



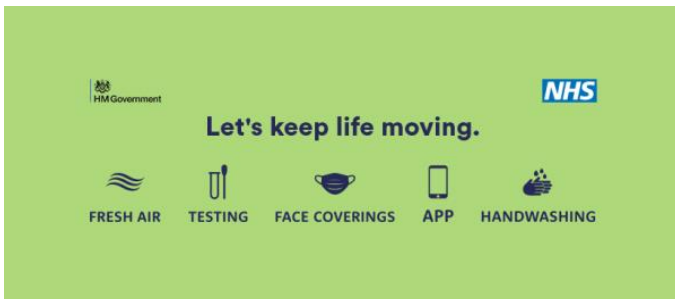
Holt VC Primary School

September 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

And we're off! We had a lovely couple of days last week as we welcomed everyone back and settled into new classes. We have been joined by 26 children in Little Oaks as well as several new children across the school - a special welcome to them.

With Covid-19 still posing a risk, we continue to adopt infection control measures in school and we have contingency plans in place in case of an outbreak, however we are loving a return to near normal!



It is lovely to see all the children playing together, eating lunch in the hall and coming together for whole school collective worship and assemblies. It is so long since we have been able to do these things - our Year 1 children have never done it!

Another sign that we are nearly back to normal school life was waving our Year 6 children off on their residential this morning. They have gone to Mill on the Brue in Somerset. What amazing weather they have for it!

Parent Information Sessions

We are pleased to invite you to a Parent Information Session hosted by your child's class teacher(s). These will take place face-to-face, in well ventilated classrooms. The sessions will provide you with an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn a bit more about classroom routines and expectations.

Little Oaks: Monday 13th September, 4:30pm

Beech: Wednesday 15th September, 3:30pm

Maple: Tuesday 14th September, 3:30pm

Ash: Wednesday 15th September, 4:00pm

Elm: Tuesday 14th September, 4:00pm

Willow: Tuesday 14th September. 4:30pm

Please complete this form if you plan to attend one of these parent information sessions <https://forms.office.com/r/rhP77H67wT>

Please use the external classroom doors for these meetings.

Sun Safety

It's lovely to see the September sun but do not underestimate it's strength. On these lovely sunny days, please ensure your child has a sun hat, a layer of sun cream and a full bottle of water (named).



Staff News

We are delighted to welcome three new members of staff to our team. Mrs Harvey is job-sharing with Mrs Maclennan in Ash Class; she is teaching on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Coombes, who worked with us as a Bath Spa teacher last year, has returned to support Mr Magnus for the first term in Elm Class. We are also joined by Mrs Hillis who will be working with children across the school to support phonics and oracy and as an ELSA.

Parent Meetings

Save the date – parent meetings will take place in October. These meetings provide you with the opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher(s) about how your child is settling in to their new class.

Little Oaks, Maple and Elm: Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th October

Beech and Willow: Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th October

Ash: Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th October

Phonics and Reading

At Holt Primary we believe that in order for our children to '**Grow a Love of Learning**' it is essential that they '**Grow a Love of Reading**'. Becoming a skilled reader does not just mean better educational outcomes for our children. Reading has the power to improve our children's empathy, improve their relationships with others, reduce the symptoms of

depression and improve wellbeing throughout life. We aim to give our children the skills to read to acquire knowledge, but also to nurture a habit of reading for enjoyment. By putting reading at the heart of our curriculum, we hope to give our children the best chance of a happy, successful future equipped to participate fully as a member of society.

We are making changes to how we teach reading and how we support our children to develop as readers as they progress through the school. More details will follow so watch this space!

Parking

Please park considerately! We have already heard from unhappy Holt residents who have found their drive blocked during school pick-up and drop-off times.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice and nits, treating any cases promptly and thoroughly.

Advice can be found here: [Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

We have an exciting year ahead and we are looking forward to working with you – strap in and enjoy the ride!

Jo Hodge
Headteacher