



Headteacher: Mrs S Lockwood

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Wileman

Holmesdale Infant School

The Avenue

Dronfield

Derbyshire

S18 2LR

Tel: 01246 413284



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A very warm welcome to Holmesdale Infant School - I hope that you will find this prospectus about our school both interesting and informative.

Our aim at Holmesdale Infant school is to give your child the best possible educational opportunity within a happy, caring, stimulating, and creative environment. For this process to succeed it is vital that home and school work together in partnership to benefit each child.

Starting school is the beginning of a life-long journey of discovery; by offering your child the opportunity to explore the world around them, we hope that they will be inspired, filled with awe and wonder, and become motivated and active learners. By encouraging your child to take risks and persevere in the face of challenge, we know that they will develop both resilience and determination.

Our staff work hard to deliver a creative curriculum for all, that ensures our children learn the knowledge and skills needed to progress through their school life, following individual interests and answering their own questions about how things work and why things are.

We have high expectations of behaviour and we aim for a calm and purposeful environment but, at the same time, we ensure that learning is fun. We strive to enable our children to work to the best of their individual abilities, enabling them to become 'The Best Me I Can Be' both socially and academically.

Holmesdale Infant School has a strong sense of community, and we aim to build positive relationships with everyone involved with the school. We work alongside our parents, carers, governors and the wider community to create a school that is inclusive of all.

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of such a happy school. I look forward to getting to know you over the coming years as you grow and develop in our Holmesdale family.

Kind regards,

Sarah Lockwood - Headteacher



Holmesdale Forest School



...the school I love because we get to grow our rainbow brains every day. We

Holmesdale is...

## Vision

To promote and enrich the development of children to achieve their full potential in a caring, happy, creative and stimulating environment.

*'The best me I can possibly be.'*

...brilliant because we take care of each other. We celebrate what other children have done.

## Aims

To promote high achievement and learning for life by working with children to:

- Develop enquiring minds, the spirit of curiosity and creativity
- Become highly motivated, independent and lifelong learners
- Have high self-esteem and confidence
- Respect themselves, others and the environment
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively with an awareness of next steps
- Have high expectations of themselves and achieve high standards in all areas of the curriculum
- Appreciate, respect and value the multicultural nature of our society
- Gain advanced technical skills
- Develop a sense of responsibility and spiritual, moral, social and personal reflection
- Develop physical skills to the full



## Our Mission

We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- A stimulating, broad and challenging curriculum
- A happy, secure, creative and inspirational environment
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- An effective learning partnership between school, home and community
- Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning underpinned by effective assessment

An enriched programme of extra-curricular activities and visits

We will develop our learning community by:

- Striving for continuous improvement in all we do through a supportive programme of continuing professional development for all staff
- Working collaboratively, valuing and supporting each other in our respective roles within school and the wider community

...amazing because all the teachers are kind and helpful. Every teacher and pupil takes part.

...epic because it is as much fun as your home. That's why it's called Holmesdale Infant School!

# The School Day

School session times are:

9.00am to 12.00am                      and                      1.10pm  
to 3.15pm

Classroom doors open at 8.50am. Parents and carers are welcome to use this time to change reading books with their children and undertake morning work.



Registration takes place twice a day at 9.00 am and 1.10pm.

We do expect children to arrive at school on time. Being regularly late for school has a detrimental effect on children's education and it is important that they have a calm and settled start to the day.

- Playtime is from 10.30am to 10.45am
- Lunchtime is from 12.00 noon to 1.10pm
- Home time is at 3.15pm.



Parents and carers collect their children from the classroom entrance ways. The teachers and support staff are there to ensure that children are united with their parent or carer and no child is allowed to leave the site unaccompanied. If you are unable to collect your child at 3.15pm please inform school. Children attending Kids Club will be collected from their classrooms by a Kids Club member

of staff.

## **Collecting or bringing children by car**

For the safety of all children we ask that you:

- Use the car park at Stonelow playing fields
- Do not park on the grass verges outside school
- Do not park on Hassop Close as it is a private road for the use of residents only
- Remember that it is against the law to park or wait on the yellow zig zag lines directly outside school
- Be considerate to local residents when parking on The Avenue and surrounding roads
- Be polite and considerate to other parents and carers

**On no account are parents allowed to use the school car park, unless for disabled access.**

## **Road Safety**

Safety on the roads is an important part of our curriculum. We ask that parents support us in keeping our children safe. Our road safety policy includes our School Travel Plan developed by the School Travel plan committee made up of staff, parents and governors.

The school travel plan encourages parents and carers to walk to school with their children. We actively teach road safety and take part in the twice yearly 'Walk to School' week programmes.

There is a **School Crossing Patrol Service** on Stonelow Road. The crossing patrol is there for you and your child's safety: please use it.



# The Curriculum

## The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum subjects are English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Design Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art and Design, Physical Education, and Religious Education. The National Curriculum was designed to ensure every child receives individual entitlement, to promote progression and continuity, and to establish a coherent national framework.

These subjects cover the range of knowledge, skills and understanding commonly accepted as necessary for a broad and balanced curriculum. In addition they provide a framework for a number of cross curricular aspects such as Personal and Social education, Health education, Global and Environmental Education.

Through the National Curriculum we teach:

Language and Communication skills:

- Reading
- phonics
- Writing-[handwriting, grammar and punctuation]
- Speaking
- Listening



Mathematical, Technological, Problem solving and Scientific skills:

- Applying and utilising knowledge
- Making and Testing
- Thinking skills and problem solving]
- Number [including times tables, fractions and place value]
- Measurement
- Shape and space
- Recording and interpreting data
- Investigation skills
- ICT skills



Humanities, and knowledge and care of the environment:

- Geographical skills
- Historical enquiry
- Investigation skills

Expressive skills:

- Art and Design
- Music
- Movement, dance, drama and PE

#### Citizenship:

- Personal and social education
- Healthy lifestyles
- Global education



#### The School Curriculum

Holmesdale Infant School has established a reputation for high standards in the quality of teaching and learning and in the academic and creative achievements of the children. Our curriculum is designed to encourage children to reach their maximum potential. We make every effort to ensure that every child achieves success and self-worth. Care is taken to extend able children and early intervention programmes give extra support to those children who need it.

The core subjects of English (including phonics) and Mathematics are taught daily with a strong emphasis on the teaching of basic skills. The other subjects are taught through a structured programme of work incorporated into termly topics which are based on the cross curricular themes stated above.



Children in the Reception have their own Foundation stage curriculum.



We aim to make the content of our curriculum relevant to the lives of the children by presenting it in a meaningful context, providing children with knowledge and skills that they can apply in everyday life.

We believe it is very important for our children that as part of their personal and social development they learn to respect, understand and appreciate as many aspects of different cultures as possible.

## **Equal Opportunities**

We consider the needs of all our children when planning our school curriculum. We recognise and value their previous experience, their gender, their cultural background and any disability they might have, and ensure that all children have the opportunity and support to gain access to the curriculum at their own level. Provision for pupils who have exceptional skills and abilities will be made within a differentiated curriculum and through the school's equal opportunities policy.

Adults and pupils with disabilities are welcome to contact the school to discuss their individual needs in line with the schools Disability Plan which is available on the website and on request from the school office.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

The school welcomes all children with special educational needs and disabilities. We will ensure that children with special needs are integrated quickly and smoothly into the pastoral, social and academic life of the school. The school has a policy for the identification, monitoring and assessment of children with special needs.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator works closely with all teachers and support staff to monitor progress and provide early intervention to support children who are experiencing difficulties. We also work closely with parents at all times, seeking external professional support when appropriate. Parents who have any concerns regarding their child's educational needs should discuss them with the Headteacher.

## **Learning and Teaching**

## School Organisation

- |                                |   |                                    |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Foundation stage 2 (Reception) | - | Children who are 5 during the year |
| Year 1                         | - | Children who are 6 during the year |
| Year 2                         | - | Children who are 7 during the year |

Children work individually, in small groups, as a class and as year groups. All lessons are differentiated according to ability to ensure high standards.

## English

Learning to read is a vital part of our curriculum. We want to nurture a love of reading and encourage children to read for pleasure as well as for information. We have a structured reading scheme throughout the school which has a mixture of books from published schemes and other authors. We aim to provide books that match the children's reading ability well.



Children will read once a week with a member of staff. This may be on an individual basis or as a group or class. The reading book will then be taken home accompanied by a reading record book. Teaching staff will only comment in the reading record book each time your child reads at school, you may also wish to comment in it to let us know how your child is doing at home. Please ensure that the reading book comes to school every day. Your child will get a new book each week after they have read in class.

There will be many other opportunities to learn to read in school such as shared reading in class, guided reading in a group situation, individual reading, story-time, buddy reading and volunteer reading.



Oral and written language is also vital to a child's development and we aim to help children develop their expressive and communication skills confidently and clearly. Children will be taught the different forms of writing as well as correct letter formation.

### **Mathematics**

Mathematics equips children with a uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world; these tools include logical reasoning, problem solving and the ability to think in abstract ways. Children are encouraged to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of maths through practical activity, making connections, exploration and discussion.

### **Science and Design Technology**

Science and Design Technology play an important part in our curriculum. We help children to develop scientific skills and concepts. Children will experience both physical and natural science through a variety of activities. We help children to develop logical thinking, observational skills, the ability to question and to solve problems, to classify and be able to select appropriate materials. Children learn to plan, design and create with an emphasis on solving real problems.



## **History/Geography/Environmental Studies**

These subjects are taught through a cross curricular approach and first-hand experience as much as possible. We use the outdoor environment around school regularly and make use of educational visits.

## **Information and Communication Technology**

All classrooms have electronic whiteboards, computers and access to the internet making ICT an integral part of the daily curriculum. We also have Programmable Floor Robots in school to learn basic programming skills and enhance all curriculum areas such as directions and mapping skills.

## **Art and Design**

We place great value on children's art and creative work, presenting children with a wide range of media and two and three dimensional work. We encourage all children to develop observational and expressive skills. We carefully display children's work to create an attractive environment, to act as stimulus to all children and to show that we value each child's achievement. We regularly work with a range of artists through the creative partnership programme and take part in local Art festivals.



## **Music**

We have a variety of percussion instruments and we follow a comprehensive scheme of work for music. We invite musicians and dancers into school whenever possible to provide the children with the experience of listening to and taking part in musical activities which reflect a variety of cultures and traditions.

## **Physical Education**

All children take part in physical education activities for at least two hours a week. Activities involve gymnastics, dance and movement and games skills. Both the indoor and outdoor environment is used for PE.

- Each child will need a named PE kit kept in a bag on their peg.
- All jewellery must be removed for all physical activity for health and safety reasons.
- Children may only be excused from PE on genuine medical advice.

### **Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship**

The school places great emphasis on helping our children to become responsible, confident members of society by helping them to make the most of their abilities. The children are encouraged to play an active role as citizens and to develop good relationships with others. They are taught about healthy and safe lifestyles and the importance of caring for the environment.



### **Religious Education/Assemblies:**

The Education Act requires all schools to provide religious education for each child. We follow the guidelines laid down by Derbyshire LA and follow the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Assemblies are held daily and are broadly of a Christian nature. Children will regularly be involved in and take part in these assemblies. Parents will be invited to join us for their child's class assembly once a year. If you do not want your child to take part in assembly please speak to the Headteacher.

## **Sex Education**

In line with national requirements the school has an agreed policy on sex education drawn up by the governing body. Sex and relations education is seen as part of the natural development of a child learning about him/herself and the world about him/herself. The work will be integrated within science, health education and PSHE. The term 'sex education' will not be used with the children, but the children's questions will be answered as they arise as truthfully and fully as possible.

## **Educational Visits**

Throughout the year we organise visits and trips to places of educational interest. We also organise visits into school from musicians and artists. Educational visits enhance our creative curriculum and contribute significantly to children's learning. Costs are always kept to a minimum and voluntary contributions will be asked for.

All transport used is recommended by Derbyshire County Council. We do expect all children to keep their seatbelt fastened and to be well behaved at all times. Risk assessments are carried out for each activity which takes place out of school.

## **Forest Schools**

Each half term the children will visit the local woods as part of our Forest School's programme. They will learn about the environment, undertake team building exercises such as den building and apply a range of skills in an outdoor environment.

All National Curriculum and School Policy documents are available, if you wish to see them please see the headteacher.

# Parents in Partnership

We are always pleased to see parents in school and we aim to make you feel welcome. We firmly believe that parents and teachers are partners in the education process.

## Regular communication

We produce regular half termly newsletters to keep you informed of all events and activities. All letters home will be done either on the school app 'Parenthub' or emailed using Call Parents. In some circumstances letters are sent in book bags. Please check book bags daily.

We also use 'Parenthub' and Call Parents to send text messages. We use the text messaging service for urgent messages e.g. after school club cancellation / school closures.

## School Website

Our school website can be found at [www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk) Information on the website includes:-

- Letters
- Newsletters
- Term dates
- Prospectus
- Policies
- Children's work
- Photographs of events
- Photographs of staff
- Links to interesting and educational websites



## Mobile App



'Parenthub' is the school app that we use. It is available to download onto a smartphone / iPad from the Play Store or iTunes.

## Contact Numbers

It is very important that we have up to date home/work telephone numbers, so that we can contact parents/carers in case of emergency. We shall also need contact numbers for a relative or friend whom we can contact should we be unable to contact you. This information is essential and it is important that you help us to keep it up to date.



Please tell us if:

1. You change your address or telephone number
2. You start a new job or change your place of work
3. You have a neighbour or relative who will help out in an emergency

### **Consultation**

Children's Progress meetings are held three times a year. These occasions provide a more formal opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the progress of individual children. These meetings are booked online once an event code has been distributed to you.

Children's targets will be set and reviewed at these meetings.

If, for any reason you are concerned about your child, you are welcome to contact the class teacher first thing in the morning or at the end of the day at 3.15pm. If a longer discussion is required we are happy to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. We realise that small problems can seem enormous to children and their parents and we can help in overcoming these. We also arrange various open sessions and workshops to keep you informed about the content of our curriculum.

During the year parents are invited to their child's class assembly. You will also be invited to special school assemblies and concerts. Attending these will give you the opportunity to share in the activities your child is experiencing at school.

### **Helping in School**

If you have any time to spare, we are always grateful for your help.

There are variety of ways parents can help in school - in the classroom, playing educational games, supporting activities, creative work, cookery, helping in the library, assisting with educational trips, gardening and fundraising. If you have any other skills or talents we would love to hear from you. We are also very grateful if you can help us with contacts where we can get resources and materials for school free or very cheap e.g., offcuts of wood, paper etc.

The best way to help your child in school is to let them know that you are interested in what they do and how they achieve. Do not forget to ask them about what they have done, give them time, listen to them and try to attend school functions.

## Helping your child at home

During your child's first half term at school you will be invited to 'Meet the Teacher' and talk about what we are learning in school and how you can help. The homework policy will be discussed at this first meeting.

Your child will bring a book home to share with you: please read the book with your child and talk about the pictures. Children really enjoy sharing books and it helps them to become successful readers.

You can also:

- Encourage your child to do things for him/herself such as dressing and undressing, tying shoelaces, fastening coats and give praise for good attempts.
- Encourage him/her to tidy up and look after his/her own toys and belongings.
- Encourage the use of pens, pencils, paintbrushes and scissors etc.
- Talk about everyday things and go on interesting walks, talking about what you see.
- Sing or say nursery rhymes and other short poems together.
- Go to the library and choose books together to develop a love of reading.
- Count everyday objects and let your child help lay the table, matching place settings and cutlery.
- Encourage your child to write using lower case letters. Don't worry about spelling at first; help them to develop confidence and expression. You will receive a letter formation sheet in your introductory pack when your child starts school.



## Friends of Holmesdale School

When your child is admitted to Holmesdale School you automatically become a member of 'Friends of Holmesdale School' along with grandparents, childminders and valued friends of the school.

The association organises social and educational events and helps to raise money for school projects. Everyone is welcome and the leaders are always delighted to meet new parents and to encourage them to get involved.

Membership does not assume commitment and the level of involvement is up to the individual. Any support is most appreciated.

# Social Media

The school is committed to working with parents to promote children's online safety and believes that, as adults, we have a responsibility to behave as role models in our own use of social media. Staff are subject to a policy and guidance concerning any use they make of such sites. We ask that parents, carers and other members of the school community also bear in mind their own approach to the use of social media as detailed in the school's Online Safety Policy. Further, we ask for parents and carers support in addressing any inappropriate use of digital communication devices by pupils in school.

As a school we strive to achieve the best for all children, however we recognise that on some occasions you may feel that we could have done better. We ask that careful thought is given to any posts concerning the school or individual members. We would be grateful if parents do not use social media to raise concerns or complaints but, instead, we encourage you to come into school and speak to us so that we can understand and help to solve the problem. If you then feel that the issue has not been dealt with appropriately, we will provide you with the Complaints Procedure. It is all our interests to address issues without delay so that we can maintain the focus on children's welfare and learning.

It is easy to make an entry on a site 'in the heat of the moment' but once material is on the internet it is difficult to fully erase. Such comments can be damaging to the individual and their welfare as well as, potentially, the smooth running of the school. There has been much publicity in recent times detailing the harmful effects experienced by children and adults from the misuse of social media. Inappropriate comments about staff, other parents or pupils will be addressed by the school in the same way as if these remarks were made in person, in the public domain.

The Police will be informed and legal advice taken with respect to any comments that are threatening, discriminatory, offensive, abusive, use foul language or threaten violence.

Although it is rewarding to hear of positive descriptions of school experience, it is important to bear in mind that other individuals may not wish to be named and situations can be misinterpreted. There are also likely to be negative consequences of posting pictures on social media which include children other than your own, without parents' permission.

Our commitment to you is to put the pupils' interests first and to work in partnership with you in this endeavour. Your co-operation in relation to the use of social media would be greatly

appreciated. Enabling us to deal with any issues of concern through the appropriate process will help to maintain the focus on the school's core purpose.

# Wrap around care offered by the community at Holmesdale

## **Holmesdale Kids Club:**

The independent Kids Club offers excellent child care facilities for children between 5 and 11 years from 3.15pm to 6.00pm and a morning session between 7.45am and 9.00am daily. The club also offers holiday care throughout all school holidays.

The latest OFSTED report stated 'The quality and standards of the care are good.' Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment.

If you wish to book your child into Kids Club, please contact the co-ordinator, Miss Heather Jackson, Tel: 01246 413062.

## **The Avenue Nursery:**

The independent Avenue Nursery offers excellent nursery and pre-school provision for children from the ages of 2 to 5 from 8.00am to 6.00pm all year round. The Nursery offers full day care, sessional care, extended care, holiday care and pay-as-you-go. Funding is available for all 3 and 4 year olds.

Hot nutritious lunches are available for all nursery children.

They are a team of fully qualified, experienced staff dedicated to caring for all children and their diverse needs.

The last OFSTED report stated 'The Avenue Nursery provides very good quality care for children.' 'The provision is of high quality and children reach very good progress through the Early Learning goals. They and their families are welcomed into a warm and caring environment where the children settle well.'

For more details please contact the nursery manager Mrs Dawn Curry Tel: 07836 730444.





## General information

Holmesdale Infant School was opened in January 1959. It is situated in its own wooded grounds surrounded by gardens and playing areas. There are seven classrooms. We are fortunate to have a separate dining room where healthy and nutritious meals are served by our own kitchen. This room is also used for group work, art and craft, coffee mornings and parent meetings.

Two of the classrooms and the dining room are used by the Avenue Nursery as well as breakfast and after school clubs, which offer wrap around care to the local community.

The hall is used for P.E., assemblies, music, drama, school productions and learning on a day to day basis.

The building has been fully updated with disabled access and resourced for children with disabilities. We have the 'Sunshine room' for positive play and to support children with special needs.

The playground is well resourced with markings for games, quiet areas and several large items of playground equipment. A trim trail, shelter, and three teepees were built for the school in 2016 with assistance from the Big Lottery Fund.

There is a large grassed area with willow shelters, shaded seating areas, school garden where children grow their own produce and an area for investigation and learning through discovery. We also have a pond and an area where our qualified Forest Schools Teacher can build a fire.



# Health and safety

## Dogs

For the safety of the children, dogs are **not** allowed on the school premises. Please do not bring dogs into the playground or walk dogs in the grounds. We also request you do not tie your dog to the gates outside school.



## Fire practice

A fire practice is held at least once a term.

## Medicines in school

Health and safety regulations advise that medicines should not be administered in school. Whenever possible, medicines should be administered by parents out of school time. If it is necessary for a child to have medicine in school hours, parents will need to make arrangements to come to school to administer it.

In exceptional cases such as children with long term illnesses (e.g. asthma, epilepsy) medication will be administered with signed parental consent and by trained staff only. All medicines must be clearly named and will be appropriately stored for immediate access. Please note that a member of staff administering medicine does so voluntarily.

## Accidents and Emergencies

Staff are trained in First Aid and will treat minor injuries in school. If a child needs hospital treatment, an ambulance will be called and parents will be informed. A member of staff will remain at the hospital until a parent arrives.



**Smoking (including e-cigarettes)** is not allowed anywhere on the school premises. We also request that you do not smoke (including e-cigarettes) immediately outside the school grounds.

## Child Protection Procedures

The school is required to take reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. If the school is concerned for the safety and welfare of any child and has reason to believe that a child may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or abuse, the Headteacher will follow the safeguarding procedures established by Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB) and inform Social Services.

### **Attendance**

Full attendance in school is very important in order to help your child establish a positive attitude to school and to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

If for any reason your child cannot come to school, you must let the school know on the first day of absence.



We encourage children to attend school every day; however we are aware that there are some exceptional circumstances why your child may not be able to attend school such as the wedding of close family member or to attend a funeral. If you require your child to be absent from school in an exceptional circumstance, we ask that you complete a form for the headteacher to consider. The headteacher's decision will be given to you in a letter.

### **Data Protection**

Registration information, which you supply to school, is required for the efficient organisation of the school and the children's educational needs. All information is kept under restricted access and is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. The information will only be disclosed to the Education authority, Health and Welfare agencies, or where a law or an emergency necessitates a disclosure. The information must be kept up to date: if any of your information changes, you must notify the school in writing or ask for another registration form.

### **Behaviour and anti-bullying policies**

The aim of these policies are to help children develop a greater sense of personal responsibility; a sense of care and respect for others and an awareness of safety for themselves and others. Care is taken to explore unacceptable behaviour and it is discussed between the child and the teacher. There are clear sanctions for dealing with unacceptable behaviour and these are clearly understood by the children. Concerns are then shared with parents. If unacceptable behaviour persists and further action is necessary, the matter is dealt



with by the Headteacher in conjunction with the parents. Positive behaviour is rewarded in many different ways including stickers, Headteacher's Award, Trophies and Star of the Day.



## Additional Information

### Milk and Water

Free school milk is available for children under five. Milk is available for all other children who wish to have it at a charge. All children need to bring a bottle of **water** to school daily so that they can have access to a drink whenever they need it. Again, all bottles must be clearly marked with their name. Drinking water helps children to concentrate and prevents them from becoming dehydrated.



### Hot Weather

During hot weather we ask that parents apply an all-day sunscreen to their child prior to arriving at school. Children can bring sunscreen (labelled with their names) to school in case they need to re-apply it during the day. We also ask that each child brings a hat to school to wear during outdoor activities. Legionnaire's caps are available to purchase from the school office.

### Charges for School Activities

With regard to the 1988 Education Act, the Governors of Holmesdale have decided that no charge can be made for school activities and that only voluntary contributions may be invited.

We hope that parents will continue to support the school's initiatives, so that all our children may benefit from these experiences. If there are not enough voluntary contributions towards an event or visit, then it may have to be cancelled. However, no child will be excluded from any activity because of parent's inability to pay.

### School Meals

From September 2014 all infant school children have been entitled to free school meals. We will still offer you the opportunity to send your child to school with a **nutritious** packed lunch but we encourage everybody to take advantage of a free hot school meal which will always include a vegetarian option. If your child has any food allergies a form must be completed and a doctor's note evidencing the allergy will be required.

### Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium Funding is extra money that will be paid to school for children that are eligible. If you get any of the following benefits, you may get Pupil Premium Funding for your child:

- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

This extra funding is used to provide extra support within school and a proportion can also be used towards school uniform and trips.



### Library

We have a well-stocked library. We encourage children to take the books home regularly. Please return all books to the library after reading at home.





## **The School Staff**

Mrs S Lockwood

Headteacher



## **Teaching staff**

Headteacher

Mrs K Wileman

Deputy Headteacher, SENDCo

Mrs S Best

EYFS Leader, Art and Design & Music

Mrs J Wignell

Science & Computing Leader

Mrs R Russell

Maths, Geography & History Leader

Miss Westray

English Leader

Mis J Milner

PE Leader

Mrs K Attwood

PSHE, RE

Mrs J Bristow

French

## **Teaching Assistants**

Mrs T Johnson

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Ms L Vaughan

Higher Level Teaching Assistant & Forest School

Mrs N Clayton

Mrs S Johnson

Mrs J Radford

Miss L Radford

Miss E Sutton

## **Non Teaching staff**

Mrs M Freeland

School Business Officer

Mrs B Pilkington

School Clerk

## **School Meals staff**

Mrs J

School cook

Mrs K Dann

Kitchen Assistant

Mrs J Lambert

Kitchen Assistant

**Mid-day supervisors**

Mrs J Wilkinson

Senior midday supervisor

Mrs C Matthews

Mrs D Prest

Mrs S Fathers

**Lunchtime Playleader**

Mrs C Jackson

**Other Personnel**

Mrs K Steele

Crossing warden

## The Governors of Holmesdale

**Chairperson** Mrs Dawn Curry

**Headteacher** Mrs S Lockwood

**Parent Governors** Mr F Stainton

**LA Governors** Vacancy

**Staff Governor** Mrs K Wileman

**Co-opted Governors**  
Mrs D Curry  
Mrs E Charlton  
Mrs A Chappell

**Clerk to the Governors** Mrs M Freeland



Dawn Curry  
Chair of Governors

## The Role of the Governors

The Governors make decisions about how the school is run. They meet at least once a term.

Governors are appointed to help:

- Decide policy on curriculum developments
- Set standards of behaviour
- Interview and select staff
- Monitor how the school budget is spent

School Governors are:

- Parents
- Teachers at the school
- Local council representatives
- Community representatives

Parent Governors:

- Have a child in school
- Are elected by parents of the school
- Serve on the governing body for 4 years

Parent governors should encourage parental interest, and should become actively involved in the life of the school.

They need to make sure that all communications with parents are informative and easy to read. Parent governors bring the views of parents to the governing body.

# Admissions and Getting Ready for School



If you are considering sending your child to Holmesdale Infant school please contact the school and arrange a visit. We are happy to show you round and answer any of your questions.

If your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 your child will be starting at primary or infant school in the 2020/2021 school year.

You will be able to apply for a school place online from 11 November 2019 until 15 January 2020.

A parents' guide to applying for a primary, infant or junior school place will be available online during that period at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

Applications considered by Derbyshire LA to be late (after the closing date in January 2019) will not be dealt with until after places have been allocated to those who met the deadline.

## Age of admission

Children who will be five years old between 1 September and 30 April will be admitted full-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Children who will be five years old between 1 May and 31 August will be admitted either part-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term and full-time from the beginning of the Spring Term or full-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term, to be determined by the parent.

## Admission policy - *In line with Derbyshire County Council guidelines*

The number of pupils admitted each year is set at a maximum of 50.

If the number of requests for places exceeds the admission limit set by Derbyshire County Council, then parents will be required to undertake an appeals process.



Further information regarding the Appeals process is available at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

### **Getting ready for school**

We try to make your child's first days at school trouble-free and happy. All the children from local nurseries have a number of visits to the school during the summer term before they start; children from the wider community are invited to these visits. All children are invited to an induction morning in the second half of the summer term and we hold a new parents meeting in the evening. We will write to you with details of these visits. Your child's teacher will contact you to arrange a home visit in September prior to your child starting school. This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your child to meet their teacher in familiar surroundings.



On starting school, children should be able to use the **toilet unaided and be able to dress and undress themselves**. It is especially helpful if on P.E. days, clothes are worn that are easy to manage. For P.E all children need a pair of shorts, plain cotton T-shirt and plimsolls in a bag.

Children regularly misplace items of clothing, so it is essential that all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

Children should come to school dressed appropriately according to the weather. We do take children outside in rain and snow. If the weather requires wellingtons please provide your child with a change of footwear to wear inside.

### **Transfer to Junior Schools**

Children transfer to a junior school in the September following their seventh birthday. The majority of our children go to either Northfield Junior School or Stonelow Junior School.

To enable our children to experience a smooth transition to the next stage of their education there is a close liaison between our staff and the staff of both junior schools.

The year 2 children spend an induction day at their chosen junior school in the last part of the summer term.

In the year before your child is due to transfer, you will have the opportunity to visit both schools in order to help you select the school for your child. If either school has too many applications then the DCC guidelines on admission apply.