



HOLMGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY
CLAY CROSS, DERBYSHIRE, S45 9QD



Head Teacher: Mr Ian Robson

Tel: 01246 862270

Email: admin@holmgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

NEWSLETTER 1: 4th September 2019

I hope everyone – children, parents and carers – has had a restful summer and is ready to go for the new school year. With only one more day before school restarts, I thought I would write to update you with some of the changes for the coming year as well as reminding you of some of our key policies and expectations.

STAFFING:

We have a number of new school staff to welcome. Mrs Thornton will be joining us as deputy headteacher. Ms Crofts will be joining us as our new pastoral manager. Finally, Mr Stevenson will be joining us as a student teacher and he will be working alongside Mrs Reid in the Autumn Term and Summer Term. We would like to welcome them all to the team.

BREAKFAST CLUB:

We will be extending the reduced price section of breakfast club in order to encourage more children to come. At breakfast club the children can get some breakfast, meet up with their friends and make sure they are in school ready to start the day punctually. We also know that more early arrivals at school can help reduce congestion in the mornings. The club will be free for children eligible for Pupil Premium from 8.15am and will cost 50p for other children from this time. Arrival prior to this will cost £2.

consultant who is deputy headteacher at the outstanding St Catherine's Academy in Sheffield, to redesign our curriculum. One change will see topics being extended to last for one term, with the children aiming for more ambitious projects at the end of each term to replace our celebrations of learning (parents will still be invited!).

Class teachers will be sharing the topics and projects with the children and yourselves shortly!

PLAYGROUND:

- Please ensure that children do not ride bikes or scooters on the playground.
- Dogs are not allowed on school property at any time.
- Smoking is not permitted on school property, including e-cigarettes and vaping.

EARRINGS:

It has been school policy for a number of years that children should not wear earrings in school. We did send out a reminder regarding this prior to the summer holidays. We do understand that sometimes it takes longer than expected for earring piercing to heal. Derbyshire County Council Guidance advises schools that the wearing of jewellery in school can constitute a hazard, especially for certain activities that involve specialised equipment or physical activity. As such:

- Children whose piercing has not healed by the return to school should have earrings taped up.
- If earrings are taped then children are allowed outside for break time and lunchtime. Parents will advise children not to engage in overly physical play and assume any risk of injury at these times. Parents are aware that wearing an earring may exacerbate another incident or injury.
- Children will not be allowed to actively physically participate in PE lessons with earrings in even if they are taped.
- The school and staff reserve the right to withdraw children from other activities if they believe that wearing of earrings could constitute a hazard.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY:

We have a vacancy for a parent governor and will be sending out nomination forms on Thursday when the children return. When we held a meeting for prospective parent governors at the end of the last academic year, we had a number of parents who were interested. I would encourage them all to stand as well as anyone else who might be interested. This is an important role in helping set policy and monitor the performance of the school. We need your help!

CHANGES TO THE CURRICULUM:

You will see a number of changes to what and how we teach the children this year. In part these changes are driven by changes to the Ofsted inspection framework, in part by our desire to ensure you're your child's experience of school is as productive and enjoyable as possible. We have been working together with Jonathan Lear, writer and educational

CLUBS:

Clubs will start the week beginning Monday 16th September. We will send out our new clubs brochure next week. To try and boost participation, some clubs will be held at lunchtimes. We will also be increasing the number of sports clubs we offer throughout the year.

SCHOOL DINNERS:

Please remember Year 3 children will now be required to pay for their school dinners. School dinners cost £2.10 per day payable on a Monday for the week ahead. If you are eligible for Free School Meals your child will still receive a free school meal in Year 3 – Year 6.

WALKING BUS:

We will be sending out sign-up sheets for the walking bus next week. The walking bus will restart on Monday 16th September.

SCHOOL APP:

We will not send subsequent newsletters out as a hard copy. Instead, we will send them out over our App. To download the app, enter School Jotter in the IOS or Android app store and then select Holmgate when the app is downloaded.

HOLIDAY DATES	
Thursday 5th September 2019	School starts
Friday 25th October 2019	Break up for half-term
Monday 4th November 2019	School starts
Friday 20th December 2019	Break up for Christmas
Monday 6th January 2020	School starts
Friday 14th February 2020	Break up for half-term
Monday 24th February 2020	School starts
Friday 3rd April 2020	Break up for Easter
Monday 20th April 2020	School starts
Friday 22nd May 2020	Break up for half-term
Tuesday 2nd June 2020	School starts
Friday 17th July 2020	Break up for summer holidays