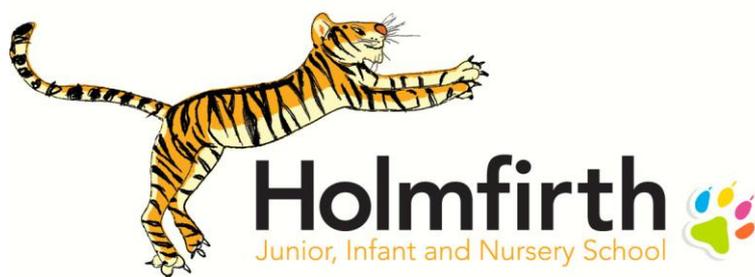


December 2015



Dear Parents,

Thank you for completing the parent questionnaires. It is important for us to have your feedback, in a variety of ways. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to some comments, hopefully providing you with relevant information.

Happiness and safety:

All staff members invest a significant amount of time and energy with well-being. Keeping children safe is always a key priority, and we aim to enable children to see and understand possible dangers.

Behaviour:

Pupils have been involved in developing class codes and behaviour rewards and sanctions, and as a result, they know, understand and respect the systems. Pupils are supported by systematic and consistently applied behaviour management techniques. It is from these techniques of inter-personal skills and knowledge of all children that excellent behaviour is ensured. The consistent system is that all adults take time to restore relationships and promote behaviour.

Pupils are continually made aware of the different forms of bullying and we have very few incidents of such behaviour. In Anti-bullying week, we reminded children of the forms of bullying, including physical, social and emotional. We also made great reference to e-safety, which figures, and will continue to figure, largely in youth culture. The most important aspect of our teaching was to ensure that children have the message that if something is wrong, they tell someone, who they trust. All staff members have consistently high expectations for behaviour and are very skilled in managing pupils using positive behaviour management. We have tried to make sure that our CLEAR values (confidence, learning, enjoyment, achievement and respect) have been made explicit. You will find information on the website, via About- school info / vision. Our whole school assemblies have focussed on these principles, combining multi-faith stories. We recognise these values weekly, during our Celebration assembly.

Information

We aim to provide regular and useful information. On the website, via information for parents, there are calendar dates of clubs and other important events. An update gives extra details and notice of other activities, as they are planned. There are also specific class letters. In addition to being on the website, you should receive an email, which notifies you of these events. We ask that parents make sure that the office is kept informed of up to date email addresses and mobile telephone numbers.

Sometimes, there are spur of the moment happenings, but we will always try to make sure that sufficient notice is given. The website is also used to give you greater insight into "a day in the life of Nabb." The website has recently been re-organised, in an attempt to make things more visible.

Class teachers are the best people to access information about specific details. It may be possible to catch a quick word before or after school, but if you need several minutes, please make an appointment, via the office. I try to be on the playground before and after school, should you wish to have a word.



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Holmfirth J I & N School
Cartworth Road • Holmfirth • HD9 2RG
Tel 01484 222480
E-mail office.holmfirthjin@kirkleeseducation.uk
Website www.holmfirthjinschool.net



Progress

Over the last few years, there have been many changes to the nature of assessment. At present, we are required to assess against expectations, rather than levels. We have considered what we believe to be the key expectations for progress, and our focussed assessment is on these key expectations. This does not mean that we don't teach all the expectations, but we want to focus on quality, rather than quantity. At Parent Consultation evenings, it is important that we identify your child's strengths and any areas for development.

Teaching

Curriculum information can be found on the website, via About – school info. There are long term plans, outlining subject coverage. This year, we are reflecting on our curriculum, after each half term, by considering where we have used visits and visitors, outside learning, encouraged children to be creative, independent, solve problems, respond to investigations and challenges, and consider personal preferences.

Homework

Learning at home is an essential part of effective education and gives pupils the opportunity to effectively extend and enrich the learning that takes place within school. Homework also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, an essential skill for their progression throughout school and later in adult life. All children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance, consolidate and support their learning, as well as give them the opportunity to bring their learning alive in contexts beyond the school. At Holmfirth JIN School, we recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time not only to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon, but also to actively participate in a range of extra-curricular, out-of-school activities to broaden their experiences, such as instrumental tuition, swimming lessons, drama groups, sports clubs etc.

The nature and range of homework will change as children progress through the school and will always take into account individual needs and interests. For all children at Holmfirth JIN School, developing a partnership with parents and carers, through PAL (Pupil assisted learning) projects, is integral to a child's academic and personal development.

Uniform

There are very differing views from parents regarding uniform. At present, the school has no intention to introduce a school uniform. When children arrive at school, they should be appropriately dressed for learning. Clothing should be practical and fit for purpose. Long hair should be tied back and no jewellery should be worn, in the interests of hygiene and safety. When children participate in P.E, they should change into appropriate clothing. For indoor P.E, this is a plain (preferably white) T-shirt, and plain (preferably black or white) shorts. A leotard may, alternatively, be worn. When outdoors, children may wear tracksuits / jogging bottoms and sweatshirts, but they must be different to the clothes they arrive in.

And finally...

I hope this gives a fuller picture of some of the work going on in school this year. Of course, these are only the highlights! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the time, energy and support you provide for the school. We could not function without your significant contribution, and we recognise the difference that you make. We do not work in isolation, but place great value upon our partnership. Once again, thank you for making our school such a good place to be.

J Rose

Headteacher



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