

Holymead Primary School



New Reception Parents Information May 2025



Our curriculum

At Holymead Primary School we want our pupils to achieve high quality outcomes, through a broad, balanced, inspiring (creative, fun and exciting) curriculum.

Our focus is on:

- Keeping children safe
- Good quality teaching focusing on skills and knowledge
- A well planned, coherent, varied and interesting curriculum
- High quality outcomes
- Memorable and inspiring experiences

Curriculum

We have identified, using a range of data, 3 key factors that underpin and shape our School Curriculum.

- Promoting Pupils' Personal Responsibility
- Developing Pupils' Life Skills
- Increasing Pupils' Cultural Capital



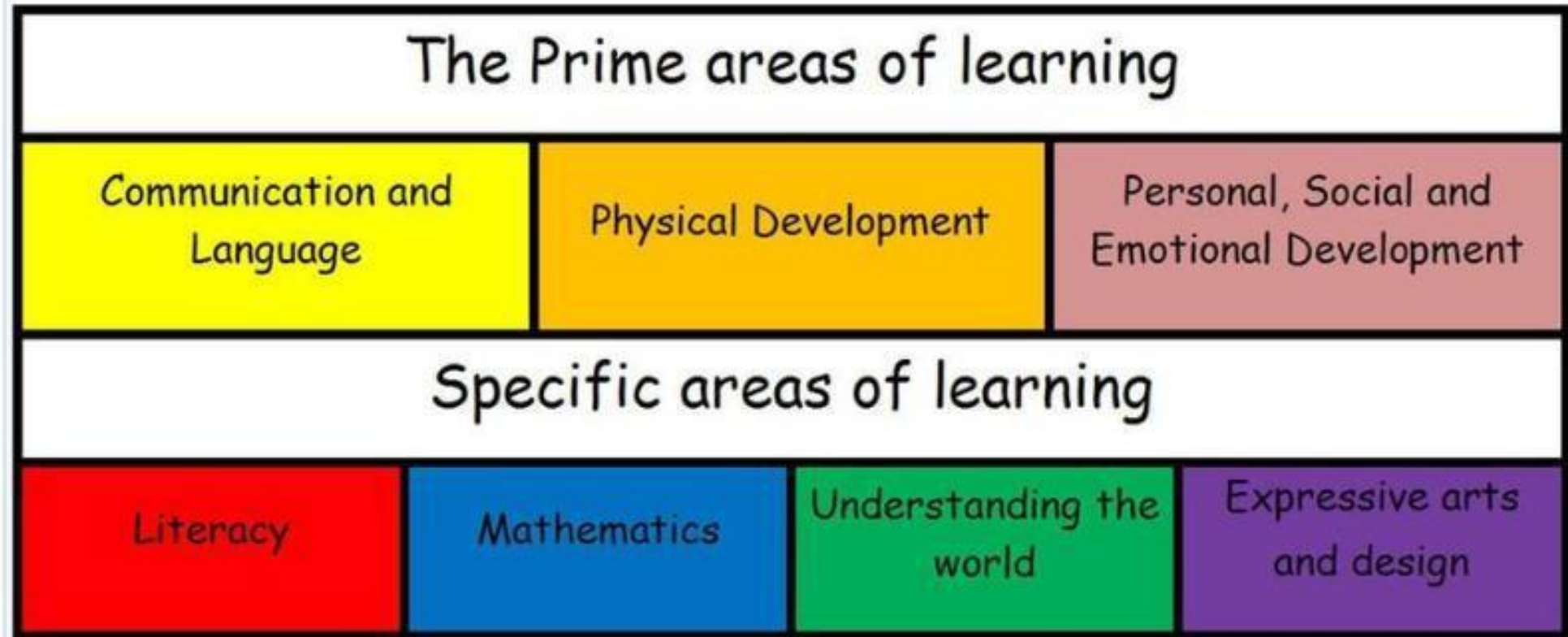
The EYFS curriculum

Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically
- Emotional Wellbeing



The EYFS curriculum





Our outdoor areas

- An extra classroom
- We go out in all weathers so please provide appropriate clothing

Trips and visits

- Local visits
- Exciting trips
- Dress up days
- Nativity performances



The school day

- The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of **play** in your child's development.
- It is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others. Through play, our Early Years' Team will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills.
- A greater focus on teaching specific skills will occur as your child progresses through their Reception year, which will help them to prepare for Year One.
- When your child is full time we will build up to teaching daily phonics and maths sessions and two other carpets times a day.
- We will plan our curriculum based around the children's interests.

We will hold a meeting in September/October to explain what your child will be learning in school, assessment and an introduction to phonics.



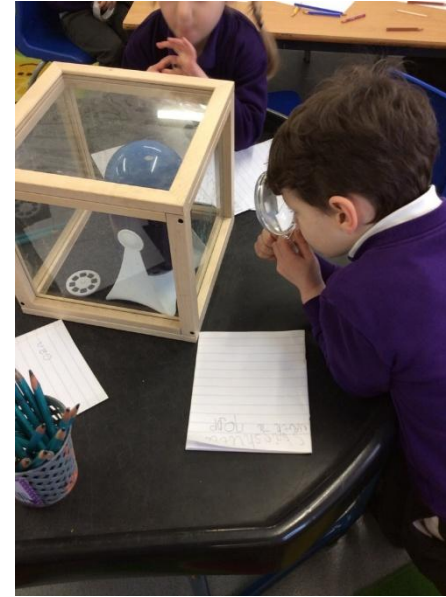
Settling in

- You will have received information for your class outlining the settling in procedure for this year. To begin with, in September, the children settle in small groups. Children will start full time from Thursday 18th September.
- Nursery visits have already taken place.
- Please see our website regarding information about wraparound care.



Reception daily routine

- 8:35 – 8:40 Children arrive at school
- 8:40 – 9:00 Funky fingers/register
- 9:00 – 9:25 Phonics
- 9:25 – 9:45 Snack
- 9:45 – 10:00 Playtime
- 10:00 – 10:15 Carpet time
- 10:15 – 11:20 Play learning inside and outside
- 11:20 – 11:50 Carpet time and getting ready for lunch
- 11:50 – 12:55 Lunch
- 12:55 – 1:15 Register and carpet time
- 1:15 – 2:45 Play learning inside and outside
- 2:45 – 3:10 Story/singing and getting ready for home



Lunchtime

- Universal free school meal for children up to 7. The school lunches are freshly cooked on the premises.
- School Menu is at the office and online on our website.
- You can choose school dinner or bring in a packed lunch.



Mid morning snack

- Free fruit and vegetables provided daily.
- Water bottles available all day.
- Milk is free until children turn 5 and then you can order and pay for milk if you wish. Please ask at the school office.



Getting ready for school

You can help your child prepare for school by:

- Playing games that encourage taking turns and sharing.
- Teaching them to recognise their name.
- Showing them how to hold a pencil with a comfortable grip and get them to colour in pictures to practise pencil control.
- Singing nursery rhymes and listening to stories.

Help your child to become independent by:

- Teaching them to dress themselves- especially coats, shoes and socks!
- Making sure they are in a habit of going to the toilet, wiping themselves, flushing the handle and washing their hands. (Refer to ERIC charity for support with potty training)
- Teaching them to use a knife and fork to eat.



Unicef Rights Respecting School



- We are a 'Gold Rights Respecting School', continuing the work of UNICEF and the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' (CRC).
- Holymead Primary School has a strong belief that our children should be aware of their rights as children and have a right to be heard. As well as learning about our rights, we learn that EVERYONE else has rights too.
- Representing each class we have our 'Rights Action Group' (RAG) who are working hard to ensure that children's rights are met at our school but also on a national and international level.

Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.





School uniform

- White/dark purple polo shirts
- Grey/black school trousers/shorts/skirt/dress
- Dark purple fleece/ jumpers/ cardigans
- White and purple summer dresses
- Black school shoes or all black trainers
- Fastenings they can do for themselves e.g. Velcro on shoes
- Everything labelled/named please!

What do you need to bring to school?

- Book bag –your child’s reading diary and reading books will be in here once they have settled in.
- Named water bottle.
- Weather appropriate clothing (e.g. raincoats, sunhats, wellies).





PE kit

- White/purple t-shirt
- Black shorts/ jogging bottoms/ leggings
- Black daps/trainers
- Earrings need covering with tape. Please no dangly ear rings, just studs or small hoops



Communication

- Parent mail
- School newsletter
- School website
- Tapestry
- Come and have a chat

Tapestry

- Online learning diary with photographs, comment and details about what your child has been doing at school.
- Focus is on quality interactions, rather than recording everything.
- You can log on to Tapestry via the website or on the app and look at your child's observations once you have received your log in details.
- You can write your own observations of your child to show us what they can do or like to do at home and we'd love you to comment/contribute.





The Friends of Holymead Primary School would like to welcome all new parents and carers to the school community.

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know a bit more about 'The Friends of Holymead Primary School' and how you can get involved. We really hope to meet you in September.

What's it all about?

Friends of Holymead School are a friendly group of parents and carers who work together with the school, to support our children's education and learning experiences. We provide the school with extra funding, by raising money in a fun and sociable way.

When you give support, you're not just baking a cake, donating gifts or giving up your time to volunteer for events. You're buying equipment for the playground, new learning activities, sending children on outings, enabling cultural and educational opportunities, making new friends and helping to make your child's school more brilliant.

We can't do it without you!

Friends of Holymead is made up of a committee plus a much wider team of helpers, volunteers, event planners, shoppers, gift wrappers, graphic designers and cake bakers. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to join the committee (although we would love you to!).

We meet every month or so. These meetings are for everyone, and are a great way to keep up to date with what is going on. We also keep in touch with a wider group of volunteers via a whatsapp.

24/25 Committee: Jo Atherton, Becy Hastie (Co-Chairs), Karis Ford-Roberts, (Treasurers), Mirela Ferencz, Amy Abrahams (Co-Secretaries) (25/26 committee will be voted in at the AGM)

In 23/24 we raised

over **£11,000** and funded...

- ★ Outlast - outdoor construction Blocks
- ★ Author visit
- ★ Living chicks project
- ★ Coaches for Brean
- ★ Yr 6 Leavers Disco
- ★ SATS breakfast
- ★ Infant Disco entertainer/ refreshments
- ★ Santa gits for Infants
- ★ Reading Shed Library
- ★ Books for Reading Shed
- ★ Sensory Circuits

(24/25 figures will be published in September 2025)

You will find it personally rewarding to engage with the Friends group because it is a great way to make new friends within the school community. It is also important that the Friends have support from you to enable the organisation of fun activities for parents and children as well as raising money for the school.

Get in touch!

Being a parent or carer of a Holymead child means you are automatically invited to join the Friends. Please email us to say hi, and express your interest in volunteering. holymeadfriends@gmail.com

We also have our Annual General Meeting at the start of the academic year, and everyone is welcome!



We can't wait to meet you all in September!



If you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to get in touch.