



Holmes Chapel Primary School

Holmes Chapel Primary School
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Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Winter Olympics themed day – week beginning 2nd February

During the week beginning Monday 2nd February, we will be celebrating the forthcoming winter Olympics being held in Italy from 5th – 22nd February. Children in every year group will be finding out all about the exciting events taking place, and sharing their learning with children in their key stage at a special assembly on Thursday 5th February.



National Storytelling week – Monday 2nd – Friday 8th February

What is National Storytelling Week?

Created by [Society for Storytelling](https://www.societyforstorytelling.org/), this fantastic annual event is a joyful celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy; they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential [literacy skills](#).



National Storytelling Week 2026 is a celebration of oral storytelling, reading and writing for pleasure. At a time when [young people's writing and reading enjoyment levels are at their lowest](#), National Storytelling Week has never been more important.

This year, our exciting storytelling project is supported by [Amazon](#).

Part of the National Year of Reading 2026.

What is the theme for National Storytelling Week 2026?

The theme for National Storytelling Week 2026 is [Soundtrack your story](#). Everyone has their own musical story - whether it's in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world.

[Our research](#) highlights that exploring stories through lyrics can be an effective way to [re-engage young people with reading for enjoyment and writing for pleasure](#). Slightly more than 3 in 5 (60.7%) children and young people age 8-18 regularly read song lyrics digitally. Writing song lyrics is also popular among children and young people age 8-18, with slightly less than 1 in 5 (17.8%) reporting that they write lyrics on a screen at least once a month.

Throughout the week, we will explore the magic of storytelling through [sound, lyrics and rhythm](#). Who's ready to pick up the mic?

For further information please follow this link:-

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/national-storytelling-week/>

There are also activities for you to do at home with your child on the following website:-

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/>

Children's Mental Health Week – 9th to 15th February

Children's Mental Health Week 2026, organised by the charity [Place2Be](#), runs from February 9th to February 15th, 2026, with the theme "[This is My Place](#)", focusing on the importance of belonging, and providing resources for schools, families, and communities to explore feeling connected and supported. Activities encourage creating environments where children feel they belong, and official resources are available for download to help with participation.



On Friday February 13th we will have a 'wear what you want' non uniform day and ask for donations to raise money for this cause which will be donated to Visyon.

Visyon are a local charity who support children's emotional wellbeing. They offer counselling and mentoring for children and also parent workshops, peer support and one off advice and signposting calls for any parent/carer who has a school aged child and is looking at ways to support their children with their emotions. You can find more on Visyon services on their website [Visyon | Empowering Young People](#).

As part of our work to help children build emotional resilience skills we have arranged for Visyon's Wellbeing Practitioners to deliver sessions on 'Healthy Relationships' to our Year 5 children in February. The Healthy Relationships workshop covers topics such as communication styles, being a good friend and maintaining healthy boundaries. The session is based in the classroom and is an hour in length with a school staff member in attendance too.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the 10th February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

Uniform reminder

Please remember that skins should only be worn under PE kit, not school uniform. Thank you.

Cheshire Prize for literature

Please find attached information regarding the Cheshire Prize for Literature competition. Further information can also be found at the following link:
<https://www.chester.ac.uk/about/events/cheshire-prize/>

PTA News

We are forging ahead with plans for our spring fair on Saturday 25th April. More details to follow soon. Unfortunately, our spring disco has been postponed. A new date for the summer term will be confirmed shortly.

After school clubs – first half of spring term 2026

Please see below our after school clubs for the first half of the spring term.

The following clubs will be run by school staff:

- Monday – Coding Club 3.20-4.15pm (Year 6 – run by Mr Vickery and Miss Brett)
- Thursday – Singing Club 3.20-4.15pm (Years 3-6 - run by Ms Lackford, Mrs May, Ms Whalley)

The following clubs will be run by outside providers and will require payment – please contact the school office for further information. **The clubs below will commence from Tuesday 6th January.**

Sports Coaching – <https://sportscoachinggroup.co.uk/>

Please see the attached flyer for booking information.

- Monday: Dance (Yr 1-4)
- Tuesday: Football (Yr 1/2)
- Wednesday: Football (Yr 3-6)
- Wednesday: Dodgeball (Yr 1-4)
- Thursday: Ball Sports (Yr 1-4)
- Friday: Archery + Pickleball (Yr 3-6)
- Friday: Gymnastics (Yr 1-4)

React Theatre – reacttheatreacademy@gmail.com

- Drama Club — Thursdays (Y3-6)
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Art Zone – jo@art-zone.co.uk

- Art Club – Tuesdays (Y1-6)

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, we are 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 our duty to strongly urge parents or carers to avoid booking holidays, appointments or visits overseas during term-time. In addition, it is important that we 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 Notice 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 the next academic year. New dates have been added in bold.

January 2026

Friday 30 th	Road safety presentation for Year 5
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February 2026

Monday 2nd – Friday 8th	National story telling week
Wednesday 4 th	Year 5 residential meeting for parents 5pm (online)
Thursday 5 th	Mystery readers 2.45pm
Friday 6 th	Young Voices concert (Manchester)
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 13th	'Wear what you want day' for Children's mental health week (Non-uniform)
Tuesday 10 th	Safer internet day
Wednesday 11 th	Year 4 Greek workshop
Thursday 12 th	Year 4 Greek workshop
Wednesday 11 th and Thursday 12 th	Spring term parents' evenings
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th	School closed - Half term break

Monday 23 rd	Year 1 allotment session
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March 2026

Monday 2 nd	Year 2 allotment session
Thursday 5 th	World Book Day
Monday 9 th	Year 3 allotment session
Monday 16 th – Wednesday 18 th	Year 5 residential visit
Thursday 10 th	Singfest concert for Year 3 at HCCS 10.00-11.15am
Monday 16 th	Reception allotment session
Friday 20 th	Red Nose Day
Monday 23 rd	Year 5 allotment session
Monday 23 rd and Tuesday 24 th	Book Fair 3.30-4.00pm
Tuesday 24 th	Key Strings performances for KS1 and KS2
Thursday 26 th	Mystery readers 2.45pm
Thursday 26 th	PTFA Spring Disco – Reception classes 2.30-3.00pm; Years 1, 2 and 3 5.00-5.45pm; Years 4, 5 and 6 6.00-6.45pm POSTPONED – NEW DATE TBC
Friday 27 th	School closes at 1.20pm
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th Apr	School closed – Easter break

April 2026

Monday 13 th	Summer term begins
Monday 13 th	Year 1 allotment session
Wednesday 15 th	Year 4 visit to Crowden Valley
Friday 17 th	Donations for PTFA Spring Fair (Make the Rules day)
Monday 20 th	Year 2 allotment session
Saturday 25 th	PTFA Spring Fair
Monday 27 th	Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 27 th	Year 3 allotment session

May 2026

Friday 1 st	INSET day for staff – school closed
Monday 4 th	Bank holiday – school closed
Tuesday 5 th	Year 1 visit to Staircase House
Thursday 7 th	Year 4 Presentation for parents 9.15am
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th	Year 6 SATS tests
Monday 11 th	Year 1 allotment session
Monday 18 th	Year 2 allotment session
Wednesday 20 th	Year 3 Presentation for parents 9.15am
Thursday 21 st	Class photos
Thursday 21 st	Mystery Readers 2.45pm
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th	School closed – Half term break

June 2026

Monday 1 st	Year 3 allotment session
Friday 5 th	Year 5 Presentation for parents 9.30-10am
Monday 8 th	Year 5 allotment session
Friday 12 th	Non-uniform day (donations for PTFA rainbow hampers)
Monday 15 th	Year 2 visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelter
Monday 15 th	Year 1 allotment session
Tuesday 16 th	New Reception Parents open evening 6pm
Thursday 18 th and Friday 19 th	Transition days for Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School
Monday 22 nd	Year 2 allotment session
Wednesday 24 th	Sports Day

Monday 29 th and Tuesday 30 th	Year 6 Bikeability
Monday 29 th	Year 3 allotment session

July 2026

Wednesday 1 st – Friday 3 rd	Year 6 residential visit
Friday 3 rd	Class 3 visit to Delamere Forest
Monday 6 th	Year 5 allotment session
Wednesday 8 th	Reports to parents
Thursday 9 th	Mystery readers 2.45pm
Friday 10 th	Class 3a visit to Delamere Forest
Monday 13 th	Year 4 allotment session
Tuesday 14 th	Year 6 Leaver's performance to parents 2pm
Wednesday 15 th	Year 6 Leaver's performance to parents 6pm
Thursday 16 th	Leaver's assembly for school and Leaver's lunch
Thursday 16 th	Leaver's assembly for parents 2pm
Friday 17 th	School closes at 1.20pm
Monday 20 th July – Monday 31 st August	School closed – summer break

Kind regards,

Fiona Gresty
Principal

Vicki Bradford
Head of school

