

Dear Parents and Carers,



It's been great seeing all the children back and looking smart in their school uniform and with their PE kit on PE days. Thank you.

With the weather getting increasingly colder, coupled with the need for ventilation of classrooms during Covid, we are keen to encourage children to

bring a coat to school and even an extra layer when it's very cold! **Please NAME all coats and sweatshirts as we have a collection of clothes in lost property which are unnamed!**

We are delighted to be able to have a return to a bit more normality with things such as limited year group assemblies and after school clubs. I am extremely proud of my staff as every teacher and many LSAs have offered to run an activity club for part of the year. After the exhausting year they have had, I am very grateful that they are being so generous with their own time, as they do not get paid to run these clubs. However, with such a surge in demand for places please be patient as your child may not be able to do a club in Term 1 or 2 but may have to wait until after Christmas. We are sorry about this but we are doing all we can.



PE kit from September 2021

This year we will continue with pupils wearing PE kit to school on the days they have PE. As this was initially a temporary measure we accepted some variation in what the children were wearing. However, from September your child will need the following PE kit:

- Dark purple tee shirt (school logo or plain)
- Plain black shorts. In cold weather- black or dark grey leggings, tracksuit or jogging bottoms. No camouflage, no patterns, no stripes, no logos
- School sweat shirt (no other tops)
- Plain black daps or trainers (no coloured trainers)

As white and purple polo shirts are already part of school uniform these can also be worn on PE days. No football shirts or other kits unless they are the school team kits.

Reminder:

When you're getting children ready for the start of the new year please note: Hair styles and accessories should be sensible and conducive to learning. No unnatural coloured hair or shocking styles. Small bows are acceptable, large sparkly ones get in the way and distract others from their learning.



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve



WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN 1st SEPTEMBER 2017 AND 31st AUGUST 2018?

If they were, you need to be applying for a school place for September 2022. 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 2022

Due to Covid-19, we will not be holding an Open Day this term. However, Mrs Head and I will do a limited number of tours of the infant site for prospective parents looking for a Reception place for **September 2022**.

Tours must be booked by phoning the office on 01173772381 and are limited to ONE parent only (pre-schoolers welcome) at the following times: 14.9.21 and 6.10.21 at 9.10am and 10.00am. Please leave your name and contact number.

If you do not wish to look round in person then please see the Head teacher's virtual tour and FAQs on the school website

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

We look forward to hearing from you.



Outdoor Equipment!

Please note the outdoor equipment on both sites is for use during school time only and children should not be playing on it before or after school. Thank you.

What's Happening

Dates for the Diary

Please wear face masks to any meetings in school.

New Reception Parent/Carer Curriculum Meeting 22nd September. We will be holding a curriculum meeting at 5.00pm in the infant hall for parents/carers to come and find out more about what your children will be learning this year. There will be NO crèche.

Y2 Reading Meeting 23rd September 5.00pm in the Hall. There will be NO crèche.

Y1 Phonics Meeting 30th September 5.00pm in hall. There will be NO crèche.

EYFS/KS1 (YR-Y2) Parents' Evenings -7th and 12th October- details to follow

NextGen individual photos- 11th and 12th October

8.10.21 Dressing up for **Aspirations Day**

13.10.21 **Harvest.** We will ask for donations later.

Roads around school sites.

Parents please think about the safety of our children when driving and parking around school.



Please don't park on the zig zags.

We have put out parking signs and we've rung the police to come and monitor dangerous driving and parking around school. If you see dangerous driving and parking, please report it to:

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

The more parents who report dangerous driving the more likely police and highways agencies are likely to listen.

The school has signed up to be part of Safer Streets Bristol which aims to make areas safer for pedestrians and we will let you know when we hear anything.



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.



Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest w/b 13th October and will be collecting food for the Bristol food bank as we did last year. If you would like to send a donation we are collecting the following items:

- * Long life fruit juice
- * Tinned soup
- * Tinned fruit
- * Long life milk
- * Custard
- * Biscuits
- * Rice
- * Tinned rice pudding
- * Sugar
- * Toiletries

Please don't send any donations until Monday 11th October as we don't have much storage space in school. They did say they have lots of baked beans and pasta so please don't send those items. Thanks



Aspirations' Day 8th October.

We will be holding an Aspirations' Day again this year to get the children thinking about what they would like to be when they grow up. Children are invited to come into school dressed to show their aspirations. This activity can give rise to lots of interesting discussions about children's hopes and dreams for the future. The Rights' Action Group have asked if children can bring a £1.00 donation on this day and all money raised will go to The Red Cross and towards helping the Afghan refugees. Thank you.



It is important that parents/carers follow Covid-19 guidelines. **DO NOT** send your child to school if **anyone in the household has Covid-19 symptoms.**

DO NOT send your child to school if **anyone in the household is waiting for the results of a Covid test.** Further advice is available online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If you are in any doubt about what to do please ring the office 01179030377 or 01173772381 for advice.



Next Gen Photographers will be in school on the following dates:

11th October- KS2 individuals and siblings on the junior site. (Not family groups.)

12th October- family, siblings and KS1 individuals on the infant site.

If you want a FAMILY group photo with ANY age children including across either sites or pre-schoolers bring them on 12th October to the infant site at 8.30am.

Siblings who are currently on the **same site** as each other will automatically be photographed together so do not need to come to the family session.

Please let teachers know the day before that you may be late for registration if you're having family photos done.

Reward Systems

Praise Book- on the infant site you may notice your child talking about the Praise Book or coming home with a Praise Book sticker. This is a system to reward good work, effort or behaviour. Children's names are read out and they receive their sticker in assembly. This record of their achievement is also put up on display in the Link the following week for everyone to see.



Star of the Week- on the junior site, as the children get older, we introduce a Star of the Week where children nominate and vote for a child they think deserves to be Star of the Week. Whilst the children have more say in who is chosen, this system is still overseen by the teacher to ensure fairness.



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 this school.



Parents' Evenings
EYFS and KS1 Parents'
Evenings are on the 7th October 3.30-6.30pm and 12th October 3.30-5.40pm.

These are short 5-10 minute appointments so please be prepared to leave promptly. If you need additional time to discuss any further issues, you are welcome to arrange to meet teachers on another evening after school. We are hoping to hold these in classrooms. Please wear a mask.

KS2 Parents' Evenings will be on 16th November between 3.30pm and 6.00pm and 25th November between 4.00pm and 6.30pm.

Parents' Evening bookings will need to be made using our online booking system via our ParentMail App. KS1 parents/carers are now able to book their appointments online. KS2 appointments will be available to book online, approximately 3 weeks in advance. These meetings are not suitable for children and there are no crèche facilities.

Please note that teacher run clubs cannot operate on parents' evenings as teachers are meeting parents.

Senco Meetings: Mrs Phillips and Mrs Davies will be available to talk to parents about their children's progress, if they have special needs. Please phone the office when you have made your online booking for Parents' Evening.



The Friends' Coffee Morning is being held on **Friday 1st October at 9am on the infant site - All parents in both KS1 and KS2 (infant and junior sites) are welcome to come along, especially our new Reception parents.** We always need new members to keep joining the Friends' Group and get involved in organising social and fund raising events. We will be looking for new people to help by taking up positions in the group to ensure it runs smoothly. Support is always on hand. Meetings are held during and after school on the infant and junior sites and pre-schoolers are welcome. Watch this space for further information/dates.



Governors' Corner.

Miss Dunk and Miss Payne shared how we teach the Maths curriculum with our Curriculum and Standards governors. Mrs Head and Mr Jones presented data to show, that whilst our outcomes at the end of last year (based on teacher assessments and mock SATs) were lower than in previous years (as to be expected with lockdowns), what was great to see was the fantastic progress pupils have made since being back in school and how well all the intervention groups and tutoring is helping pupils catch up quickly. So many of our children managed to maintain a good level of work throughout lockdown which has also enabled them to make these big gains once back in school. We are very grateful to our dedicated parents and carers who worked so hard to keep remote learning going. Thank you!



NB. CHANGES IN RED

New Term Dates 2021-2022

Term 1

2nd and 3rd Sept 2021 school closed for INSET.
Mon 6th Sept 2021 All pupils start.

Term 1 ends on 21st October. (22nd October-new INSET)

Term 2

Closed for INSET on Mon 1st November
Re-opens Tues 2nd November- 17th December.

Term 3

Closed for INSET on Tues 4th January 2022
Re-opens Wed 5th January-18th Feb 2022

Term 4

Mon 28th Feb- 8th April 2022

Term 5

Mon 25th April- 27th May 2022

Term 6

Closed for INSET Mon 6th June 2022
Re-opens Tues 7th June- **Wed 20th July 2022.**

Closed for INSET Thursday 21st July 2021.

Additional school holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Friday 22nd July 2022

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.

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. 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.

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.

Parents often ask me 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.



Year 6 camp 2022.

We are in the process of gauging interest as to how many children will be attending our year 6 camp to Croft Farm in Tewksbury, Gloucester next year. Letters have been issued to the children and we are looking for deposit payments only at this stage. Deposits need to be paid by **Friday 1st October.**

Once all deposits have been received, the trip will be costed and we will contact parents with a view to obtaining the outstanding balance in 3 set instalments.

Please speak to Miss O'Toole or Mrs Holland, if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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

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RRS winning

Logos

