

Winter newsletter

January 2024



Happy New Year 2024

Welcome back to you all and we hope that you have all had an enjoyable festive season. We are all raring to go and looking forward to the exciting activities that we have planned this spring term.

We are thrilled to have Miss Westray back from her maternity leave, she is now working in Maple class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Now Miss Westray is back we have had to say goodbye and thank you to Miss Westwood who did a wonderful job covering for Miss Westray whilst she was off. Miss Westray is joined by Miss Hawkins who will be working in Maple class on a Thursday and Friday.

In other staffing news, we said goodbye to Mr Prest, our caretaker in November. Mr Prest has gone to pursue a full time fire fighting career. We wish him lots of luck and thank him for all his hard work and care looking after us all during his time at Holmesdale. Mr Beard is currently covering our caretaking post and doing a fantastic job!

School Council

Our school council opened the new bike rack and scooter pod this week. Over the last year they have raised money to set up this area so children can travel to school in a more healthy and environmental way if they are able to. Well done to last year's and this year's councillors. Thank you to Mrs Curry our Chair of Governors and Mrs Lockwood for helping with the grand opening.

The bike rack and scooter pod are situated in the carpark. Please take your child there and put their scooter or bike in the appropriate place. The carpark is locked during the day and is secure.





Events This term

We have many exciting activities, events and visitors planned for this term. These include a whole school trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, World Book Day, a Chinese New Year enrichment day and classroom visits, to name but a few!

All the dates and times are, as always available on the school website, just follow this link:

<https://www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/School%20Events%20Diary%202023%20-%202024.pdf>

Remember if the event is in **green** then parents are welcome to join us. Details will be sent out about these events via Parent Hub in good time.

Parent Questionnaire

A big thank you to all the parents who completed our questionnaire before Christmas. The responses were overwhelmingly positive which we are very pleased about. A full, general response will be available later this month.

Where a more personal response is necessary, an email will be sent directly to the relevant parent or carer.

SAFEGUARDING

Remember safeguarding is everybody's business. If you have any worries that you would like to discuss with one of our designated safeguarding leads, please do contact school. We are here to help.

There is lots of useful information on our website, click the link below.

<https://www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/safeguarding.php>

Winter newsletter

Page 3

PTA



Our wonderful PTA have worked very hard during the autumn term raising money for school. From the events at Halloween and Christmas they have made the grand total of **£292.30**. We have decided that we are going to start a fund for improving our library and to develop an additional reading' corridor in school. The money will be spent on décor and new books. We'll keep you updated on the funds raised and the developments in school. If you are interested in supporting our PTA please call into the school office and we will put you in contact with them. The next meeting is on **January 17th at 2.15pm** in school. Please come along if you are interested.

Punctuality

A polite reminder that the school day now starts at 8.50am. Classroom doors open at 8.40am and children can be dropped off from then with a member of staff. If your child arrives after 8.50am then they are classed as late.

It is really important that children are in school to start there day at the same time as their peers, as this helps with regulation and confidence. **If you arrive after 8.50am you MUST take your child to office, not to their classroom as the door will be closed.**

Attendance

Our attendance is steadily improving, thank you for bringing your children to school each day. As previously stated we will not authorise term time holidays. Any unauthorised holidays will now have to be referred in for fining.

We understand that it is difficult for some families, but once your children start school the best place for them to be, if they are not poorly, is at school enjoying learning and being with their friends. Any families who are struggling getting children to school, please do come and talk to us, there are many ways we can help. We strive for at least 96% attendance for all our children throughout the year. From January we will celebrate the class who has had the best attendance each week. This week it is **Oak** class with 99.3% attendance. Well done everyone in Oak Class!

