



Foundation Stage  
Information Booklet  
2020-2021





## Meet the staff of Holmesdale Infant School

Head Teacher  
Mrs S. Lockwood



Foundation Stage Teachers

Mrs J. Wignell  
Mrs S. Best  
Miss J. Milner



Higher Level Teaching Assistant  
Mrs T. Johnson  
Mrs L. Vaughn



Teaching Assistants

Mrs S. Johnson  
Mrs N. Clayton  
Mrs J. Radford  
Miss E. Sutton  
Miss L. Radford





## **For your information**

'All the information in this booklet is about how school runs normally. At this moment in time we do not know what school will look like in September. We may still have to have staggered start and finish times and our classrooms may not look like they normally do. We really hope that things are as back to normal as they can be whilst continuing to keep everyone safe. We will keep you updated on the website.

## **Role of Parents**

Educating our children is a partnership between home and school. As parents you are the constant element in your child's life. We recognise how important this is and want to make your child's transition from home, nursery or another school as smooth as possible. We hope that as your child moves through our school this partnership will continue. You, as parents, can significantly influence your child's learning, and we will support you with this as much as we are able.



### **The Start of the day**

The classroom opens at 8.50am and you can come in and settle your children in at the beginning of the day. We like to encourage parents to use these 10 minutes to read a book with their child. Staff will be available for brief messages regarding the children at the start of the day. We encourage parents to make appointments if they require a longer discussion.

All doors close at 9.00am and registers are taken. If your child is late you should come to the main entrance.

### **At the end of the day**

Foundation stage children are collected from their classroom doors at 3.15pm. Please phone school in advance if you are going to be late or if a different person is picking up your child. For safety reasons we will not let an unknown person collect your child



until we have confirmed this with you.

Your child's water bottle will be outside under the shelter for you to collect before your child comes out.

## Uniform

Our children look very smart in their uniform and we encourage all children to wear it.

Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo-shirts and dresses can be purchased online at <https://pindersschoolwear.com/schools/90/HolmesdaleInfant> or at the Pinders store.

Please remember to name all your children's belongings so as to make it easier to identify items that get lost.

We spend a lot of our time outdoors, in all weathers. Please remember to send your child in a coat with a hood every day unless it is an exceptionally hot day and then they will need a sun hat. Your child will also need a pair of wellingtons to keep at school.

Please note for Health and Safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school.



## If there are problems:



If your child is unwell during the day a member of staff may ring to inform you or ask you to collect your child if we feel it is necessary. If your child is ill before the start of school it is always a good idea to keep them at home and let the office know on the following number:

**01246 413 284**

For Health and Safety reasons we cannot guarantee to administer

medicines in school. Administration of medications prescribed by a doctor may be considered on an individual basis. Often parents can arrange the giving of medicine around school hours.



Accidents do happen, but we do all we can to protect children in school. All staff are trained in first aid. If an injury occurs, a member of staff will explain what has happened to the adult who collects the child at the end of the day.

### **Worries about your child's development**

Your child's early years are an important time for his or her development, and if he or she has special educational needs, it is important these are discovered as early as possible. If you are worried that your child may be having difficulties before he or she goes to school, help is at hand.

Children learn through being with other people and exploring the world around them.

However, some children can have difficulties with:

- communication
- understanding and learning
- sensory and physical development
- behaviour or relating to other people

Children with these types of learning difficulty or disability are said to have 'special educational needs'.

### **Finding out more**

If you think your child may have a special educational need or disability that has not been identified, you should first talk to your child's class teacher or our SEND coordinator, Ms. K Wileman. You could also talk to your doctor or health visitor.

## Milk and Snack

Reception children are entitled to a carton of milk, which is free until the term before they are five years old. Once they have turned five, you will have to pay if you would like your child to continue having milk. School milk currently costs 22p per day (subject to change in September 2020). Milk is ordered via the dairy (Fresh Pastures, see separate information leaflet).

We ask all children to bring water bottles from home to allow them to drink water regularly throughout the day. These bottles need to be clearly labelled.

We are part of the Healthy Schools Initiative, and all of our children receive a piece of fruit every day as a healthy snack between breakfast and school dinner or sandwiches.



## School Dinners

All children in infant schools are entitled to a free school meal. If you do not wish to take up the offer of a school meal you should provide your child with sandwiches. If your child wishes to change from dinners to sandwiches or sandwiches to dinners, **please give two weeks' notice to the office** to ensure that the cook can order the correct amount of food.





## Lunchtime staff

Each class is allocated their own Lunchtime Supervisor. This enables the children to build up a friendly relationship with their supervisor and to feel comfortable talking to them, particularly when encountering a problem or difficulty.

Lunchtime management: -

Mrs J Wilkinson - Senior mid-day supervisor

Mrs C Matthews

Mrs D Prest

Mrs S Fathers

Ms C Jackson - Play Leader

Foundation Stage children start lunch at 11.45 am.

The Lunchtime Supervisors finish at 1.10 pm and then meet with the Foundation Stage teaching staff to ensure that necessary information about lunchtime, such as accidents, is passed on.

## Food Allergies



Included in your New Starter folder is a Pupil Information Form on which you will list contact details and information about any allergies. If your child has a diagnosed food allergy, the Catering Services staff at Derbyshire County Council will arrange a meeting to discuss individual requirements.



Our school is a nut free zone: we ask that no nut products are brought onto the school site.

## Sun Safety



During the summer months we ask parents to apply sunscreen to their children before they come to school. We recommend high factor sunscreen that only has to be applied once a day so that children are not struggling to reapply lotion themselves throughout the day. A sun hat should also be available for your child to wear outdoors.



## Water

Children must bring a bottle of water with them each day. This is available at any time for your child to keep hydrated throughout the day. The bottle must be labelled with your child's name and taken home each night to be washed and refilled.

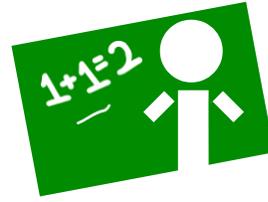


## Helping your child in school

- Let your child see that you get on well with his/her class teacher.
- Children need lots and lots of encouragement. Try to be positive; we spend a lot of time helping children see what they **CAN** do, not what they can't. Praise at home is really important too.
- If your child complains about something at school, make sure you get the full story; there is always more than one side to any disagreement. Show that you have confidence in the school and teachers by coming to discuss any problem rationally. It is essential that problems are solved early.

## Developing maths and number skills

Your child's number skills can be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play. Opportunities present themselves through everyday activities such as measuring ingredients for cooking, shopping, building games etc.



Maths is more than just learning how to count. Awareness of measuring and shapes also plays an important part in your child's development.

## Counting

Your child may start to recognise numbers at an early age. They will go on to learn how to count, and will use their skills with numbers to solve problems.

To help develop your child's counting skills, you could:

- help your child count items around the home - tins in the cupboards, toys in the toy box or pencils in the drawer.
- sing counting songs and nursery rhymes like 'ten green bottles'.
- have your child guess the next number as the oven timer counts down to zero.
- point out numbers in everyday life; numbers on the front door, birthday cards, or clocks.
- ask your child to collect a specified number of objects.
- play games like snakes and ladders that involve using dice.

## Measuring

Your child naturally learns to use words to compare the things they see, for example, 'bigger' or 'smaller', 'taller' or 'shorter'. They then learn about the tools needed for measuring things - scales for weight, tape measures for length, clocks for time.

To help develop your child's measuring skills, you could:

- practise measuring things in the home with a tape measure, and write down their sizes.
- compare the lengths of two objects.
- compare objects to see which is heavier.
- fill and empty containers.
- weigh ingredients for cooking.

### **Learning about shapes**

After learning about the names of shapes, your child's next phase of learning is to describe what the different shapes can do and what they are like.

You can encourage your child's interest in shapes by:

- comparing the shapes of the street signs you see on the way to the shops .
- looking at everyday objects and finding words to describe their shape.
- getting them to find everyday objects which are squares, circles or triangles.



## Developing reading and writing skills

Whether you're on the bus, in the shops or at the doctor's, there are countless opportunities to help your child to learn by reading together. There are fun ways to develop their writing skills too.



## Reading together

Reading stories with your child, even just for 10 minutes a day, will help build important skills, as well as capture your child's interest in books. From their earliest days, babies enjoy listening to stories and looking at books.

To make a fun and effective reading routine for your child:

- spend 10 minutes a day reading together, and make it fun by choosing books you both enjoy.
- talk about the pictures and characters in the books and make up your own stories.
- buy books as presents and join a local library.

## Learning about letters

Children often learn to read by matching letters with the sounds that they remember hearing. To help this learning process, you can try to:

- get your child to spot letters they recognise (like the first letter of their name) in words.
- sing nursery rhymes and songs together while pointing to the words in a book.
- look at brochures and catalogues together, and point out words printed in bold or with unusual fonts.
- play 'I-spy' to show the sounds and letters different words begin with.

- play games with sounds, making up silly words that all begin with the same sound (like the first sound in their name).

### **Developing mark-making and early writing skills**

Children enjoy experimenting with making marks and doing their own 'writing', which they will enjoy 'reading' to you. You can also help your child by:

- helping them to make marks on paper with a range of tools, such as their fingers, brushes, crayons.
- taking part in other activities that enable them to develop their motor skills, such as rolling dough, cutting paper or threading laces.
- helping them 'write' labels, birthday cards and invitations.



### **Overcoming first day fears at school**

Your child's first day at school is a big step. However, there are plenty of practical things that parents can do to prepare their children, such as talking to them about school and helping to develop their practical skills e.g. putting on their own coat or recognising their name.

### **Talking to your child**

Your child may be anxious about what to expect on the first day at school.

If so, one way of helping them is to talk through their fears:

- explain where they'll be going, what they'll be doing, and for how long.
- answer questions, and iron out any fears by asking what they



- think the school might be like.
- emphasise the things they may enjoy doing.

Don't dismiss your child's fears - things that seem obvious or silly to an adult can seem fearful to a four or five year old.

### **Building on practical skills**

If children have a good idea of what school is going to be like and have already experienced learning activities at home and in other settings, they're less likely to find the experience stressful.

Games, role-play and reading at home can help your child get into the right frame of mind and boost their confidence.

Activities for your child could include:

- playing games that involve taking turns or speaking in front of a group.
- playing with children of a similar age to develop social skills.
- reading books about starting school.
- using your child's favourite toys to role-play going to school.
- painting and drawing, which involve sitting down for short periods of time.

### **In the weeks before school starts**

In the run-up to the first day of term you could:

- involve your child in choosing things they need for school such as school bags or uniforms.
- visit the school with your child so they become familiar with the building and the local area.
- establish a routine and discuss what might be happening at school at different times of the day.
- refer to the '10 Keys for Unlocking School Readiness' from your welcome pack

## Early learning from three to five: what your child will learn



The Foundation Stage is for children aged three to five, and covers the years they spend from the beginning of nursery or pre-school to the end of reception class in primary school. This is recognised as a distinct stage of learning, when children learn best through active play, which builds on their individual needs and interests.

The Foundation Stage is organised into seven areas:

### Personal, social and emotional development

Your child will learn to be self-confident, take an interest in things, know what their own needs are, tell the difference between right and wrong, and be able to dress and undress.

### Communication and language

Your child will learn to talk confidently and clearly, enjoying stories, songs and poems. They will learn to sit and listen attentively for short periods of time and understand simple instruction.

### Physical development

Your child will learn to move confidently, controlling their body and handling equipment both indoors and outdoors. Their fine motor skills will develop and they will begin to control pens, pencils and tools effectively.



## Literacy

Your child will learn phonics and use them to learn to read and write. They will begin by recognising individual sounds and then learn to segment and blend words to start reading and writing.

## Number

Your child will develop an understanding of maths through stories, songs, games and imaginative play. They will become comfortable with numbers up to 20 and with ideas such as 'heavier than' or 'bigger'. They will be aware of shapes and space.

## Understanding the World

Your child will explore and find out about the world around them, asking questions about it. They will build with different materials, know about everyday technology and learn what it is used for. They will find out about past events in their lives and their families' lives. They will find out about different cultures and beliefs.



## Expressive Arts and Design

Your child will explore colours and shapes, use different types of media, create models, develop skills to use tools, role play, make up stories, dance and experiment with music and song.

Sometimes they will choose what they want to do. At other times they take part in more directed activities that help them learn how to concentrate or develop a particular skill.





## And Finally...



At Holmesdale we believe that children need to be in a caring, secure and happy environment where they can participate in stimulating and exciting activities that are planned through careful observation. By doing this the children are motivated by their own inspirations. This in turn means that your child can learn and progress in a way that suits their individual needs. This will help them to become happy and confident learners, which in turn will lead them to flourish and succeed as they progress

through school life and eventually into their chosen career.