

### Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to announce that we have once again achieved the Gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award! The award is given to schools who are committed to ensuring children are taught their rights and are shown how to uphold them. The assessors were particularly impressed with the positive impact that being a Rights Respecting School is having on relationships and behaviour, as well as the importance being placed on children's emotional and social wellbeing. They also commented on the children's sensitivity and balanced opinions when exploring topical issues, along with their understanding of their role as global citizens.

A huge thank you to all pupils, staff, and parents for their continued efforts in making this a success. Well done Holymead, from Miss Elston and Miss Williams, RRS leaders.



The last day of term is TODAY-Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and we start back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**The school is CLOSED on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and 4<sup>th</sup> Jan for INSET.**

### Governors' Corner:

The Governors are working with Cllr Tony Carey, Cllr Tim Rippington and Cllr Jos Clark to raise our concerns about dangerous driving and parking around school.



Remember, anybody can report anti-social and illegal parking to the police at the link below, should you wish to do so;

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>

### Governor news



The Full Governing Body met this week. They continue to monitor the budget, including Pupil Premium Funding, which can be found on the school website. Governors are monitoring the work the school has been doing to provide remote learning during self-isolation. We are delighted to see so many children accessing Google Classrooms and See-saw. If you need help please ask your class teacher.



**Adverse Weather and possible School Closure.** In exceptional circumstances e.g. heavy snow or failure of heating systems we may need to close the school.

**However, this is always the last resort so parent/ carers**

**should always assume we will be OPEN unless we tell you otherwise.**

Ways we may be able to inform you of closure are through Parentmail, local radio, Bristol City Council website listing school closures, the school's own website (see address below). Any systems can be clogged up by a large amount of usage so please bear with us and remember we are trying to do our best. You can also try phoning the school if you are uncertain or coming from a long way away. In the event of partial closure, we allow 30 children to attend for every teacher present.

Thank you.

**The University of Bristol** is conducting research into how Covid-19 spreads in Bristol schools. It's a great study for children, as the tests are done through a saliva test, which does not cause any discomfort (unlike the standard swab test). Holymead Primary School is excited to be taking part in this study, which will be happening in the school on 19 and 20 January 2021. This research study will only be open to children in Y2 and Y5 and participation is completely voluntary. It will be up to parent/carers to decide whether they want their child included or not. Children who want to take part in the study will be invited to give a saliva sample which the study team will take away and analyse in the lab for Covid-19. The school will send out information to Y2 and Y5 parent/carers before the Christmas break, so you'll have time over the holidays to decide whether your child can take part in the study, and to sign up and give consent via the online system. No child will be tested without parental consent. If you have any questions about the study, please email the study team:

[commins-school@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-school@bristol.ac.uk).

## Christmas Performances and Concerts



Thank you to all the staff and children for their hard work in putting on Nativity Plays and concerts this Christmas. EYFS and KS1 have put links to their performances on See-saw. The choir had a lovely sing-along on Zoom with Mrs May and Mrs Thomas and in Y5 they enjoyed learning 'signed' songs with Mrs Wyatt which will be reported in The Guardian newspaper.

Parties were great fun and thank you to the Friends' group who bought and wrapped over 600 presents for the whole school this year. The Hamper Raffle was also very well supported. Thank you to the Friends' group for their amazing fund raising efforts under difficult circumstances.



Thank you to the kitchen staff who put on an excellent Christmas Dinner spread and thanks to Mrs Head, Mr Jones and the SMSAs for making this mammoth task run smoothly.



**Reminder to Parents:** please can we remind parents to ensure that all dinner money accounts (via Parentmail) and breakfast club and afterschool club accounts are either kept in credit or at zero. Dinners and services must be paid for in advance rather than in arrears.

**The Equality policy and the School Improvement Plan (SIP) are on the school website.** Please follow the link below, in order to view them.



<http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/policies/187999>

Thank you.

## Staff News



As we reach the end of term we sadly need to say good-bye to those staff who are leaving us.

Following the offer of a secondment to be a temporary Deputy Head at Bromley Heath Junior School, we say good-bye to Mr McSmythurs. We will still see Mr McSmythurs from time to time but we wish him luck in developing his career.

After 3 years commuting over the bridge, Miss Powell has finally decided to pursue her teaching career in Wales. We thank both teachers for their hard work and dedication to the children of Holymead and wish them all the best for the future.

We welcome Miss Nashnush to teach in Tawny Owl and Miss Pick who will teach in Owl and Toucan Class from next term. We also welcome new tutors Mrs Canning, Mrs Grimes and a new evening caretaker, Mr Willie. Some of you may remember Mrs Moore (recently retired) who returns to do some catch up tutoring for us next term.

We say thank you and good-bye to Mrs Holder SMSA for her hard work and welcome Mrs Shepherd, Mrs Colucci, Mrs Loughney, Mrs Ballinger and Mrs James to join the Lunch Team. We also have Mrs Date and Mrs Said joining us in January.



## Term Dates 2020- 2021

### Term 1

(INSET 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.)

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept- school year starts for KS1 and KS2 (new Y1 to Y6)

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept- New in-take Reception start.

*Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> October will be the last day of Term 1.*

*Please note the change.*

*(NEW INSET Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. School CLOSED)*

### Term 2

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov- Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 (INSET 18<sup>th</sup> Dec)

### Term 3

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (INSET 4<sup>th</sup> Jan)

### Term 4

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb- Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2021 (INSET 1.4.21)

### Term 5

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Term 6

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> June- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 (INSET Mon 7.6.20)



Following a government announcement last week, we are still unsure whether our camps will go ahead. The government plan to make an announcement on this in February 2021.

The Red Ridge camp for Y6 has guaranteed all money back if we have to cancel the booking so we are taking bookings in the hope we will be able to go at some point. Miss O'Toole has made a power point presentation as parents are not able to come into school. Please follow the link to find out more:

[http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/year\\_6\\_7/467196](http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/year_6_7/467196)

We are hopeful Y5 camp will go ahead as explained previously.

When we have any further information we will let you know.



**Holidays in term time.** It is very unlikely holidays will be authorised as circumstances have to be really exceptional. However, it is still important that applications are made

so there is a record in school. AS A GUIDELINE PARENTS SHOULD ASSUME APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A HOLIDAY WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED AND YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE FINED FOR ANY UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE OVER 4 DAYS (8 SESSIONS).

Fines start at £60 per child, per responsible adult. For example, if you have 2 children in school and there are mum and dad sharing responsibility for the children then you will be fined £240. Fines rise if they are not paid on time. Please fill in a leave of absence form in advance of taking your children out. Note, you can still be fined if you take an unauthorised holiday but don't fill out a form.



### Social distancing

Our school community has shown great consideration of others in wearing masks around school. Thank you. Please can we extend that same consideration to others and maintain social distancing wherever possible around the surrounding area such as by the gates and on the pavements around school. We have a lot of people trying to get to and from both school sites and if parents congregate in groups near the school it can cause difficulty for others trying to get by. Thank you for your consideration.



### Cakes, Sweets and Biscuit treats

With Covid infection rates rising, we politely remind parents not to bring cakes, sweets or biscuits to celebrate birthdays or special occasions in school. As many children have special diets for varying reasons, we would rather parents didn't send any treats for consumption in school. We have in the past allowed biscuits but with the increased risk of contamination from the virus, we feel the best solution is not to send any treats into school at all at present. Thank you.



### Hamilton Pre-School

Hamilton Pre-School rent an area in the school building and have done so for many years.

They now have a new website available to view, which includes a video virtual tour.

All this can be found at;

[www.hamiltonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.hamiltonpreschool.co.uk)



### WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 AND 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2017?

Applications for September 2021 entry to school need to be made by 15.1.21.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to do prospective parent/carer tours this year so we've made a virtual tour video and FAQs sheet instead which are on the Holymead website home page. This can be found at the following link below;

<http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web>

### PLEASE READ: IMPORTANT MESSAGE

### Covid Reporting over the Holidays

Please follow the instructions in the Parent letter sent out earlier this week for informing us of any Covid cases. Please don't ring but rather email the [office@holymeadprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@holymeadprimary.co.uk) to inform us of any cases and self-isolation either as term ends or when we are getting ready to return. Please leave your child's name, class, date of onset of symptoms and any test results and when you expect to return to school.

Finally, have a great Christmas and New Year and keep safe. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



### Some interesting information which may be helpful.



Please note the school tries to pass on information it considers may be helpful or of interest to parents. We do not necessarily endorse or check the security and safety of the services on offer.

#### **Kids can eat Free in ASDA supermarket throughout December**

All 216 of the supermarket's cafes are taking part and will provide children under the age of 16 with a meal completely free of any charge when accompanied by an adult. There are no minimum spend requirements or restrictions on the number of children in a family or group that can take advantage of this offer.

#### **Library information**

**@BristolLibraries** Face Book hosts a regular live baby bounce on a Tuesday and Thursday at 11.00am. A Lego challenge on a Monday at 11.00am and a children's quiz on a Friday at 10.00am. Not a library member? No problem - you can sign up online here for a temporary card with free access to Cloudlibrary for eBooks, RB Digital for eMagazines and Borrowbox for eAudio Books <https://bit.ly/joinbristollibraries> Online Free Christmas children's Events x 2 1. Join interactive storyteller John Kirk for a special Christmas Story Hunt. This session will incorporate a popular to pantomime story and is suitable for families with children age 3+.

Christmas may be over but the magic of pantomime is still here! @ Bristol and Swindon Libraries. Join storyteller John Kirk for a trio of popular Panto Tales for you and your family. Suitable for families with children 3+. Saturday January the 2nd at 2pm. Book via: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/129324205179](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/129324205179)

#### **Children Centres**

Please note South Bristol Children's centres hold a variety of parent groups and activities for children and useful information from mental health and wellbeing to how to access food. Please check out their website for further information. <https://www.southbristolcc.org.uk/>

#### **Walk with Me UK – Support Group for Parents and Carers**

Experience to equip Parents, Carers, Foster Carers and Guardians with strategies and tools to practically manage challenges such as violent, aggressive, controlling, destructive, self-harm behaviours from their children and young people that are often linked to e.g. school exclusions, special educational needs, grooming and child exploitation; to strengthen and rebuild relationships within families and communities using the Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) approach to create an enriched and harmonious lifestyle.

Walk with Me UK – Support Group for Parents and Carers

Phone: 07883654495 Email: [walkwithme.co.uk](mailto:walkwithme.co.uk)

**Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service.** They help to make sure that the people in Bristol know what welfare benefits they are entitled to and how to claim them. If you need help and advice, please call 0117 3521888 or email [walfarerights@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:walfarerights@bristol.gov.uk)



**Please note** the school tries to pass on information it considers may be helpful or of interest to parents in this newsletter. We do not necessarily endorse or check the security and safety of the services on offer. Parents need to satisfy themselves that they are happy to leave their children at any of the clubs and services advertised which are not based on the Holymead School sites. Holymead School carries out DBS checks on clubs who have hire agreements to run children's clubs with this school.

Yours sincerely  
Ms Kate Slatcher



Rights Respecting Schools Article 13: Children have the right to get and to share information

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