

NOTICES FOR ALL PARENTS Week Ending 4th October 2024

Feeling Good Friday

On Friday 11th October we will be celebrating 'Feeling Good Friday' and focusing on developing positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. This year's theme is 'Embracing Emotions', supporting the children in developing their emotional literacy skills. As part of our PSHE curriculum, we help the children to learn how to recognise and understand their emotions and to be resilient when confronted with a challenge or difficult time. To promote discussion about emotions in class, the children may wear clothing to represent an emotion e.g., blue for sadness, green for calm or a sparkly T-shirt for excitement. We will then see if the class can guess which emotion each child is representing.

Harvest Collection

On Wednesday 16th October, we will be celebrating Harvest at school. This year we will be supporting Loveworks foodbank. If you would like to donate to this, please hand items in to the class teacher. They are in need of:

- Tinned meat (corned beef, spam, ham)
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned custard
- Tinned meat casseroles

Individual School Photographs

You will find the proof in your child's school bag this week. You can use an earlybird online discount of 10% if you order by 11th October. All orders are to be placed directly with the company.

Author of the month – Nathan Bryon

This month we turn our attention to a wonderful series of books about an 8-year-old girl called Rocket, created by Nathan Bryon and beautifully illustrated by Dapo Adeola. Space-loving bookworm Rocket is on a mission to save local libraries, turtles, our beaches and our planet!

As we launch our School Council for the new academic year, and with the return of our Eco Club just around the corner, the themes throughout this collection complement and champion the importance of Pupil Voice and caring for the world around us.

Children may recognise author Nathan from his acting roles in Swashbuckle, Gigglebizz, Rastamouse and Apple Tree House. From his first title alone, he became a *Sunday Times* bestselling author, overall winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2020, as well as the first ever ambassador for Puffin's World of Stories.

He is passionate about diversity in children's books - so when we read, wherever we are from, we all see ourselves.

Could you be a Rocket and 'Clean Up' our environment?



Can you upcycle a plastic bottle into a marvellous sea creature?



We will share your recycled creations in our school library!

Curriculum Evening -Save the Date

Join us for our Curriculum Evening on **Thursday, 7th November**. This event will provide an opportunity for you to explore what your child will be learning in each subject and how their knowledge and skills will progress from Nursery to Year 2.

The evening will have a 'Pop-Up' style, with each subject showcased in either the hall or classrooms, allowing parents and carers to visit different areas throughout the event. Be sure to attend the maths and reading/phonics sessions for tips on supporting your child's learning at home. The PSA will be serving refreshments. Don't miss out!

Greensand Job Opportunities

We are currently looking for an Early Morning Club playworker four/five days a week. Holmesdale staff working at our Early Morning Club are entitled for their children to attend Early Morning Club free of charge.

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

NOTICES FOR NURSERY PARENTS

Nursery Rhyme Day

On Wednesday, 23rd October, we will be celebrating the culmination of our Nursery Rhyme focus with a special 'Nursery Rhyme Day'. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from a nursery rhyme. Please do not

feel the need to purchase an outfit; we strongly encourage homemade costumes and have provided some ideas below for inspiration. During the nursery session, children will enjoy singing, playing games, icing, and decorating a biscuit to resemble a nursery rhyme character.



Recycled materials

Please could you collect and bring in any of the following recycled materials - toilet rolls, tubes, small yoghurt pots, small boxes such as toothpaste boxes, tin cake cases, bottle tops, corks, any material or items that would be useful for making models.

Please remember not to include anything that has contained nuts or sesame as we have children in school who are severely allergic to these. Thank you.

NOTICES FOR RECEPTION PARENTS

Reading Books

Your child will be bringing home their first reading book this week. These books are wordless books. Wordless books are designed to develop your child's vocabulary, storytelling skills and develop the idea that, in many books, the pictures and story are connected.

Please see the below article for more ideas/tips for enjoying wordless books

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/sharing-wordless-picture-books> You will also receive a reading diary, where the class team has written a brief comment about reading with your child, celebrating their achievements and suggesting next steps.

Please return readers, reading diaries and library books on Mondays.

Woodland Explorers in Reception

The woodland at Holmesdale School is part of our educational environment and we utilise this area, based upon the Forest School philosophy. Forest School is a holistic approach to learning which fosters the children's natural sense of enquiry as they explore in the outdoor environment. Although we are not a designated 'Forest School', we can teach the children some basic skills and knowledge they will need to promote their learning in all areas of the curriculum.

The skills and knowledge the children will gain are:

- The woodland rules of how to keep themselves and others safe during their outdoor experience.
- To dress independently and appropriately for different weather conditions.
- To develop their listening and attention skills through collaborative games and activities.
- To use tools and equipment appropriately and safely.
- To negotiate with their peers by listening to each other's ideas and working cooperatively and effectively together.
- To develop their own ideas and creativity using natural resources.
- To have the confidence and perseverance to learn through trial and error without a sense of

failure.

- To develop independence and a sense of self-esteem in what they can do.
- To make choices while developing the skills and learning that have been demonstrated to them.
- To respect the woodland and come to understand how they can play a role in preservation and maintenance of their school woodland and the wider environment.

All Reception children will have the opportunity to go to the woodland, usually for an hour once a fortnight. We will provide waterproof trousers but would ask you to provide **named Wellington boots, or alternative footwear, in a bag and a suitable warm, waterproof coat on their scheduled day.** Named hats and gloves will be needed in cold weather. Children can get muddy and a little wet as we do go out in the rain and during the winter.

We plan to start our 'Woodland Explorers' sessions soon:

Wednesday 16th 2024 October for Rabbits

Thursday 17th October for Ducks and Foxes

Thank you for your support in providing your child with the appropriate clothing and footwear on the relevant day. Please come and speak to us if you have any questions.

NOTICES FOR YEAR ONE PARENTS

Volunteers

If you have a current DBS and would like to help with making Christmas cards in class during the week beginning 14th October, please let your child's class teacher know when you are available. We will be making these to support the PSA with raising money for the school. Thank you.

Reading Books

This week we have been reading Little Wandle Group Reading Books. It is very helpful if both reading books are returned on Wednesdays so that we are able to sort them ready for the next classes to use. Thank you for your support with this, it is much appreciated.

Cardboard Boxes and Tinfoil

Next week we will be making robots, if you have any cardboard boxes or spare tin foil please send them in. Thank you

Socks!

Thank you very much for the socks, the children loved making their very own soft toys and have been busy writing about them and playing with them in our role play area.

Uniform

Please check that all uniform, especially jumpers and cardigans, are clearly named. Thank you.

NOTICES FOR YEAR TWO PARENTS

Weaving – straws and wool

Thank you to everyone who has very kindly donated straws and wool to Year 2. We have lots of lovely colours to start weaving our bookmarks!

Reading

A polite reminder to remember to bring back both of your child's reading books on a Wednesday morning so these can be checked and sorted for the children to bring home their new books on a Thursday.

Thank you for your support.

Uniform

Please check that all uniform, especially jumpers and cardigans, are clearly named.

Thank you.