



Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School
Middlewich Road
Holmes Chapel
Cheshire
CW4 7EB

Principal: Mrs F. Gresty B.A (Hons), NPQH
principal@holmeschapelprimary.cheshire.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs V. Bradford B.A (Hons), PGCE
headofschool@holmeschapelprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

T: 01477 533336

Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staff News

Mrs Smeaton, who has worked in the office for 26 years and is an integral and valued member of our team, will be moving back to her home town of Newcastle in March and sadly leaving us. We wish her many happy matches watching her beloved team Newcastle United!

Mrs Morrison is also moving away from the area and is planning to retire to Yorkshire. She will be leaving us in March. Mrs Morrison has been a teacher, deputy headteacher and supply teacher at our school for 35 years and will leave a big gap in our team. We wish all the best with her adventures in Yorkshire!

Children's Mental Health Week took place last week. Children explored the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the *Inside Out 2* characters. Children enjoyed a non-uniform day on Friday, with dancing in the playground at lunchtime! Thank you very much for your donations to Visyon (an amazing total of £310 was raised!)

Young Voices Concert

On Thursday 6th February some of Year 4, 5 and 6 children enjoyed an exciting afternoon and evening at the Young Voices concert at the Co-op Arena in Manchester. The children joined about 8,000 other children from around our region to sing and enjoy the experience of being part of a huge concert. Thank you very much to the staff who accompanied them.

Year 4 Greek Workshop

On Thursday 13th February our year 4 children took part in a Greek workshop. The children worked with a rich Athenian lady and a Spartan tutor exploring what life was like in each of the city states. They completed a craft activity and shared in a performance of a Greek myth with costume, music and plenty of drama. The children also learned a Greek dance before voting on which city they would have preferred to live in.



Safer Internet Day

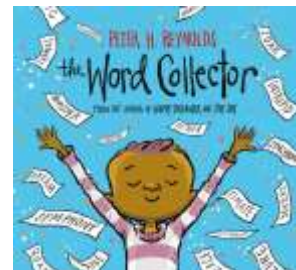
On Tuesday 11th February we celebrated Safer Internet Day 2025 with learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'.



Forthcoming Events

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day this year, we have chosen the book 'The Word Collector' by Peter H. Reynolds to generate book-related activities across school. The book is an inspiring story about the transformative and profound power of words. Children are invited to dress up as a word/favourite word (eg. Sporty, Glamorous, Emerald). There will also be a special themed lunch available. Please see the separate letter sent out earlier this week.



After School Clubs – spring 2 2025 (after February half term)

We are currently arranging after school activities for after the half term break.

The following club will be run by school staff:-

- Monday – Coding Club 3.20-4.20pm (Year 6 – run by Miss Maddock and Mr Vickery)

Please note that singing club will be taking a break following the Young Voices concert and will recommence in the summer term.

The following clubs will be run by outside providers and will require payment.

- Monday – Dance with Sports Coaching Group for Year 1 – Year 4 3.20-4.20pm
- Monday – Hockey with Sports Coaching Group for Year 3 – Year 6 3.20-4.20pm
- Tuesday – Pickleball with Sports Coaching Group for Year 3 – Year 6 3.20-4.20pm
- Tuesday – Art with Jo Green for Year 1 – Year 6 3.20-5.00pm
- Wednesday – Dodgeball with Sports Coaching Group for Year 3 – Year 6 3.20-4.20pm
- Wednesday – Shooting Stars Football for Reception – Year 4 3.20-4.20pm
- Thursday – Pickleball with Sports Coaching Group for Reception – Year 2 3.20-4.20pm
- Thursday – Drama with React Theatre Academy for Year 3 – Year 6 3.20-4.20pm
- Friday – Gymnastics with Sports Coaching for Year 1 – Year 4 3.20-4.20pm

Parking Reminder

A local resident has asked that I remind all parents about courteous parking and behaviour. It would be appreciated if parents could refrain from parking across the front of private driveways on any of the roads near to the school when dropping off their children. Please also be considerate about parking on the pavement, as this can impact on parents with buggies. Please do not park in the parking bay outside school as this is needed for school buses.

Whilst we all appreciate parking around the school can be challenging, please try to park considerately. Thank you.

PTFA News

Please note the changes to the dates previously announced. New dates for future events are:-

- Thursday 27th March – PTFA Discos (Reception 2-3pm; Y1, 2 and 3 4.45-5.45pm; Y4, 5 and 6 6.00-7.00pm)
- Saturday 7th June – Summer Fair 12.00-3.00pm

Please also see this information regarding the school lottery.



Community News



Formerly known as Salt Wars and County Cross Games, our free to attend events are about to return, and more frequently.

These will be taking place in Easter, May and Summer school breaks. But in the meantime, we have a starter session running at The Alexandra Soccer Centre, Shavington, CW2 5AF on Saturday 15th March 2025, from 10:00-12:00.

Anyone who participates will receive a complimentary Parent & Child ticket for the Crewe Alex vs Doncaster Rovers game, on the 15th March, 3pm kick off.

To apply, please click the link below, or use your phone camera on the QR code in the poster

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGd37IUqtpIhe9DF8h-CG363IvSpH3KwiDQ_ZV3CLjQIOBrQ/viewform?usp=header

Any enquiries or issues can be sent to Salt.Wars@Cheshire.Police.uk

Please keep an eye on social media and emails for the School Holiday events
Scott & Tom
Vanguard Games Leads

School Attendance, including Persistent Absences and Holidays during Term Time

The government has a persistence absence threshold of 10%. The absence threshold of 10% means that if a pupil is absent for 38 sessions (19 days) of school, they are classified as persistently absent. Schools are urged to inform parents of this threshold and to advise parents that fines will be made for persistent absence, unless there is evidence of a justifiable reason for such absence, for example, significant illness. Failure to make payment will result in legal action for failure to ensure regular attendance at school under Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996.

As you are aware, I am not allowed to grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstance is usually a one-off, unique situation that is of significant emotional, educational or spiritual value which outweighs the loss of teaching time. It is my duty to strongly urge parents or carers to avoid booking holidays, appointments or visits overseas during term-time. In addition, it is important that I advise you that under the legislation there is an expectation that schools will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to those parents who take their children on an unauthorised leave of absence (holiday) in term time.

Penalty Notices will be issued for	
Term time leave:	Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days or
Unauthorised absence:	A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10 week period.
Per Parent/Per Child	
Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent per child . For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.	
First Offence	
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or unauthorised school attendance the fine will be charged at:	
£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)	
Second Offence	
Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or unauthorised attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:	
£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)	
Third Offence	
On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance, a penalty notice will not be issued. The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.	

Calendar of Events

Please see below calendar dates for this academic year. New dates have been added in bold.

February 2025

Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st	Half term – school closed
Monday 24 th	Allotment session for Year 1
Thursday 27 th	Online residential information meeting for Year 5 parents – 4.30pm

March 2025

Monday 3 rd	Allotment session for Year 2
Tuesday 4 th	Year 1 visit to Macclesfield Silk Museum
Thursday 6 th	World Book Day
Monday 10 th	Allotment session for Year 3
Wednesday 12 th	Online meeting at 5.30pm for Year 6 parents – SATs information and residential information
Monday 17 th	Allotment session for Year 5
Friday 21 st	Red Nose Day
Monday 24 th	Allotment session for Reception
Wednesday 26 th	Year 3 Singfest event at Congleton Town Hall 12.15-1.30pm
Wednesday 26 th	Year 4 Wider Opps concert for parents in school hall 2.30pm
Thursday 27th	PTFA Discos
Monday 31 st	Allotment session for Year 2
Monday 31 st to Wednesday 2 nd April	Year 5 residential

April 2025

Friday 4 th	Term ends at 1.20pm
Monday 7 th – Monday 21 st	School Closed
Tuesday 22 nd	Summer term starts



Friday 25 th	Year 4 visit to Crowden River Valley
Friday 25 th	PTFA Discos
Monday 28 th	Allotment session for Year 1

May 2025

Monday 5 th	Bank holiday – school closed
Wednesday 7 th	Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 12 th	Allotment session for Year 3
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th	SATS week for Year 6 pupils
Friday 16 th	Year 4 Presentation for Parents 9.15am
Saturday 17 th	PTFA Spring Fair 1-4pm
Monday 19 th	Allotment session for Year 1
Thursday 22 nd	Class photos
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th	Half term – school closed

June 2025

Monday 2 nd	Allotment session for Year 2
Wednesday 4 th	Year 5 Presentation for Parents 9.30am
Saturday 7 th	PTFA Summer Fair 12-3pm
Monday 9 th	Allotment session for Year 3
Friday 13 th	Sports Day
Monday 16 th	Year 2 visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelter
Monday 16 th	Allotment session for Year 5
Tuesday 17 th	Year 4 Come and Play with the Halle at The Bridgewater Hall
Thursday 19 th and Friday 20 th	HCCS Transition days for Year 6
Monday 23 rd	Allotment session for Year 1
Monday 30 th	Year 6 Bikeability
Monday 30 th	Allotment session for Year 2

July 2025

Tuesday 1 st	Year 6 Bikeability
Wednesday 2 nd – Friday 4 th	Year 6 residential
Monday 7 th	Allotment session for Year 3
Tuesday 8 th	Year 3 visit to Macclesfield Forest
Wednesday 9 th	End of year reports to parents
Monday 14 th	Allotment session for Year 5
Tuesday 15 th	Year 6 Leaver's performance for parents 2pm
Wednesday 16 th	Year 6 Leaver's performance for parents 6.30pm
Friday 18 th	Term ends at 1.20pm

Wishing all of our children, parents and families a lovely half term.

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Principal

Vicki Bradford
Head of school

