



# Orrell Holgate Primary School

Together Everyone Achieves More

9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

## **Welcome Back**

Welcome to our first newsletter for this school year! The children have come back to school looking extremely smart and have made an excellent start! It has been lovely getting to know all the Reception pupils and seeing them enjoy their first days of school.

Welcome also to Mr James Lomax who has joined us as our Year 5 teacher. We hope he will be very happy at Holgate. We are delighted to have him join our team.

## **Apologies for the huge newsletter – there is just so much information to share!**

**An update on our data from the last academic year.** I am so proud of our children and staff. We ended the year with some of the highest scores in KS2 across Wigan. Other statutory assessments were also wonderful. Results in KS1 were above Wigan and National averages. Our Reception Good Level of Development marker was well above average as was our Year 1 phonics test results.

Most pleasing of all is our progress data which shows we are making better progress than similar schools nationally.

## **What we would like to continue to improve this year so that we can become an outstanding school**

- Continuing to develop writing skills
- Continuing to develop spelling in Key Stage 2
- Continue to develop inference skills and thinking skills
- Developing our new 'Learning for Life' curriculum with a wide range of real life opportunities.
- To develop opportunities for children to say what they think is important at school and to take responsibility for helping to lead the change.

**School refurbishment** All classrooms have been updated. They have been painted and have new carpets and blinds. We've also invested in new furniture across school and most of it arrived on time!

Year four parents will have noticed that we have moved the outside classroom door to put it behind the school fence. We will be developing the outside space in front of the Y3 and Y4 classrooms over this year so that it can be used for outdoor learning.

The entrance is not quite finished. Please bear with us until half-term when the work will be completed and the KS2 Computing suite will be in place.

Both Reception outside areas have been refurbished and fully equipped. (Thanks to the ever generous PSFA)

We have ongoing plans to continue to improve the school environment inside and outside. We want the children to work in a stimulating and smart environment.

**Roald Dahl Day!** We will be having a Roald Dahl day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 to celebrate this wonderful writer who we named one of our Houses after. Children may dress up as a Roald Dahl character for the day if they would like to. Costumes don't have to be expensive or complicated – just something to show the children have thought about a story or character.

This day also coincides with a 'bring a tombola item to school for the Christmas Fair.' Every child who makes a contribution will have a 'Golden Ticket' ticket placed into a raffle draw. A winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the day for a Willy Wonker super-hamper!

**Afternoon Playtimes** We have changed the format of afternoon play times.

KS1 classes will have a fluid playtime system. Teacher will take their children out to play most days depending on the curriculum that afternoon. Sometimes children are highly engaged and it interrupts the lesson to stop for playtime and sometimes they become restless and need to go out sooner. Reception class don't have afternoon playtime on the big playground but will be using it at other times for large equipment such as using the bikes.

In KS2, afternoon playtimes have been chunked into 2 longer sessions and one short session. This is something we worked out with the School Council to help us to develop our healthy lifestyle aims. Children will have a greater opportunity to become engaged in sustained physical activity of their choice such as a team game, den building, skipping, making obstacle courses, walking/jogging a mile etc. On our PSFA wish list this year we would like to add climbing walls, dens, gardening items and lots of outside equipment to develop our provision outside - so thank you in advance for all of your generosity to the school.

**After School Clubs** After school clubs will start from next week. Confirmation of the club(s) your child has expressed an interest in and invoices have been sent home this week. Please let us know if your child is no longer interested in attending the club(s). The upper KS2 Football team will start training the week after and information will be sent home next week.

**PSFA AGM** will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm at The Delph Tavern. If you would like to become a member, please contact Mrs Yates in the school office or any member of the PSFA.

**Celebration Assembly** Celebration assembly will now be on a Friday morning. A number of parents asked us to do this to help them attend. It also helps us prepare for sports clubs who use the hall afterwards and allows us to use the hall for instrument tuition on a Friday afternoon.

**Newsletters** Unless you request a paper copy of the weekly newsletter, we will not send a newsletter home every week. However, the newsletter can be viewed on the school website – [www.holgate.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.holgate.wigan.sch.uk). Please let the school office know if you would like a paper copy each week. We are hoping to move to an electronic mail system by the end of the term.

**Swimming lessons** for children in Year 3 will commence on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Letters have been sent home this week, please return the reply slips if you have not already done so.

**Music Lessons** Music lessons will start from next Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, on the following afternoons

**Monday** – Guitar and Woodwind, **Tuesday** - Singing and Violin, **Thursday** - Piano/Keyboard, **Friday** – Brass and Percussion.

All of Y4 will receive a stringed instrument on loan to learn to play. A music teacher will be working with Ms Tennant to provide tuition. The instruments may be taken home to practise as long as they are looked after and brought in for the music lessons each week.

**Awards – Holgate Hero awards will start next week.**

Happy Birthday - Roseanne Amini, Lewis Bone, Alexandra Dennon, Dominic Foster and Nathan Lee who had his birthday on his first day of school!

**Dates for the Term** – Key Dates will be placed in the 'News' section of the website with newsletters and updated as necessary.

<b>September Dates</b>	
13.9.16	Nomad Ranger working with Y1 and Y3 developing bush craft and forest skills in the school grounds. Please send a coat.
19.9.16	Theatre company visit to perform 'Charlotte's Web'
23.9.16	Roald Dahl day and bring a tombola item for Christmas Fair
26.9.16	Y4 Healthy Eating project with Metrofresh
27.9.16 6.00pm	<b>Reception Class parents information session</b> – phonics and reading. (Letter to follow)
28.9.16	Year five and Year six will spend half a day each at Wigan canoe club for science and canoeing lesson. (Letters/detailed information and permission requests to follow)
28.9.16	Reception Class Forest schools day with the Nomad Rangers in school.
22.9.16	PSFA AGM – The Delph Tavern 8pm
30.9.16	Macmillan Coffee Morning
<b>October Dates</b>	
10.10.16	Reception healthy food (preparation and tasting ) with Metrofresh
11.10.16	Nomad Ranger working with Y2 and Y4 developing bush craft and forest skills in the school grounds. Please send a coat.
12.10.16	Harvest Assembly – please consider making a small contribution for a local food bank.
14.10.16	Non-uniform day – bottle donations for Christmas Fair
14.10.16	PSFA Halloween Spooky Disco – letters to follow
18.10.16	<b>Parents evening</b> Appointment letters to follow. 3.45 to 8.00pm
18.10.16	Nomad Ranger working with Y2 and Y4 developing bush craft and forest skills in the school grounds. Please send a coat.
19.10.16	Fire Service Safety Visit to Y6
21.10.16	Fitness event – KS1 and Reception am KS2 in the afternoon. The aim of each session is to get the children engaged in as much continuous physical activity as we can. Parents and relatives are welcome to come and see what we are up to.
<b>November Dates</b>	
11.11.16	<b>Remembrance Day</b> at 11.00 o'clock. Parents are welcome to join us at the memorial across the road from school. (Please arrive in good time)
18.11.16	<b>Children in Need</b> – 'Spotacular Event. 'Come to school as spotty as you can for a spotty day of fun. All contributions to Children in Need are welcome. Stick a spot on Mrs Worrall for 10p. This week will also be our anti bullying week so the children will be taking part in events related to this through the week.
25.11.16	Please bring a chocolate donation in for the Christmas Fair Every chocolate donation you bring in gives you the opportunity to throw a wet sponge at one of the members of staff in the stocks.

<b>December Dates</b>	
2.12.16	PSFA Event 'Make and Take' a Christmas craft in the school hall.
4.12.16	Christmas Fair
16.12.16	Last celebration assembly of the Term
16.12.16	Carol Service at St. Luke's Church. Friday afternoon
20.12.16	2.00pm Christmas Performance KS1 and Reception Class
21.12.16	9.30am Christmas Performance KS1 and Reception Class
21.12.16	Pm Father Christmas comes to the KS1 and Reception Party. Children can come to school in non-uniform and wear these clothes in the afternoon for the party.
22.12.16	PM Key Stage 2 class parties and non-uniform day. (No high heels please)
<p>School trips will take place for every class this term – we will send dates separately as coaches and places are still being booked and are subject to change. A list of trips for the year for each class will soon follow. Trips will be educational and planned into our curriculum, some are free and some will be subsidised by the PSFA.</p>	
<p>22.12.16 Break up for Christmas at 3.30 pm. Have a lovely Christmas!</p>	
<p>Return to school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January</p>	