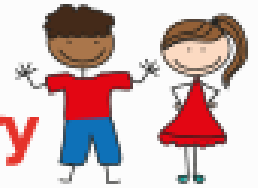




DECEMBER 2024



# Holmesdale Community Infant School and Nursery



HOLMESDALE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

# december



## TAKE A PEEK

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January –  
School and Nursery Open

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January -  
Applications close for Nursery  
admissions 2024/2025  
Click [here](#) to apply

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January -  
Applications deadline for Reception  
/Junior admissions  
Click [here](#) to apply





Dear Families,

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful efforts of our children. They have embraced their learning with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a sense of fun, making great progress and developing important new skills. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff team. Their dedication, care, and creativity have been instrumental in creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for the children to thrive. We are so fortunate to have such a passionate and hardworking team.



We are grateful for the festive cheer the children have brought to our school and local community this season. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Christmas activities—it has been a lovely way to come together and celebrate this special time of year.

On behalf of the staff team and governors, I wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back on the 6th of January 2025.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

With warm wishes,  
S. Mullarkey



# Christmas Extravaganza

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY &  
CHRISTMAS LUNCH



# Christmas Extravaganza

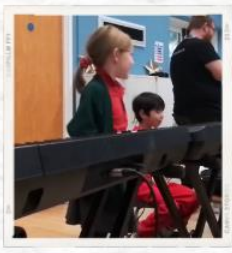
## NATIVITIES



# Christmas Extravaganza



I ROCK &  
PERFORMING FOR ASHFIELDS



# Year 2 Choir

Thank you to all the children and their parents for a fabulous Autumn term full of singing. We have loved watching their confidence grow and can't wait to see their talents shine again next term.





# Meet

# LOTTIE

We're thrilled to introduce Lottie, our new Pets as Therapy (PAT) dog, and her wonderful caregiver, Cheryl. After Bernard's well-earned retirement, Lottie is ready to spread happiness and companionship throughout our Holmesdale community. We're so excited for her first visit and all the joy she's sure to bring.



# INTERNET SAFETY

Here at Holmesdale we are very aware that our children are surrounded by technology in their everyday lives and as such, as educators and parents, we have a big responsibility to play in ensuring that our children become safe, informed and responsible users of technology.

At the recent curriculum evening, I shared with parents some of the e-safety topics that we teach children about in school. This prompted lots of discussion and questions about what parents can do to promote internet safety at home. In response to this I will be using a short section of the school newsletter each month to share with you some 'top tips' or information about internet safety both at home and at school.

A common topic of discussion raised was the use of tablets.

- At what age is it safe for my child to have a tablet?
- Is it okay for my child to have their own tablet?
- What sort of games/apps should I allow them access to on a tablet?  
Education vs entertainment?
- What parental controls are available to restrict content on a tablet?

The following information is provided by The UK Safer Internet Centre and can be found at the following web address;

<https://saferinternet.org.uk>

## How can I introduce a tablet in a safe way?

Treat the tablet as a shared family device and spend time using it to play games, explore, and learn together. In this way, you can understand how to use the tablet and how your child likes to use it.

Explore the parental controls on offer and have a conversation with your child to set up some boundaries around their tablet use, for example, when and for how long they can use it. Reassure them you want to help them to enjoy using it safely, and that they can talk to you if anything upsets or worries them while using it.

A shared family device can be a great way to demonstrate responsible and positive use of technology, both for preparing younger children for when they use technology more independently, or for older children who may already have other devices of their own.



**There is no recommended age for children to have access to a tablet, this is down to parent judgement.**

## What are the risks to having a tablet?

Like any piece of technology, tablets have both benefits and risks. Many of the risks depend on how a tablet is being used. There are some key concerns people have about children using tablets in particular:

- Cyberbullying and harassment from friends and strangers
- Unwanted or inappropriate contact from friends and strangers
- Over-sharing personal information, such as full name, location or images
- Accessing inappropriate content
- Spending too much money
- Excessive screen time
- Behaving inappropriately or unkindly online

# INTERNET SAFETY

## What can I do to manage the risks?

Parental controls can help limit potential risks, such as installing passwords, blocking certain websites or apps, and setting time limits and spending limits. For further information on how to set up controls on a tablet, visit [Internet Matters' Parental Control Guides](#)

Talk with your child about their understanding of the risks when using a tablet. Ask them what they would do if something happened, for example, if they were being asked to spend money in a game. Decide together on what they should do if that happened, for example, pause the game and ask an adult. A family agreement can help you have these conversations. Explore safety tools such as blocking and privacy settings together and help your child set up these up where necessary.

Talk to your child about what they want to use the tablet for and do some research into some age-appropriate apps and games to download. Visit [Common Sense Media](#) for age-based app and game ideas.

Make sure your child knows to speak to a trusted adult immediately if anyone they only know online (a stranger) asks to meet up, for their personal information, or for photos or videos of them.

**Excerpts taken from <https://saferinternet.org.uk>**



## Further Information can be found at the following

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/tablets>

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>



WELCOME TO EYFS  
DECEMBER 2024

# NURSERY AND RECEPTION

What a fun month we have had in Nursery! We have been busy...



playing,  
exploring and  
talking to our  
friends!

exploring  
numbers  
and  
shapes!

being  
creative!



We wrote letters to Santa, asking him for a present for our Nursery and one for the Stripey Stork. We voted to see which toy to ask for and then we walked to the postbox to post our letters.

We received a  
reply from  
SANTA!



WELCOME TO EYFS  
DECEMBER 2024

# NURSERY AND RECEPTION



In Reception we have been enjoying getting ready for Christmas. We have learnt about the Christmas story, including retelling it through our Christmas show. We have also enjoyed doing lots of Christmas crafts.



# Year 1 News

Welcome to Year 1



We enjoyed making fruit salads. First, we designed the salad, thinking about which fruits we wanted to use. Then, we carefully cut, mixed and arranged the fruit. The best part was eating it!



# Year 1 News

Welcome to Year 1



We learnt about the artist Andy Goldsworthy and had fun making art using natural materials. We thought about what shapes, patterns and colours we could use for our sculptures.

We learnt about the Nativity Story and were busy practising lots of lovely songs and poems for our Christmas performance.



WELCOME TO

# YEAR 2 NEWS

HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

We have been learning about shapes, patterns and symmetry. We created some lovely natural symmetrical patterns in outdoor learning.



In science, we measured ourselves to learn about lifecycles and growth.



WELCOME TO  
**YEAR 2 NEWS**  
HOLMESDALE INFANT SCHOOL

We visited a local church to learn about the Christmas story and the nativity. We loved listening to the amazing story tellers and taking part, dressing up as kings and shepherds.



We have sewn and decorated our own winter bags. Look at our lovely creations.





# SPORTS ROUND

WELCOME

THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATES >

## christmas activities

Get involved with some active challenges this Christmas.

Can you get your family involved in some of these exciting and rewarding games? See how many you can do.



### DAY 1: DECORATE THE HOUSE

This might sound obvious but decorating the house with the kids is a great opportunity to spend time with them while keeping them active! Keep them moving around the house helping with the Christmas decorations.

Children can also have fun making some crafts and unique decorations.

### DAY 2: INDOOR ACTIVITIES: CHRISTMAS YOGA

If we want to do some exercise but the weather is not great, you can try to move it indoors! How about some Christmas indoors Yoga or Pilates?

Do you need some ideas? Don't worry, here is an example!

### DAY 3: HOW ABOUT A FAMILY CHRISTMAS DANCE?

Each family has its own traditions, but this is certainly an original one!

Try making a Christmas choreography with your family like this one here. You can also dress up for the occasion to make it even more fun.

### DAY 4: A CHRISTMAS HUNT

Indoors or outdoors... a hunt is a great way to keep the kids mentally and physically active. Hide the hunts around the house, the garden, or a small path in the woods. It's up to you!

You can use this idea to make your children find their presents on Christmas Day.

Here is an idea for a Christmas hunt! However, you can choose to make your own one with personalized clues and ideas.

### DAY 5: CRAFT YOUR OWN ACTIVITIES

Weather during December can be a little bit tricky, especially if it's raining. So, it's always a good idea to have a few activities to do indoors with the children in case the bad weather lasts for a few days.

Fun activities that get kids moving are a great alternative to videogames or movies.

Have a look at this Snowman Bowling game!

Kids will have fun making it and then playing the game that they made.

### DAY 6: PLAY CHRISTMAS CHARADES

Charades are a great activity for the family, as they can be adapted and are fun for all ages.

Here are some examples of Christmas movies and Christmas songs charades that you can print!



# SPORTS ROUND

WELCOME

THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATES >

## christmas activities

Get involved with some active challenges this Christmas.

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### DAY 7: GO ON A FAMILY HIKE IN NATURE

Walking is a great exercise for kids, as it's relaxing and improves mood. On top of that, it is an easy way to encourage children to do some physical activity. With walks, kids can discover nature, their environment, or play some of the games above while enjoying the outdoors and spending family time together.

### DAY 8: MAKE HEALTHY TREATS FOR KIDS AT CHRISTMAS

Why not leave all those sugary treats aside and try to make healthy ones at home?

It is very important for kids to learn how to eat healthy food from an early age. With these ideas, you can show them that fruit is even more interesting than candy!

### DAY 9: MAKE UP A WORKOUT GAME

Pick a Christmas song, a movie, an audiobook... and assign exercises to certain words. For example, 5 squats when you hear Christmas, 10 push-ups when Santa's name gets mentioned, or 10 jumping jacks every time someone says present.

You can choose your own words as an exercise!

### DAY 10: GO ON A CHRISTMAS LIGHT ADVENTURE

Take a night out to have a look at the Christmas lights around the neighbourhood. It's a great outdoor activity and it will help get the kids tired before going to sleep.

### DAY 11: OBSTACLE GAME

How about an obstacle game to keep the kids moving and entertained?

Have a look at this great example of a Christmas Sensory Play!

### DAY 12: DANCE PARTY WITH THE KIDS

Turn on the Christmas music and dance with your kids. You don't need to follow any rules but one. Have fun!

We know this year Christmas is going to look different for many of us. Hopefully, this helps to get you into the festive spirit whilst keeping the kids entertained.

Merry Christmas!

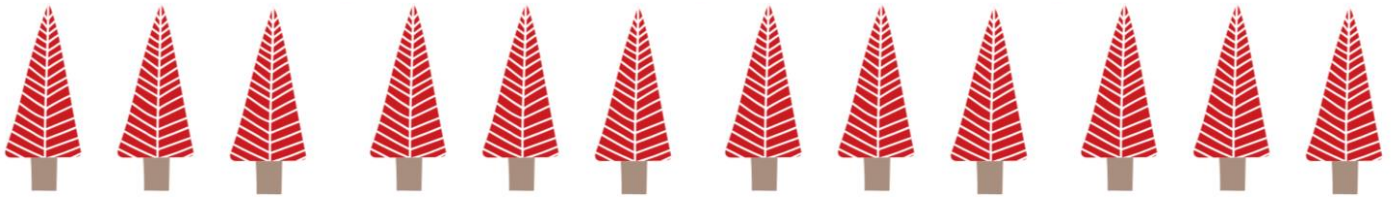
# SPORTS ROUND

WELCOME

THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATES ►



[The 'GRINCH'](#)  
[Christmas Workout](#)  
[\(10Mins\) #THEGRINCH](#)  
[- YouTube](#)



*Congratulations to everyone  
who took part in the  
Reigate Santa fun Run*





MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND

*Happy New Year*

FROM ALL OF US AT HOLMESDALE COMMUNITY  
INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY

