



Holt VC Primary School

February 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

This term, we have once again felt the impact of Covid in our school with high numbers of staff and pupil absence. I'd like to thank all the staff, governors, parents and children for their support, patience and understanding during this tricky time. Next term, we will be face mask free at drop-off and pick-up!

Despite the challenges of the term, we've still got lots of news and exciting things to share with you in this newsletter. There's also some important dates for your diary.

Staff News

In mid-January, we welcomed Mrs Kim Norgrove to the team as admin assistant. She works with us every morning and also supports lunchtimes.

While we recruit for a new SENCo, we have been supported by Mrs Lauren Rowe, the SENCo at Walwayne Court Primary School in Trowbridge. We hope to have a permanent SENCo in place for the Summer term.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place during the **week beginning March 7th**. We are looking forward to being able to invite you into school so you can talk to your child's class teacher and look at your child's learning. Please check the dates section as not all classes have appointments available on the same day.

West Wilts Dance Festival



We had a fantastic evening with our Year 6s at The Forum in Bath for the West Wilts Dance Festival. During the course of the term, Year 6 worked with Caroline 'The Dance Lady' to choreograph and rehearse their dance to Mcfly's version of Don't Stop Me Now.

On the evening of the performance, the children performed their dance brilliantly and they clearly enjoyed the whole experience – they did us proud!

Thanks to everyone who came to support us on the night and to the Covid 3 – we missed you!





Attendance and Punctuality

Covid and winter illness have significantly affected our pupil attendance. This is unavoidable. Our data, along with coded reasons for absence, is always analysed, and whilst the over-all drop for the school is understandable for the last two terms, for some individuals it is highlighting a significant concern.

Please can I draw your attention to the 'Attendance and Punctuality Policy' summary on the school website. It sets out the rationale, procedures and guidance regarding attendance and punctuation. Our school is committed to supporting individual attendance to be as near 100% as possible.

We all hope that the new term will bring more stability to communities, enabling us to return to 'normal'. We therefore ask every effort is made to re-establish school routines for our children, including avoiding non-essential absence. Please can you inform admin prior to 9:00am for each day of absence, stating the reason. Please recognise it is our duty to monitor and verify reasons for absence in order to correctly pursue any further actions. To protect children's learning time. Our policy and procedures serve to uphold the legal requirement of:

'Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is a parent/carer's legal responsibility (Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act) and permitting absence from school that is not authorised by the school creates an offence in law.'

World Book Day

World Book Day is in the first week back after half term on **Thursday 3rd March**.

This year we will **not** be dressing up. However, you will have received a letter from Mrs MacLennan and Mrs Read (our Reading Leads) which outlines how we will be celebrating in school.

Sporting News

Congratulations to our football team who won the ESFA Wiltshire Small Schools Football finals last month. The Holt boys played six matches against strong teams from across the county but kept a clean sheet throughout the competition. The team will now represent Wiltshire at the South West finals in April.



And congratulations to our hockey team who will represent West Wilts at the Wiltshire finals in March.



Next term, we are looking forward to working with Bath Rugby as part of their School Partner Programme.

Jo Hodge



Dates for your Diary

Monday 28 th February	Return to school
Wednesday 2 nd March	Ash Class to Forest School Session 1
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Friday 4 th March	Elm and Willow Saxon trip to Oxenwood
Monday 7 th March	Parent Consultations: Little Oaks, Maple, Elm and Willow
Tuesday 8 th March	Parent Consultations: Little Oaks, Beech, Maple, Ash, Elm and Willow
Wednesday 9 th March	Ash Class to Forest School Session 2
Thursday 10 th March	Parent Consultations: Beech and Ash
Wednesday 16 th March	Ash Class to Forest School Session 3
Wednesday 23 rd March	Ash Class to Forest School Session 4
Wednesday 30 th March	Ash Class to Forest School Session 5
Wednesday 6 th April	Ash Class to Forest School Session 6
Thursday 7 th April	School closes to pupils for the Easter Holidays
Friday 8 th April	TD day
Monday 25 th April	Term 3 begins