

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year.

It has been great to welcome everyone back to school for a normal first week of term. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new children and families, especially from Reception who started yesterday. My colleagues and I have been extremely impressed with the way that every year group has quickly settled into new classrooms and routines, as well as their desire to do their best with learning and behaviour. Thank you for your support in preparing them for school and ensuring that they look very smart in their uniform and PE kits.

Queen Elizabeth II

Following the sad news yesterday, I talked briefly to the children in assembly this morning about the event and how many people are feeling sad at the moment and want to show their respect. However, everyone is different and may feel different and we thought about happy memories of Her Majesty, especially the Platinum Jubilee. During the period of mourning, school will continue as normal, although my colleagues will be led by the children's age and development as to any discussions. For discussions at home, there is some useful advice on the Child Bereavement website [here](#).

INSET days

Just before the children returned, staff attended two training days where we discussed how to make the Holbrook curriculum even better, completed safeguarding training and reviewed our Behaviour policy amongst other things. A copy of our Behaviour policy will be shared with you shortly in a separate email.

New lighting

During the school holidays, phase two of our lighting project was completed. This means that every room in the school has improved lighting that is brighter and more energy efficient, and a more pleasant learning environment.

Parent information meetings

We will be holding meetings for parents of each year group shortly. This is an opportunity to find out more information about the curriculum, trips/visits, how to support your child and much more. An email has already been sent with this information and the dates can also be found below. For those who are unable to attend, we will send the information out via Parentmail as well.

Cost of living

As we approach the autumn and winter months, there may be families that experience financial difficulties that affect their children or ability to pay for school activities. Whilst the school is also experiencing some of the same pressures like energy bills, we would like to help and support our community as much as possible. Please contact the school in confidence if this applies to you.

Picture News

We are now subscribing to Picture News who produce a pack full of teaching resources about current affairs every week. The resources are designed to provide opportunities for children to learn from our world and develop respect for other's beliefs, feelings and faiths. This week we watched a short video clip featuring Rose Ayling-Ellis, toy dolls and diversity. Please see the Take Home sheet 'Can toys help us celebrate our differences?' at the bottom of the newsletter – we hope that this might encourage discussion at home as well as in school.

Safeguarding

Holbrook Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and the wider community to share this commitment. We ensure

that our pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Throughout our curriculum, we provide activities and opportunities that equip our children to stay safe and develop essential life skills.

Where there is any concern about the wellbeing/safeguarding of a pupil in school this is referred to the Local Authority MASH team for advice, support and further action where required. Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with his/her parents/carers first unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

Parents and members of the public can also make referrals to the West Sussex team on 01403 229900 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or 033 022 2664 (other times).

The school's Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) for all Safeguarding and Child Protection issues are:



Mr Holmes- Headteacher

Mrs Davies- Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Brooks- Assistant Headteacher

Diary dates -Autumn 2022	
Monday 5 th September	First day of the Autumn term (Years 1-6)
Mon 5 th – Weds 7 th September	New Reception intake Home Visits
Thursday 8 th September	First visit of the Autumn term (Reception)
Mon 12 th September 3.15	Year 6 Bowles/information meeting for parents
Tuesday 13 th September 3.15	Year 5 information meeting for parents
Wednesday 14 th September 9.00	Year 2 information meeting for parents
Thursday 15 th September 3.15	Year 4 information meeting for parents
Monday 19 th September 3.15	Year 1 information meeting for parents
Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd September	Y6 Bowles residential trip
Tuesday 20 th September 3.15	Year 3 information meeting for parents
Tuesday 4 th October	Harvest Festival
Mon 24th – Fri 28th October	HALF TERM break
Monday 31 st October	School closed for INSET day
Tuesday 1 st November	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 8 th November	School photographs - individuals
Tues 8 th & Thurs 10 th November	Parent Consultations
Friday 11 th November	Remembrance service
Wednesday 7 th December	KS2 Carol Concert at St. Mary's church
Friday 9 th December	Christmas assemblies at St. Marks church
Friday 16 th December	Last day of the Autumn term
Spring 2023	
Tuesday 3 rd January	First day of the Spring term

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards,

Ian Holmes

Can toys help us celebrate our differences?



In the news this week

Strictly Come Dancing star, Rose Ayling-Ellis, has teamed up with Barbie to unveil their first doll with behind-the-ear hearing aids. The EastEnders actress, who won the dance competition in 2021, features Mattel's (the toy company) 'Rose, Barbie and Friends' campaign. She is photographed alongside a cast of diverse models reflecting the new line of dolls, which includes the first Ken doll with vitiligo, a Barbie doll with a prosthetic limb and another with a wheelchair.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk about your favourite toy. What is it and why do you like it?
- Share your thoughts on the new range of dolls. Why do you think the company chose to make these dolls?
- How do you think Rose Ayling-Ellis might have felt when she learned about the new doll with hearing aids?
- Can you think of any other toys that could be made to help people feel included?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

