

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

## Welcome Back

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

It is my great pleasure to write my first newsletter as the new Headteacher of Holymead Primary School. I am looking forward to working with all pupils and parents across our school as well as leading our team of dedicated professionals. It really is our pleasure to work with our amazing pupils and their families and strive to provide them with a memorable and rewarding educational experience. Whilst I inherit a school with very strong foundations, I will always seek opportunities to innovate and improve our school's provision. I'd like to thank you all for your support and look forward to the first of many fantastic years working together.

Mr Jones - Headteacher

## A Message from Ms Hughes New KS2 DHT

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

I am thrilled to be joining the amazing community of Holymead Primary School as the new Deputy Headteacher based on the Key Stage 2 site. I was very lucky to be able to meet some of the children on our transition day in July and have been made very welcome by the staff team during my first few days of this academic year. I am looking forward to meeting many more children, parents and carers over the coming weeks. I have been a qualified teacher for 17 years and have spent that time working in Schools across Bristol. I have been an Assistant Head Teacher and have experience in leading assessment, Mathematics, IT and SEND amongst other areas and am looking forward to supporting Mr Jones and the Holymead team in providing the best possible school experience for the wonderful children at Holymead Primary School.

Steph Hughes - Deputy Headteacher

## Junior Site Building Work

Over the summer holidays a series of scheduled maintenance work was due to be completed on the Junior site. Unfortunately, not all of the work has been completed. This work will now commence in a few weeks, hence the scaffolding that has now been erected on the upper hall end of the building. For the time being, Salamander Class will be using the classroom in the lower hall rather than their usual room, and Year 6 will enter and exit the building via the door next to my office. We expect the work to be completed towards the end of Term 1.

## New Staff: Welcome to Holymead!

Along with Ms Hughes it is a huge pleasure to welcome the following new staff to Holymead:

- Tree Frog Class Teacher – Mrs Rachel Stark
- KS1 & KS2 LSA Mrs Abigail Trowbridge
- KS1 LSA – Mrs Jo Harman

## School Term Dates 2022-2023

### **Term 1**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

### **Term 2**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### **Term 3**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

### **Term 4**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

### **Term 5**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### **Term 6**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

### **INSET Day Dates**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

**\*Schools are closed for Bank Holidays.**

## **Term 1: Dates for your diary**

### September

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Year 4 Swimming begins

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Y5&Y6 Girls' Football Tournament

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 Geography Local Walk

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – Non Uniform Xmas Box Appeal

### October

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Glastonbury Trip

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Prospective YR Parents' visits

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – EYFS KS1 Parents' Evening

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Level 2 Bikeability begins

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Year 5 Author visit (tbc)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Y5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – KS2 Photos (individual)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – EYFS KS1 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – EYFS&KS1Photos (individual)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sports for Schools Athlete Visit

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – EYFS Autumn Walk (tbc)

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Y4 Level 1 Bikeability begins

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Y5 Docks & M Shed Trip

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – Y1 Clifton Downs Trip (tbc)

### Class Assemblies Term 1

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2.45pm

Falcon

Salamander



The Bristol Post usually come early to take a photo of **new reception** children so please make sure you have filled in your slip saying whether you give permission or not for your child to appear in the paper. Pupils are not named on this occasion.

## **Friends of Holymead**

The Friends of Holymead are a group of mainly parents and carers who organise fundraising events throughout the year as well as events in school for the children. It is a great way to meet other parents and contribute to the school community. All parents and carers are welcome. Please contact the school office and we will put you in touch.

## Clubs: News and Updates for 2023/24

We work hard to provide a broad range of School Clubs for pupils across the school and we are always delighted to see pupils' enthusiasm for participating in these clubs. This year Mr Nock will be running Football Clubs for pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, as well as Multi Sports Clubs in Years 1 and 2. The planned timetable for Mr Nock's various clubs is as follows:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
<b>Wednesday</b>	Y6 Boys' Football	Y4 Boys' Football	Y5 Boys' Football	Y3 Boys' Football	Y2 Multi Sports	Y1 Multi Sports
<b>Thursday</b>	Y6 Girls' Football	Y4 Girls' Football	Y5 Girls' Football	Y3 Girls' Football	Y2 Multi Sports	Y1 Multi Sports

We are also planning to run the following Clubs in Term 1:

KS1 Clubs	KS2 Clubs
KS1 Dance Club Year 2 Singing Club Year 2 Woodwork Club Year 2 Maths Club Year 3 Board Games Club KS2 Dance Club	Years 4, 5 and 6 Running Club KS2 Tag Rugby Club KS2 Multisports Club Year 3 Board Games Club KS2 Dance Club KS2 Cricket Club

Many of our clubs are run by teachers which means we are able to run them free of charge. This year we have also been able to fund Mr Nock's after school clubs as well. Where clubs are run by outside providers (e.g. Multisports, Street Dance) a fee is required. We hope as many pupils as possible are able to participate in the clubs on offer. We will keep you informed of clubs for Terms 2 to 6 in the newsletter.



### WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 AND 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2020?

If they were, you need to be applying for a school place for September 2023. If you know of friends with nursery age children, please check they have applied online to the local authority. Even if you have older children at this school you must still apply for a reception place using the online Bristol form.

#### Starting School 2024

There will be tours of the infant site for prospective parents looking for a Reception place for **September 2023 on 4.10.22 at 9.10am and 10.00am on both dates.**

**Tours must be booked by phoning the office on 01173772381.**

Please leave your name and contact number.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## School Uniform

For the start of the new school year, we want all pupils to be in full school uniform. All uniform needs to be ordered online (with logo) or bought from any shop (without logo). We stock different sizes of sweat shirts etc. so you can try on a sample to get the right size before ordering. If you don't have internet access our office staff are happy to help you with ordering uniform. If you have any problems with uniform, e.g. both sweat shirts are in the wash on one day or you're waiting for new trousers to arrive, please explain your circumstances to a member of staff.

**Polo Shirts:** These can either be plain white or dark purple in colour.

**Shoes:** Children need to have black school shoes. Please note black jeans, leggings (unless for PE) and hooded tops must not be worn in school.  
**ALL UNIFORM, INCLUDING PE KITS MUST BE LABELLED CLEARLY.**

**Back Packs** are not allowed on the infant site as space is very limited.

## Requests for Holidays & Leave of absence

Whilst we recognise the importance of family time together and family holidays, it is very unlikely that requests for time out of school in term time will be authorised unless the circumstances are exceptional. However, it is 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 2 parents 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.

To clarify one particular issue that sometimes comes up, pupils are always expected in school on their birthday.

## Contact INFORMATION

**Up to date Data, held by the school.**

Please can we ask all parents/carers to keep the school updated with their current telephone numbers (mobile, work, home), addresses and any other relevant information (such as emergency contacts, dietary needs of children and medical needs that staff should be aware of). Date sheets have been sent home this week for checking. Please ensure they are returned when there are important amendments to be made.

It is important that the school holds this information and that it is current and up to date, as should there be an emergency in school we will be able to make contact with the relevant person as quickly as possible. We also prefer to send letters/correspondence via email (ParentMail) where possible.

## Cakes, Sweets and Biscuit treats

Please do not send cakes, sweets or biscuits to celebrate birthdays or special occasions in school. As many children have special diets for varying reasons, we ask that parents don't send ANY treats for consumption in school. We have in the past allowed biscuits but with increasing numbers of children with allergies we feel the best solution is not to send any treats into school at all. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



**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 and carers 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 us.

Parents often ask us how they can help their child at home. Here are a couple of really important things you can do at home.



### Spellings

Please make sure your child practises their year group spellings. If they struggle, then limit your child to one or two sections to go over and over. If they know them all then your child can learn the next year's list.



**Times tables** are also important to practise and learn off by heart. Keep returning to this regularly and testing your child. Either working on TTRS or writing out tables repeatedly and learning them will work. I can't emphasise enough the difference knowing your times tables makes. It is those children who have learnt them that speed through their maths work in class.

# Rules and Safety



**Bikes and scooters and any other wheeled transport** may not be ridden in the school grounds. All bikes and scooters, including electric scooters, must be dismounted on entering the school grounds. Scooters must be taken home, not left in school, as we do not have the capacity to store them. Children in Upper KS2 (Y5 and 6) may park bikes in the bike sheds if parents fill in the cycling to school agreement. Bikes are left at their owner's risk and the school accepts no liability for bikes brought onto the school premises.

**Climbing Equipment is out of bounds before and after school. It is not to be used by children before or after school hours on either site.**

**No smoking**, including vaping, on the school premises

**Dogs** are not allowed on the school premises at all (except guide/working dogs). Even if you know they are gentle pets a small child can still find them threatening.

**The white lines on the infant site are painted round the playground to keep your children safe.** Please remind your children they are not allowed to go up the grass banks or the new path or the concrete slopes before or after school. This includes pre-schoolers, as playing in these areas can be dangerous.

**Drains and drain covers** - There are many drains and drain covers around school which mean there are many holes so please be careful if you wear stilettos or narrow heeled footwear as narrow heels can go through the holes.

**Toys, games, pencil cases, mobile phones** etc. are banned in school as they can cause arguments and lead to problems. Pupils will be provided with all the stationery they need in school. The exception to this is Y6 where pupils can bring their own stationery as they prepare for secondary school. Please note the school does not accept any liability for items brought in from home including mobile phones. All items brought into school are brought in at the owner's risk. Parents and carers must sign the mobile phone agreement before letting their child bring a phone to school.

FRIENDS OF VICTORY PARK INVITE YOU TO

## SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON VICTORY PARK PLAYGROUND

Please complete our short survey and help us improve our playground.

Your responses will be used to help us plan an amazing new playground for local children!

Visit: [www.tinyurl.com/VPPlayground](http://www.tinyurl.com/VPPlayground)  
or scan the QR code to complete the survey



All you need to know about...

## 37<sup>th</sup> Bristol Girls' Brigade

Based at:

Totterdown Baptist Church, Wells Road, BS4 2AX

We are a Christian Youth Group for girls and have been part of the Bristol community for 70 years. We welcome girls aged 4-18 to join us on a Tuesday night for craft, games, discussions, faith exploration, competitions and much more!

Our primary focus is providing girls and young women a safe place to socialize, grow and be themselves as well as supporting their wellbeing and promoting self-esteem

Contact: [info@tbc.org.uk](mailto:info@tbc.org.uk)

## Do you often feel like you miss out on accessing support for your family?

Sign up to our newsletter today to find out about free local support and information from across Bristol

[www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk/join-us/](http://www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk/join-us/)



HOME  
START  
Bristol



## Do you want to build your skills? Volunteer with us

Home-Start Bristol works with families with children under 5 in Bristol & South Glos who are going through tough times. We welcome volunteers from the diverse communities we serve.

Volunteers provide support for 2-3 hours a week either at a group or visiting a family in their home.

Contact us today to find out more.  
[homestartbristol.org.uk](http://homestartbristol.org.uk)  
0117 950 1170



Greenway Centre  
Doncaster Road  
Southmead, Bristol  
BS10 5PY

Thursdays  
21/09/2023  
19/10/2023  
9.30 - 2.30

Charity No. 1116207  
Unit 11, Greenway Business Centre, Doncaster Road, BRISTOL,  
BS10 5PY



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