

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of the Spring term 2022.

Pupil achievements

This week we celebrate the following achievements;

Green Cards – Jaafar Murtaza, Kaelan Yarde, Evie Farley, Samuel Jellis (Hedgehogs), Mia Kirsch, Amir Moumen, Mathew Shepherd (Otters)

Merit – Silver: Beau Mattocks (6K)

Karate Spelling – Samurai: Theo Minter 6K



Curriculum

We are proud of our Holbrook curriculum and I was very impressed with the children's engagement and excitement in their learning at the start of the spring term. The photos below offer a brief insight into these meaningful, motivating and memorable experiences.



Year 1 had fun learning about **wind** in their science lesson. They observed the direction bubbles floated in the wind before making their own windsocks.



Year 4 enjoyed spending time in the conservation area on a micro-adventure at the start of their **Explorers** topic.



Year 2 had a great time learning about Sphero which are spheres that can be controlled and programmed by i-Pads.



Phonics

At the end of last term our Year 2 children took their Phonics assessment. Despite periods of remote learning, I am very pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of children made good progress and are working at the level that we would normally expect to see. This is testament to the quality of teaching and parental support that the children receive at Holbrook and we look forward to maintaining that progress throughout the school.

Staff news

Next week, we will be bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Bouskill (Teaching Assistant) who is relocating to east Sussex with her family. Mrs Bouskill joined Holbrook in 2009 and has been a valuable and dedicated member of staff over the past 12 years.



As well as supporting many of our younger children's learning, she has given First Aid across the school, been a staff governor, developed the Always Club and run cookery clubs - her wonderful cakes will also be missed in the staffroom!

Staff profile



Hello, my name is Katrina Valero . At Holbrook, my role is admin assistant

I really like working at Holbrook as every day is different and I love the energy and enthusiasm of the pupils and staff alike.

In my spare time, I really enjoy baking and cooking. I am also passionate about nature and wildlife so I really love woodland walks and looking for animals and creatures with my daughter. We were very lucky to observe some badgers earlier this year. A family member has a badger sett near their house and so we waited until dark to watch them! They love peanuts and grunt a lot as they talk to each other!

My favourite subjects at school were art and biology. This year I am keen to learn more about history, a few castle visits may be in store!

If I wasn't working in the Holbrook office I would like to be a Teaching Assistant. I have been very impressed by seeing the teachers and TAs at work, so maybe being a TA one day would suit me.

My favourite quote is 'Treat others as you wish to be treated'.

Safeguarding - dogs

We recognise that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. Therefore, school policy is that no dogs are allowed on school premises (either on a lead or carried with the exception of guide dogs).

Internet safety

Some children may have received a new phone or computer for Christmas and this is an ideal opportunity to talk to your child about internet safety. One area to be aware of is the use of social media apps, which are aimed at secondary aged pupils and require users to be at least 13 years of age (TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Snapchat), whilst others require users to be at least 16 years old (What's App) before they can register.

Useful parental guides can be found at www.internetmatters.org and www.thinkuknow.co.uk, as well as the school website under the Parents tab.

Donations

Donations to the school are always welcome and I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Mr Voice (Year 1 parent) whose company Vektor, have made a huge donation of art materials to the school. If you feel that you or your company could do something similar, then please contact the school office.



Diary Dates

Spring 2022	
Wednesday 12 th January	Tag Rugby Tournament
Thursday 13 th January	Y5 parent meeting re Bowles
Thursday 13 th January	Year 3 swimming starts
Tuesday 18 th January	Y3 Indoor Athletics Festival
Tuesday 1 st February	Y4 Indoor Athletics Festival
Wednesday 9 th February	The Forest school visit Y5 pupils
Monday 14 th February	Parent workshop (social/emotional development)
21 st – 25 th February	HALF TERM
Monday 28 th February	School closed for INSET day
w/c Mon 7 th & Mon 14 th March	Parent Consultations
Thursday 24 th March	Annual Governors' Day
Friday 8 th April	Last day of the Spring term

Best wishes

Ian Holmes