keys are 'in an ideal world' and if you have any specific worries or concerns, please do get in touch.

10 keys to unlocking school readiness

The 10 keys have been identified by Derbyshire parents, carers and professionals. These will help everyone understand what children developing typically for their age should be able to do by the time they start in reception class.

The 10 keys for unlocking school readiness are:

- I can settle happily without my parent or carer
- I can tell friends and grown-ups what I need
- I can take turns and share when I am playing
- I can go to the toilet on my own and wash my hands
- I can put on my own coat and shoes and feed myself
- I can tell a grown up if I am happy, sad or cross
- I know that what I do and say can make others happy or unhappy
- I am curious and want to learn and play
- I can stop what I am doing, listen and follow simple instructions
- I enjoy sharing books with grown-ups

This is a great website with a lot of information on about the curriculum, how EYFS is taught in schools and others aspects of starting school that you may find useful.

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf

We are really looking forward to the next academic year and getting to know your child and making them part of our Holmesdale family. Please do get in touch if you have any comments or questions.

Sarah Best

