



“Love your neighbour as yourself” | Matthew 22:37-39

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Holly Class

We hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break with your children and that they are looking forward to all of the exciting things we will do this year. We are really excited to welcome the children back into Holly Class, comprising of Oak classroom (the mobile), Holly classroom and the garden, our outdoor classroom. We have welcomed new nursery and reception children and they have settled in nicely.

Holly class will have two teachers who will teach to cover the whole week, alongside 3 highly skilled teaching assistants delivering specific planned content.

Mrs Salen - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday AM

Mrs Wallis – Thursday and Friday.

Teaching Assistants – Mrs May, Mrs Marsh and Mrs Burgess

We are fortunate in Holly Class to have content delivered in small groups with each group of children covering their full year group curriculum over the course of the year. Much of what we do is similar to previous years of having various mixes of Reception, Year 1 and 2 and current children are familiar and settled with how we do this, whilst benefitting from all Holly class staff getting to know each and every child really well.

During the day

We will meet in Oak classroom for register each day, with Year 2s and where appropriate, Year 1s heading over to Holly Classroom for handwriting, spelling, phonics, English, maths and reading lessons as normal. Oak classroom and the garden have been set up for EYFS to learn through play with opportunities for all children to learn outside in a hands on, fun approach. We will meet again in Oak classroom for a story and register after lunch before the Year 1s and 2s will have their afternoon curriculum and project learning. We will gather again in Oak classroom to dismiss your child from the gate.

Home learning

Children have been given a plastic wallet with a reading record linked to our phonics scheme Unlocking Letters and Sounds (this contains sounds and words your child will be learning or may want to refer back to whilst reading) and a library book to borrow. They have a picture book this week to share with family at home but they will use the library and bring home a range of books regularly to share. Alongside that, Reception children will start to bring home books linked to our phonics scheme. To begin with they will be wordless, please talk about the story in the pictures and as they learn letter sounds, they will have books with very simple words and patterns, building up over time. Please read these books everyday if you can whilst you have them, this repetition is an essential part of confidence when learning to read. Older children will have books matched to their phonics ability and ideally they will be able to read them almost fluently, again sharing them several times whilst you have them and beginning to ask questions about the content so that children can begin to think about comprehension. Please continue to share stories that they are not yet able to read by themselves (other

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books from home, the library or audible stories such as Tonieboxes). It is really important for children’s language development to hear lots of different vocabulary. Year 2s will be listening to chapter books they wouldn’t yet be able to read by themselves. We will build in lots of songs and nursery rhymes.

Maths play through purposeful, real life experiences is really important and can be done regularly at home. Shape play, making equal groups (sharing equally) use of coins, telling the time to the hour on an analogue clock (with hands and numbers), comparing relative heights, lengths and weights of real-life objects and talking about half of amounts and of objects will all add to the mathematical learning within the school day. More information to follow about Numbots and Times Tables Rockstars.

Everyday clothing and equipment

Apart from PE and Forest School days, children will continue to wear school uniform. Please ensure that all school uniform is labelled and wellies are brought into school for use on the school field and the outdoor classroom. If the weather stays warm, please ensure that you apply sun screen to your child before school. As the weather is turning, please send in an appropriate coat. Nursery and Reception children, it can be a good idea to send in a full change of clothes and anything else your child needs in a bag.

P.E.

PE will continue to be on Monday and Friday afternoons. As part of their curriculum, Nursery and Reception children will change at school, so please send kit in a bag, with EVERYTHING named! Year 1 and 2 will continue to come to school on PE days in their PE kit rather than regular school uniform. PE kit – plain black/grey/navy joggers, plain red or white t-shirt, plain red or black jumper/hoody and trainers.

Forest School

We love to learn outdoors! We will be doing forest school sessions and there will be more details to follow.

Drinks, snacks and lunches

Children should all bring water to school in a re-fillable, named water bottle. All children in Holly Class will have a snack of fresh fruit or vegetables provided for them during the morning. Children are entitled to free milk in Reception until they turn 5 years old, please fill in your details on the forms provided. If you wish this to continue after they turn 5 and beyond, you can fill in the forms and pay via the information provided. Nursery and Reception will have a snack time with adults where they will enjoy their food and learn about washing, peeling, cutting and sharing.

Buddy Readers

We would love to welcome more adults into school to support children with their reading. If you can spare the time to read for ten minutes with a child, first thing in the morning, please speak to the office staff.

We are all looking forward to working with you and your child/children over the coming year. If you have any questions, please speak to us - after school is usually easier!

Best wishes,

The Holly Class Team.

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