

## NOTICES FOR ALL PARENTS Week ending 9th January 2026

### Happy New Year and Welcome back!

#### National Year of Reading 2026

We are thrilled to be celebrating the **National Year of Reading 2026**. The message is simple: reading **is fun for everyone!** It can be part of the things you already love, like games, music, family time, animals, or even cooking.

Throughout the year, libraries, schools, families, and grown-ups at work will be joining in with special reading events, fun activities, and exciting challenges, so everyone can enjoy stories, information, and books together.



To kick off our celebrations this year, we have chosen **Sue Hendra** as our **Author of the Month**. The children love reading about **Supertato** and his many hilarious adventures. There is a real buzz around the school as children take part in a treasure hunt - searching for, finding, and describing Sue Hendra's wonderful characters and illustrations.

The excitement and love of reading is shining through, and we can't wait to share many more reading adventures together this year!

#### Children's Mental Health Week – 9th-13th February

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week is *This is My Place*. That means feeling like you're part of something, such as your family, your school, your group of friends or a team. These happy moments help us feel connected, valued, and accepted. When we feel like we belong, we feel happy, safe, and ready to learn and play. It helps us grow strong in our minds and bodies, and it makes it easier to make friends, do well in school, and feel good about ourselves.

During Children's Mental Health Week, we'll be talking about how we can help everyone feel like they belong. We'll learn how to be kind, include others, and make sure no one feels left out.

Because everyone deserves to feel like they have a place where they are accepted, cared for, and loved.

We will also focus on our well-being and what makes us feel happy, if you have a talent or skill that you would like to share with the children at school, please email Mrs Samuel via the office. Perhaps you would like to visit a class or year group and run a short session on dancing, singing, yoga, drawing, mindfulness etc. We would love to welcome you into our school and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

### **Change to lunch menu for Thursday 15th January 2026**

Our Caterers, Twelve15 are offering a change to the advertised menu on 15th January 2026. Please [click here](#) for the menu options that day. All children having the standard menu will have this menu on that day. If your child has a special diet, this will be catered for. **If your child currently has packed lunches**, please complete [this form](#) to let us know if you would like them to try the school lunch on that day. Please complete the form by **Monday 12th January 2026** so that the food can be ordered in time. Thank you.

### **KOOSA Kids After School Club and February Half Term**

After School Club at Holmesdale Community Infant School is open from school finish until 6pm. During the January to February half term, children can look forward to taking part in games and activities based around our **Epic Explorers** theme. Find out more about special dates in the diaries and things to look forward to on our [website](#).

### **Lip Balms/Emollients**

It is that time of year and we know some children need to use balms or emollients. To ensure the safety of the children with severe allergies, we kindly ask that children do not bring lip balms or emollients directly into school. If your child needs these products temporarily, they must be brought to the office, along with a completed medical form that includes a list of ingredients. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring a safe environment for everyone.

### **Greensand Job Opportunities**

Please [click here](#) for current opportunities within Greensand MAT.

### **Follow us on Facebook/Instagram**

Stay updated on all the latest news, events, activities, and celebrations in our school. Follow us on Facebook [here](#) or on Instagram [here](#). Please invite family and friends to follow us as well.

## **NOTICES FOR NURSERY PARENTS**

### **Woodland Explorers**

We will be visiting Woodland on Monday 12th and Friday 16th January. Please send **named Wellington boots (or alternative footwear) in a bag and a warm, waterproof coat and, if needed, a hat and gloves, on the day.**

### **We are collecting:**

Junk modelling (Junk modelling is very popular with our children and our stocks are very low!)

- Foil
- Unwanted Christmas decorations.

## NOTICES FOR RECEPTION PARENTS

### Space Food

Next week, the children will be exploring what it must be like to live in space. They will have the opportunity to taste 'astronaut fruit' and compare it to the fruit we eat on Earth. Children will be eating fresh and freeze-dried peaches and strawberries. Please let your child's teacher know if your child suffers from allergies and you do not wish them to sample the fruit.

\*\* Freeze-Dried, Ready-to-Eat

### Strawberries and Peaches:

Ingredients: Strawberries and Peaches - produced in a facility that also processes peanuts, milk, soy, wheat, gluten, egg and tree nut ingredients. All our Astronaut Foods have the Certified Space Technology insignia on the packaging to indicate that they are the same range as used in space by NASA Astronauts.

### Woodland Explorers in Reception

- Rabbits will be visiting the woodland on Wednesday 14th January 2026.
- Ducks and Foxes will be visiting the woodland on Thursday 15th January 2026.

Please send **named Wellington boots (or alternative footwear) in a bag and a warm, waterproof coat and, if needed, a hat and gloves, on the day.**

### Junk Modelling

Next week we hope to make space rockets. Please collect any clean, empty small boxes (not cereal boxes), empty kitchen roll cylinders, yoghurt pots, bottle lids and send them into school.

**We have a number of children who have a severe allergy to eggs, milk and gluten so we ask that NO EGG BOXES or CEREAL BOXES, INCLUDING CEREAL BARS be sent to school for junk modelling. Please ensure that all yoghurt pots are thoroughly washed out. Please also avoid sending in any packaging that contained nuts, pine nuts, lentils, chickpeas or sesame seeds. Thank you**

## NOTICES FOR YEAR ONE PARENTS

### History Learning: The Victorians

This half term, we will be learning about life in the Victorian period; we will be examining artefacts and pictures, reading and researching and taking part in role play activities.

On **Tuesday 13th January**, we will be taking part in a story-telling workshop 'The Magic Lantern' in which we will be learning about what life might have been like in the Victorian era.

On **Tuesday 3rd February**, we will be stepping back in time for the morning. We will be pretending that we are Victorians at school and will be taking part in activities such as exercise drills, marching, writing dictations, observational drawing, and following Victorian school rules. We will prepare the children for this by learning, in advance, about what a Victorian school day would have entailed and by reassuring them that their teachers are only acting and will be their usual selves in the afternoon. During the afternoon we will reflect on how it felt to be a Victorian child and record our thoughts and observations. The teachers will be wearing Victorian costumes, and it would be fantastic if the children would like to dress up too, however, they do not have to if they would prefer not to. Your child may like to wear some of the following: a dress (any colour), a skirt,

a blouse / shirt / top, pinafore, hat, cap, short trousers, or trousers tucked into socks, a waistcoat. Please do not feel the need to buy anything special for this; a few simple tweaks to your child's normal clothes will do the job!



### **Dip and Do Home Learning**

We hope you enjoyed some of the activities suggested for home learning. Next week the children will have the opportunity to share what they have learnt / experienced with their classmates. If your child would like to share something they have made / written / drawn, or a photo, please send these in next week. Thank you.

### **Reading Volunteers**

If you have an up-to-date DBS check and have an hour to spare, we would love you to come into school to hear readers. Please let your child's class teacher know if this is something you would like to help with. Thank you.

### **Hever Castle Visits**

In the spring term we will be visiting Hever Castle as part of our history learning. Hedgehogs will be visiting the castle on Tuesday 17th March and Owls and Otters will be visiting the castle on Wednesday 18th March. The children will enjoy a tour of the castle and take part in a workshop. We will be asking for volunteers to accompany us. All volunteers must have a valid DBS for our school. If you think you would like to offer to accompany us on the trips **and** have a valid DBS check, please ensure that you keep it updated by arranging with your child's class teacher to come into school to hear readers. More details about the trip, and how to offer your help, will follow in a letter home shortly. Thank you.

### **School Clubs**

After-school clubs will resume next week. We look forward to welcoming the children back to their clubs.

## **NOTICES FOR YEAR TWO PARENTS**

### **School Clubs**

After-school clubs will resume next week. We look forward to welcoming the children back to their clubs.

For any previous notices please refer to the [Holmesdale School website](#)