



Holmesdale Infant School Prospectus

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Robinson

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Lockwood

Chair of Governors: Mrs Dawn Curry

Address: The Avenue Tel: 01246 413284
Dronfield
Derbyshire
S18 2LR

School website: www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk

Email: info@holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk

Holmesdale is a co-educational Infant School for pupils 4+ to 7 years.

The school also has a private nursery, breakfast club and after school club on site, providing excellent wrap around care

Local Education Authority Area Education Office

Derbyshire County Council
Education Department
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG
Tel: 01629 580000

Derbyshire County Council
Council House
Saltergate
Chesterfield
S40 1LF
Tel: 01246 537591



A welcome from the Headteacher

Thank you for choosing Holmesdale Infant School. This is an excellent school, which has high expectations of its pupils, parents and staff.

You have chosen a school that is committed to high quality education, which enables each child to reach his or her highest potential. We encourage each child and family to make the most of the opportunities that we can provide for them at this school.

I hope that you will find this prospectus about our school both interesting and informative. After reading it you may like to visit Holmesdale Infant School to find out more and see us all at work. You are welcome to make an appointment at any time.

Our aim at Holmesdale Infant school is to give your child the best possible educational opportunity within a happy, caring, stimulating, and creative environment. For this process to succeed it is vital that home and school work together in partnership to benefit each child.

The staff at Holmesdale Infant school are a dedicated team, who aim to provide a secure and happy learning environment for the children in our care. We all believe that children should enjoy coming to school and that the curriculum should be broad and well balanced. The staff have high expectations of themselves and of their pupils and attainment at the school is above the national average in all subjects. We are creative and innovative and provide many opportunities to enrich the curriculum.

The staff are always pleased to discuss any aspect of your child's development as your child progresses through the school and we actively encourage parents to come and work alongside us in the classroom.

Our last OFSTED report in July 2013 described the school as 'Outstanding' in all areas. Inspectors noted that pupils make outstanding progress in reading, writing and mathematics in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, attaining well above national averages. They also noted that the behaviour of pupils in lessons and around the school is outstanding. They show respect and consideration for each other and for the adults around them.

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Holmesdale Infant School and I look forward to working with you.

Catherine Robinson - Headteacher

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Our Vision for Holmesdale Infant School:

To promote and enrich the development of children to achieve their full potential in a caring, happy, creative and stimulating environment.

‘The best me I can possibly be.’

SCHOOL AIMS:

To promote high achievement and learning for life by working with children to:

- Develop enquiring minds, the spirit of curiosity and creativity
- Become highly motivated, independent and lifelong learners
- Have high self-esteem and confidence
- Respect themselves, others and the environment
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively with an awareness of next steps
- Have high expectations of themselves and achieve high standards in all areas of the curriculum
- Appreciate, respect and value the multicultural nature of our society
- Gain advanced technical skills
- Develop a sense of responsibility and spiritual, moral, social and personal reflection
- Develop physical skills to the full

OUR MISSION FOR THE SCHOOL:

We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- A stimulating, broad and challenging curriculum
- A happy, secure, creative and inspirational environment
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- An effective learning partnership between school, home and community
- Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning underpinned by effective assessment
- An enriched programme of extra-curricular activities and visits

We will develop our learning community by:

- Striving for continuous improvement in all we do through a supportive programme of continuing professional development for all staff
- Working collaboratively, valuing and supporting each other in our respective roles within school and the wider community

THE CHILDREN OF HOLMESDALE SAY:

My School is:

- Great! We learn lots and practise maths. I love the writing corner because I can write stories.
- The best school because I make new friends every day and play games with them.
- Amazing because the teachers are kind, helpful and funny. I feel safe.
- Great! Playtime is the best thing ever at school because we get to go on the fitness trail. No-one is ever mean.
- Brilliant because when I go to the woods I like finding fairy cups. I like the topics that we do and the work that we do.
- Fun! I like to do phonics because it helps us to do our spellings. We learn new stuff every day.
- Excellent because it is as fun as your home, that's why it is called Holmesdale Infant School!



The School Staff

Mrs C Robinson
Mrs S Lockwood

Headteacher
Deputy Headteacher

Teaching staff

Mrs K Atwood
Mrs S Best
Mrs S Lockwood
Ms E O'Donnell
Mrs R Russell
Mrs K Sharratt
Mrs J Wignell
Mrs S Holloway (Pianist)
Mrs J Bristow (French)

Teaching Assistants

Mrs T Johnson
Mrs V Allsop
Mrs N Clayton
Mrs S Johnson
Mrs J Radford
Miss L Radford
Miss E Sutton
Ms L Vaughan

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Non Teaching staff

Mrs M Freeland
Mrs R Fenby
Mr P Hawkins

School Business Officer
School Business Assistant
Caretaker

School Meals staff

Mrs J Harrison
Mrs K Dann
Mrs J Lambert

School cook
Kitchen Assistant
Kitchen Assistant

Mid-day supervisors

Mrs J Wilkinson
Mrs L Dodd
Mrs A Marsh
Mrs C Matthews
Mrs D Prest

Senior midday supervisor

Lunchtime Playleader

Mrs C Jackson

Other Personnel

Mrs K Steele

Crossing warden

The Governors of Holmesdale

Chairperson	Mrs Dawn Curry
Headteacher	Mrs C Robinson
Parent Governors	Vacancy Mrs C Joicey Mrs S Dunkley
LA Governors	Mr J Allsop
Staff Governor	Mrs S Lockwood
Co-opted Governors	Mrs D Curry Ms H Scott Mrs E Charlton
Clerk to the Governors	Mrs M Freeland

The Role of the Governors

The Governors make decisions about how the school is run. They meet at least once a term.

Governors are appointed to help:

- Decide policy on curriculum developments
- Set standards of behaviour
- Interview and select staff
- Monitor how the school budget is spent

School Governors are:

- Parents
- Teachers at the school
- Local council representatives
- Community representatives

Parent Governors:

- Have a child in school
- Are elected by parents of the school
- Serve on the governing body for 4 years

Parent governors should encourage parental interest, and should become actively involved in the life of the school.

They need to make sure that all communications with parents are informative and easy to read. Parent governors bring the views of parents to the governing body.

Section 1

General information

The School

Holmesdale School was opened in January 1959. It is situated in its own wooded grounds surrounded by gardens and playing areas. There are seven classrooms.

Two of the classrooms / dining room are used by the Avenue Nursery' and 'after school and breakfast club' offering wrap around care to the local community.

The hall is used for P.E., assemblies, music, drama, school productions and learning on a day to day basis.

We are fortunate to have a separate dining room where healthy and nutritious meals are served by our own kitchen. This room is also used for group work, art and craft, coffee mornings and parents meetings.

The building has been fully updated with disabled access and resourced for children with disabilities. We have the 'Sunshine room' for positive play and to support children with special needs.

The playground is well resourced with markings for games, quiet areas and several large items of playground equipment. A trim trail, shelter, and three TPs were built for the school in 2016 with assistance from the Big Lottery Fund.

There is a large grassed area with willow shelters, shaded seating areas, school garden where children grow their own produce and an area for investigation and learning through discovery. We also have a pond.



Admissions into School

If you are considering sending your child to Holmesdale Infant school please contact the school and arrange a visit. We are happy to show you round and answer any of your questions.

If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 your child will be starting at primary or infant school in the 2017/2018 school year.

You will be able to apply for their place online from November 2016 until January 2017.

A parents' guide to applying for a primary, infant or junior school place will be available online during that period at www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Applications considered by Derbyshire LA to be late (after the closing date in January 2017) will not be dealt with until after places have been allocated to those who met the deadline.

Age of admission

Children who will be five years old between 1 September and 30 April will be admitted full-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Children who will be five years old between 1 May and 31 August will be admitted either part-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term and full-time from the beginning of the Spring Term or full-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term, to be determined by the parent.

Admission policy - In line with Derbyshire County Council guidelines

The number of pupils admitted each year is set at a maximum of 50.

If the number of requests for places exceeds the admission limit set by Derbyshire County Council parents will be required to undertake an appeals process.

Further information regarding the Appeals process is available at www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Getting ready for school

We try to make your child's first days at school trouble-free and happy. All the children from local nurseries have a number of visits to the school during the summer term before they start; children from the wider community are invited to these visits. All children are invited to an induction afternoon in the second half of the summer term and we hold a new parents meeting in the evening. We will write to you with details of these visits. Your child's teacher will contact you to arrange a home visit in September prior to your child starting school. This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your child to meet their teacher in familiar surroundings.

On starting school, children should be able to use the toilet unaided and be able to dress and undress themselves. It is especially helpful if on P.E. days, clothes are worn that are easy to manage. For P.E all children need a pair of shorts, plain cotton T-shirt and plimsolls in a bag.

Children regularly misplace items of clothing, so it is essential that all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

Children should come to school dressed appropriately according to the weather. We do take children outside in rain and snow. If the weather requires wellingtons please provide your child with a change of footwear to wear inside.

Milk and Water

Free school milk is available for children under 5. Milk is available for all other children who wish to have it at a charge and must be paid for termly. All children need to bring a bottle of water to school daily so that they can have access to a drink whenever they need it. Again, all bottles must be clearly marked with their name. Drinking water helps children to concentrate and prevents them from becoming dehydrated.

Hot Weather

During hot weather we ask that parents apply an all-day sunscreen to their child prior to arriving at school. Children can bring sunscreen (with their name on it) to school in case they need to re-apply it during the day. We also ask that each child brings a hat to school to wear during outdoor activities. Legionnaire's caps are available to purchase from the school office.

School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged and parents can order red or blue sweatshirts, cardigans, T shirts and polo shirts, all embroidered with the school logo. Order forms are available from Mrs Freeland in the school office. Grey or black trousers or skirts should be worn and in summer girls may wear gingham dresses. Uniform is also available to purchase from the School Trends shop, 10 Carley Drive, Westfield, Sheffield, S20 8NQ (opposite Direct Cars, near Crystal Peaks).

Jewellery is not allowed in school. For children with pierced ears, small studs only may be worn, but must be removed independently for all PE lessons.

Charges for School Activities

With regard to the 1988 Education Act, the Governors of Holmesdale have decided that no charge can be made for school activities and that only voluntary contributions may be invited.

We hope that parents will continue to support the schools initiatives, in particular educational visits, baking, and 'Rise and Shine Friday' so that all our children may benefit from these experiences.

If there are not enough voluntary contributions towards an event or visit then it may have to be cancelled.

However no child will be excluded from any activity because of parent's inability to pay

School Meals

From September 2014 all infant school children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) have been entitled to free school meals. We will still offer you the opportunity to send your child to school with a nutritious packed lunch but we encourage everybody to take advantage of a free hot school meal which will always include a vegetarian option. If your child has any food allergies a form must be completed and a doctor's note evidencing the allergy will be required.

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium Funding is extra money that will be paid to school for children that are eligible. If you get any of the following benefits, you may get Pupil Premium Funding for your child:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (with an annual income of less than £16,190)

This extra funding is used to provide extra support within school and a proportion can also be used towards school uniform, trips and extra-curricular clubs.

Library

We have a well stocked library. We encourage children to take the books home regularly. Please return all books to the library after reading at home.

Wrap around care offered by the community at Holmesdale

Holmesdale Kids Club:

The independent Kids Club offers excellent child care facilities for children between 5 and 11 years from 3.15pm to 6.00pm and a morning session between 7.45am and 9.00am daily. The club also offers holiday care throughout all school holidays.

The latest OFSTED report stated 'The quality and standards of the care are good.' Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment.

If you wish to book your child into 'Kids Club' please contact the co-ordinator Miss Heather Jackson Tel: 01246 413062.

The Avenue Nursery:

The independent Avenue Nursery offers excellent nursery and pre-school provision for children from the ages of 2 to 5 from 8.00am to 6.00pm all year round. The Nursery offers full day care, sessional care, extended care, holiday care and pay-as-you-go. Funding is available for all 3 and 4 year olds.

Hot nutritious lunches are available for all nursery children.

They are a team of fully qualified, experienced staff dedicated to caring for all children and their diverse needs.

The last OFSTED report stated 'The Avenue Nursery provides very good quality care for children.' 'The provision is of high quality and children reach very good progress through the Early Learning goals. They and their families are welcomed into a warm and caring environment where the children settle well.'

For more details please contact the nursery manager Mrs Dawn Curry Tel: 07836 730444.

Transfer to Junior Schools

Children transfer to a junior school in the September following their seventh birthday. The majority of our children go to either Northfield Junior School or Stonelow Junior School.

To enable our children to experience a smooth transition to the next stage of their education there is a close liaison between our staff and the staff of both junior schools.

The year 2 children spend an induction day at their chosen junior school in the last part of the summer term.

In the year before your child is due to transfer, you will have the opportunity to visit both schools in order to help you select the school for your child. If either school has too many applications then the DCC guidelines on admission apply.

The School Day

School session times are:

9.00am to 12.00am and 1.10pm to 3.15pm

Classroom doors open at 8.50am. Parents and carers are welcome to use this time to change reading books with their children and undertake morning work.

Registration takes place twice a day at 9.00 am and 1.10pm.

We do expect children to arrive at school on time. Being regularly late for school does have a detrimental effect on children's education and it is important that they have a calm and settled start to the day.

Playtime is from 10.30am to 10.45am

Lunchtime is from 12.00 noon to 1.10pm

Home time is at 3.15pm.

Parents and carers collect their children from the classroom entrance ways. The teachers and support staff are there to ensure that children are united with their parent or carer and no child is allowed to leave the site unaccompanied. If you are unable to collect your child at 3.15 pm please inform school. Children attending Kids Club will be collected from their classrooms by a Kids Club member of staff.

Collecting or bringing children by car

For the safety of all children we ask that you:

- Use the car park at Stonelow playing fields
- Do not park on the grass verges outside school
- Do not park on Hassop Close as it is a private road for the use of residents only
- Remember that it is against the law to park or wait on the yellow zig zag lines directly outside school
- Be considerate to local residents when parking on The Avenue and surrounding roads
- Be polite and considerate to other parents and carers

On no account are parents allowed to use the school car park.

Road Safety

Safety on the roads is an important part of our curriculum. We ask that parents support us in keeping our children safe. Our road safety policy includes our School Travel Plan developed by the School Travel plan committee made up of staff, parents and governors.

The school travel plan encourages parents and carers to walk to school with their children. We actively teach road safety and take part in the twice yearly 'Walk to School' week programmes.

There is a **School Crossing Patrol Service** on Stonelow Road. The crossing patrol is there for you and your child's safety, please use it.

Contact Numbers

It is very important that we have up to date home/work telephone numbers, so that we can contact parents/carers in case of emergency. We shall also need contact numbers for a relative or friend whom we can contact should we be unable to contact you. This information is essential and it is important that you help us to keep it up to date.

Please tell us if:

1. You change your address or telephone number
2. You start a new job or change your place of work
3. You have a neighbour or relative who will help out in an emergency

Parents in Partnership

We are always pleased to see parents in school and we aim to make you feel welcome.

We firmly believe that parents and teachers are partners in the education process. If you feel that you are able to give a little of your time and volunteer to help in school we would be very grateful. There are many ways you can help and support. Please see your child's teacher to arrange suitable times.

Regular communication

We produce regular half termly newsletters to keep you informed of all events and activities. All letters home will be emailed using Call Parents or, if this is not convenient, a copy will be placed in children's book bags. Please check book bags daily.

We have a parent's notice board outside Chestnut classroom where you will find copies of all recent letters and current information.

We also use Call Parents to send text messages. We use the text messaging service for urgent messages e.g. after school club cancellation / school closures.

School Website

Our school website can be found at www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk
Information on the website includes:-

- Letters
- Newsletters
- Term dates
- Prospectus
- Policies
- Children's work
- Photographs of events
- Photographs of staff
- Links to interesting and educational websites

Mobile App

We have a school app that is available to download onto a smartphone / iPad. The app is available from the homepage of the school's website. It contains up to date information relating to what is happening in school together with a calendar listing of events.

Consultation

Children's Progress meetings are held three times a year. These occasions provide a more formal opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the progress of individual children.

Children's targets will be set and reviewed at these meetings.

If, for any reason you are concerned about your child you are welcome to contact the class teacher first thing in the morning or at the end of the day at 3.15pm.

If a longer discussion is required we are happy to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

We realise that small problems can seem enormous to children and their parents and we can help these to be overcome.

We also arrange various open sessions and workshops to keep you informed about the content of our curriculum.

During the year parents are invited to their child's class assembly. You will also be invited to special school assemblies and concerts. Attending these will give you the opportunity to share in the activities your child is experiencing at school.

Helping in School

If you have any time to spare, we are always grateful for your help.

There are variety of ways parents can help in school – in the classroom, playing educational games, supporting activities, creative work, cookery, helping in the library, assisting with educational trips, gardening and fundraising. If you have any other skills or talents we would love to hear from you. We are also very grateful if you can help us with contacts where we can get resources and materials for school free or very cheap e.g., offcuts of wood, paper etc.

The best way to help your child in school is to let them know that you are interested in what they do and how they achieve. Do not forget to ask them about what they have done, give them time, listen to them and try to attend school functions.

Helping your child at home

During your child's first half term at school you will be invited to 'Meet the Teacher' and talk about what we are learning in school and how you can help. The homework policy will be discussed at this first meeting.

Your child will bring a book home to share with you, please read the book with your child and talk about the pictures. Children really enjoy sharing books and it helps them to become successful readers.

Encourage your child to do things for him/herself such as dressing and undressing, tying shoelaces, fastening coats and give praise for good attempts.

Encourage him/her to tidy up and look after his/her own toys and belongings.

Encourage the use of pens, pencils, paintbrushes and scissors etc.

Talk about everyday things and go on interesting walks, talking about what you see.

Sing or say nursery rhymes and other short poems together.

Go to the library and choose books together to develop a love of reading.

Count everyday objects and let your child help lay the table, matching place settings and cutlery.

Encourage your child to write using lower case letters. Don't worry about spelling at first; help them to develop confidence and expression. You will receive a letter formation sheet in your introductory pack when your child starts school.

Friends of Holmesdale School

When your child is admitted to Holmesdale School you automatically become a member of 'Friends of Holmesdale School' along with grandparents, childminders and valued friends of the school.

The association organises social and educational events and helps to raise money for school projects. Everyone is welcome and the leaders are always delighted to welcome new parents and to encourage them to get involved. Membership does not assume commitment and the level of involvement is up to the individual. Any support is gratefully appreciated.

Health and safety

Dogs: For the safety of the children, dogs are not allowed on the school premises. Please do not bring dogs into the playground or walk dogs in the grounds. We also request you do not tie your dog to the gates outside school.

Fire practice: A fire practice is held at least once a term.

Medicines in school

Health and safety regulations advise that medicines should not be administered in school. Whenever possible, medicines should be administered by parents out of school time. If it is necessary for a child to have medicine in school hours, parents will need to make arrangements to come to school to administer it.

In exceptional cases such as children with long term illnesses (e.g. asthma, epilepsy) medication will be administered with signed parental consent and by trained staff only. All medicines must be clearly named and will be appropriately stored for immediate access. Please note that a member of staff administering medicine does so voluntarily.

Accidents and Emergencies

Staff are trained in First aid and will treat minor injuries in school. If a child needs hospital treatment an ambulance will be called and parents will be informed, a member of staff will remain at the hospital until a parent arrives.

Smoking (including e-cigarettes) is not allowed anywhere on the school premises. We also request that you do not smoke (including e-cigarettes) immediately outside the school grounds.

Child Protection Procedures

The school is required to take reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. If the school is concerned for the safety and welfare of any child and has reason to believe that a child may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or abuse, the Headteacher will follow the safeguarding procedures established by Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB) and inform Social Services.

Attendance

Full attendance in school is very important in order to help your child establish a positive attitude to school and to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

If for any reason your child cannot come to school, you must let the school know on the first day of absence.

We encourage children to attend school every day; however we are aware that there are some exceptional circumstances why your child may not be able to attend school such as the wedding of close family member or to attend a funeral. If you require your child to be absent from school for an exceptional circumstance we ask that you complete a form for the headteacher to consider. The headteacher's decision will be given to you in a letter.

Data Protection

Registration information, which you supply to school, is required for the efficient organisation of the school and the children's educational needs. All information is kept under restricted access and is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. The information will only be disclosed to the Education authority, the Health and Welfare agencies, or where a law or an emergency necessitates a disclosure. The information must be kept up to date, if any of your information changes; you must notify the school in writing or ask for another registration form.

Complaints procedure

If parents have a complaint about their child's schooling, they should raise it with the class teacher in the first instance and then with the Headteacher if they are not satisfied.

If you have a complaint about the school curriculum including religious education and collective worship please contact the Headteacher to discuss it.

It is expected that most questions and anxieties can be dealt with in this way.

However, if complaints cannot be resolved then a formal procedure involving Governors and the LA can be invoked.

The Education act allows for parents to make a complaint if they form the view that the Governing body or local authority is failing in its duty to comply with the legislation.

How will complaints be handled?

1. Informal stage

It is important to be clear about the difference between a concern and a complaint. The school will take informal concerns seriously at the earliest stage. In most cases concerns are successfully resolved informally through discussions with the Headteacher or, if appropriate, with the staff member. The initial contact with the school may be by

telephone, email or in writing, to make appropriate arrangements. The sharing of concerns at this stage will reduce the numbers that develop into formal complaints. It is anticipated that most concerns will be handled without the need for formal procedures.

Should informal discussions fail to resolve the difficulty, then the formal stage should be followed:

2. *Formal Stage*

There are three stages to the formal complaints procedure.

- Formal Stage 1 (Complaint Heard by the Headteacher)
- Formal Stage 2 (Complaint Heard by the Chair of Governors)
- Formal Stage 3 (Governors' Complaints Panel)

In exceptional circumstances the Chair may wish to request the attendance of an appropriate LA officer to provide advice and guidance to the panel.

The Headteacher is obliged to furnish all relevant documents explaining the arrangements for complaint to a complainant.

Behaviour and anti-bullying policies

The aim of these policies are to help children develop a greater sense of personal responsibility; a sense of care and respect for others and an awareness of safety for themselves and others. Care is taken to explore unacceptable behaviour and it is discussed between the child and the teacher. There are clear sanctions for dealing with unacceptable behaviour and these are clearly understood by the children. Concerns are then shared with parents. If unacceptable behaviour persists and further action is necessary, the matter is dealt with by the Headteacher in conjunction with the parents. Positive behaviour is rewarded in many different ways including stickers, Headteacher's Award, Trophies and Star of the Day.



Section 2

The Curriculum

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum comprises of the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and ICT, along with the Foundation subjects of Design Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, Physical Education, Citizenship and Religious Education. The National Curriculum was designed to ensure every child receives individual entitlement, to promote progression and continuity, and to establish a coherent national framework.

These subjects cover the range of knowledge, skills and understanding commonly accepted as necessary for a broad and balanced curriculum. In addition they provide a framework for a number of cross curricular aspects such as Personal and Social education, Health education, Global and Environmental Education

Through the National Curriculum we teach:

Language and Communication skills:

- Reading
- Writing [including handwriting, grammar and punctuation]
- Speaking
- Listening

Mathematical, Technological, Problem solving and Scientific skills:

- Applying and utilising knowledge
- Making and Testing
- Thinking skills and problem solving]
- Number [including times tables, fractions and place value]
- Measurement
- Shape and space
- Recording and interpreting data
- Investigation skills
- ICT skills

Humanities, and knowledge and care of the environment:

- Geographical skills
- Historical enquiry
- Investigation skills

Expressive skills:

- Art and Design
- Music
- Movement, dance, drama and PE

Citizenship:

- Personal and social education
- Healthy lifestyles
- Global education

The School Curriculum

Holmesdale Infant School has established a reputation for high standards in the quality of teaching and learning and in the academic and creative achievements of the children. Our curriculum is designed to encourage children to reach their maximum potential. We make every effort to ensure that every child achieves success and self worth. Care is taken to extend able children and early intervention programmes give extra support to those children who need it.

The core subjects of English (including phonics) and Mathematics are taught daily with a strong emphasis on the teaching of basic skills. The other subjects are taught through a structured programme of work incorporated into half termly topics which are based on the cross curricular themes stated above. Children in the Reception have their own Foundation stage curriculum.

We aim to make the content of our curriculum relevant to the lives of the children by presenting it in a meaningful context, providing children with knowledge and skills that they can apply in everyday life.

We believe it is very important for our children that as part of their personal and social development they learn to respect, understand and appreciate as many aspects of different cultures as possible.



Equal Opportunities

We consider the needs of all our children when planning our school curriculum. We recognise and value their previous experience, their gender, their cultural background and any disability they might have, and ensure that all children have the opportunity and support to gain access to the curriculum at their own level. Provision for pupils who have exceptional skills and abilities will be made within a differentiated curriculum and through the school's equal opportunities policy.

Adults and pupils with disabilities are welcome to contact the school to discuss their individual needs in line with the schools Disability Plan which is available on the website and on request from the school office.

Special Educational Needs

The school welcomes all children with special educational needs. We will ensure that children with special needs are integrated quickly and smoothly into the pastoral, social and academic life of the school.

The school has a policy for the identification, monitoring and assessment of children with special needs.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator works closely with all teachers and support staff to monitor progress and provide early intervention to support children who are experiencing difficulties. We also work closely with parents at all times, seeking external professional support when appropriate.

Parents who have any concerns regarding their child's educational needs should discuss them with the Headteacher.

Learning and Teaching

English

Reading is a vital part of our curriculum and we encourage children to read for pleasure as well as for information. We have a structured reading scheme throughout the school which has a mixture of books from published schemes and other authors. All books are colour coded indicating levels of difficulty.

Parents are encouraged to change their child's home reading book in the mornings. The reading book will be taken home daily accompanied by a reading record book. Parents and teaching staff are invited to comment in this book every time it is shared with your child.

There will be many other opportunities to learn to read in school such as shared reading in class, guided reading in a group situation and individual reading.

Teaching staff will only comment in the reading record book occasionally, but you may comment in it daily if you wish. Please ensure that the reading book comes to school everyday.

Oral and written language is also vital to a child's development and we aim to help children develop their expressive and communication skills confidently and clearly. Children will be taught the different forms of writing as well as correct letter formation.

Mathematics

Mathematics equips children with a uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world; these tools include logical reasoning, problem solving and the ability to think in abstract ways. Children are encouraged to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of maths through practical activity, making connections, exploration and discussion.

Science and Design Technology

Science and Design Technology play an important part in our curriculum. We help children to develop scientific skills and concepts. Children will experience both physical and natural science through a variety of activities. We help children to develop logical thinking, observational skills, the ability to question and to solve problems, to classify and be able to select appropriate materials. Children learn to plan, design and create with an emphasis on solving real problems.

History/Geography/Environmental Studies

These subjects are taught through a cross curricular approach and first hand experience as much as possible. We use the outdoor environment around school regularly and make use of educational visits.



Information and Communication Technology

All classrooms have electronic whiteboards, computers and access to the internet making ICT an integral part of the daily curriculum. We also have Programmable Floor Robots in school to learn basic programming skills and enhance all curriculum areas such as directions and mapping skills.

Art and Design

We place great value on children's art and creative work, presenting children with a wide range of media and two and three dimensional work. We encourage all children to develop observational and expressive skills. We carefully display children's work to create an attractive environment, to act as stimulus to all children and to show that we value each child's achievement. We regularly work with a range of artists through the creative partnership programme and take part in local Art festivals.



Music

We have a variety of percussion instruments and we follow a comprehensive scheme of work for music. We invite musicians and dancers into school whenever possible to provide the children with the experience of listening to and taking part in musical activities which reflect a variety of cultures and traditions.

Physical Education

All children take part in physical education activities for at least two hours a week. Activities involve gymnastics, dance and movement and games skills. Both the indoor and outdoor environment is used for PE.

Each child will need a named PE kit kept in a bag on their peg.

All jewellery must be removed for all physical activity for health and safety reasons.

Children may only be excused from PE on genuine medical advice.



Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

The school places great emphasis on helping our children to become responsible, confident members of society by helping them to make the most of their abilities. The children are encouraged to play an active role as citizens and to develop good relationships with others. They are taught about healthy and safe lifestyles and the importance of caring for the environment.

Sex Education

In line with national requirements the school has an agreed policy on sex education drawn up by the governing body. Sex and relations education is seen as part of the natural development of a child learning about him/herself and the world about him/herself. The work will be integrated within science, health education and PSHE. The term 'sex education' will not be used with the children, but the children's questions will be answered as they arise as truthfully and fully as possible.

Religious Education/Assemblies:

The Education Act requires all schools to provide religious education for each child. We follow the guidelines laid down by Derbyshire LA and follow the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Assemblies are held daily and are broadly of a Christian nature. Children will regularly be involved in and take part in these assemblies. Parents will be invited to join us for their child's class assembly once a year. If you do not want your child to take part in assembly please speak to the Headteacher.

Educational Visits

Throughout the year we organise visits and trips to places of educational interest. We also organise visits into school from musicians and artists. Educational visits enhance our creative curriculum and contribute significantly to children's learning. Costs are always kept to a minimum and voluntary contributions will be asked for.

All transport used is recommended by Derbyshire County Council. We do expect all children to keep their seatbelt fastened and to be well behaved at all times.

Risk assessments are carried out for each activity which takes place out of school.

Forest Schools

Each half term the children will visit the local woods as part of our Forest School's programme. They will learn about the environment, undertake team building exercises such as den building and apply a range of skills in an outdoor environment.



All National Curriculum and School Policy documents are available, if you wish to see them please see the Headteacher.

School Organisation

Year groups:

- Foundation stage 2 (Reception) - Children who are 5 during the year
- Year 1 - Children who are 6 during the year
- Year 2 - Children who are 7 during the year

Children work individually, in small groups, as a class and as year groups. All lessons are differentiated according to ability to ensure high standards.



Thank you for taking the time to read through our prospectus. Please contact the school if you have any questions or would like to organise a visit.

