



NOTICES FOR ALL PARENTS Week Ending 10th November 2023



Odd Socks Day – Monday 13th November

As part of our 'Friendship' Week we will be having an 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 13th November. This is to celebrate, and express, our individuality and what makes us all unique! Please could your child wear odd socks or funky tights to school that day with their usual school uniform.

Nursery Admissions 2024-25

Applications are now open for next year's nursery intake at Holmesdale School. Please [click here](#) for details and to apply. The closing date is 10th January 2024.

Friday 17th November – Mufti Day

The PSA are collecting bottles and chocolate for the Christmas Fair and we are having a non-uniform day (mufti) to support this on Friday 17th November. Please make a donation if you can and bring your child to school in their own clothes. If your child has PE, please send them to school in sports clothes and trainers or ask them to bring in their PE kit so they can get changed at school.

We will also be supporting Children in Need on this day and will have collections for your loose change if you wish to donate.

Eco Activities at Holmesdale

To raise our children's awareness of the environment and empower them to think about how they can make positive changes, we are introducing some new green initiatives:

Eco-Hero Certificate – design competition

We are aware that many children are interested in doing their bit to help the environment outside school, whether it is visiting a library, donating old toys to a charity or doing litter picking in their neighbourhood and we would like to celebrate their efforts by creating a special Eco-Hero Certificate they will receive in school.

To make the certificates unique, we would like to run an eco-logo drawing competition. We will choose three designs which will be featured on the new Eco-Hero Certificate. If your child would like to take part in the competition, please hand in your child's design to your class teacher by **Friday 24th November**.

Litter Picker Library

If you and your child would like to go on a litter-picking walk, we have a few litter pickers in the office which are available to borrow.

Eco Club

We are keen to start an Eco club again for children who are interested in learning about the

environment and who would like to help make Holmesdale a greener school. The club will be held on Mondays after school until 4pm and will start on Monday 27th November. There are 15 spaces available, so if your child is interested and is in Years 1 or 2, please [click here](#). Places will be allocated in order of receipt of your expression of interest and the form may be closed once the allocation has been reached. Parents will be contacted by Wednesday 22nd November to confirm whether their child has a place.

Plastic bottle top recycling

As part of our commitment to teach the children about recycling, we are collecting bottle tops in school through the SchoolCycled scheme. <https://mygrouppltd.com/schoolcycled/>

Please encourage your child to collect as many plastic bottle top lids as they can and bring them into school to be recycled and turned into furniture for the school!

Christmas Lunch – Thursday 7th December

Our festive [Christmas lunch](#) will be held on Thursday 7th December for those who normally have school meals. Children who bring a packed lunch have the option to have the Christmas lunch – please complete [this form](#) if you wish your child to have this. **Please respond by Friday 17th November 2023.**

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 7th December

We invite children to wear a Christmas or festive top to school in support of Save the Children. We will provide a link for donations in support of this nearer the time.

Lunchtime resources

If you have any spare or unwanted items below, we would be grateful to receive them:

- Play rugs or mats
- Musical instruments eg tambourine, bells etc

‘Get Into Teaching’ Event

If you are considering a career in teaching and would like to find out more information, an event is being held at Reigate School on 18th November. Please [click here](#) for details.

Surrey Wellbeing Service

The Parent Wellbeing Service offers support to parents/carers whose children are experiencing poor mental health and wellbeing such as anxiety, depression, stress, self-harm and eating disorders. Please [click here](#) for details.

Santa Landing

On 2nd December Reigate and Redhill Round Table have arranged for Santa to arrive by helicopter to meet children in the Grotto of Reigate Priory Park. There is a Christmas market and entertainment from 9:30am. [Click here](#) for details.

East Surrey Family Grapevine

The winter edition of the [Family Grapevine magazine](#) is now available.

NOTICES FOR NURSERY PARENTS

Please name all of your child's belongings that they bring to Nursery so that we can return them if found. This includes hats and gloves as well as coats and water bottles etc. Thank you.

NOTICES FOR RECEPTION PARENTS

Woodland Explorers in Reception

Rabbits will be visiting the woodland on Wednesday 15th November 2023.

Ducks and Foxes will be visiting the woodland on 16th November 2023.

Please send **named Wellington boots in a bag and a suitable warm, waterproof coat on the day**. Named hats and gloves will be needed if appropriate. Thank you for your support in providing your child with the appropriate clothing and footwear on the relevant day.

Reception Nativity

We are delighted that Reception children will be taking part in a Nativity performance on Thursday 7th December and Friday 8th December. This year's performance will take place in our school hall and children will tell the story of the Nativity primarily through song.

Your child is invited to choose to dress up as any character from the Christmas story or wear festive attire. Please send in your child's choice of costume (in a clearly labelled bag) by **Monday 27th November 2023**.

For your convenience, please find a list of The Nativity characters and suggested costumes below. Feel free to adapt the suggestions as necessary. We do not expect you to buy outfits and are very happy with homemade ones.

Your child can choose to dress up as one of the following:

- **Angel:** *White ankle-length, long-sleeved dress with silver or gold tinsel (you can decide where to attach this), small wings and a silver or gold halo.*
- **Innkeeper:** *Dressing gown with plain, dark-coloured trousers and a tea towel with something to keep it on their head e.g. tie, rope or elasticated hairband.*
- **Star:** *T-shirt with leggings. (You could cut out star shapes and stick onto your t-shirt)*
- **King:** *Crown, cloak or cape, with similar coloured trousers and T-shirt.*
- **Shepherd:** *Dressing gown with plain, trousers and a tea towel with something to keep it on their head, e.g. tie, rope or elasticated hairband. Your child could bring in a crook or a cuddly lamb. Please do not send in a precious toy as it could go astray.*
- **Mary:** *Blue, ankle-length, long-sleeved dress with a matching piece of cloth for their head and a tie, rope or elasticated hairband, to hold it on.*
- **Joseph:** *Dressing gown with plain, dark-coloured trousers with a tea towel and something to keep it on their head e.g. tie, rope or elasticated hairband.*
- **Festive attire:** *Christmas jumper/festive party clothes.*

Please let your class teacher know if you are unable to source or provide a costume for your child.

Talking Point

We recognise the importance of parent and child conversation and the part it plays in developing a child's vocabulary, speaking and listening skills. Please look out for the **'Talking Point'** in the learning letter. Each week we will add a question which you can pose to your child to begin a

conversation. Happy talking!

Tinkering

As part of our provision, we offer children the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills by taking apart 'old' appliances e.g., keyboards, hair dryers, remotes, laptops, kettles, CD player (things with screws) using screw drivers/spanners.

If you have any broken/unused appliances, please pass them to a Reception Class teacher or the office.

NOTICES FOR YEAR ONE PARENTS

Kitchen and Toilet Rolls

Please send in empty kitchen and toilet rolls – thank you!

NOTICES FOR YEAR TWO PARENTS

Outdoor Learning – Wellies

Please could Woodpeckers class bring their wellies again next Thursday 16th November so we are able to go into the woodland. Unfortunately, our woodland visit this week was cancelled due to heavy rain.

Thank you.