

Newsletter 1 – Friday 9th September 2022

One week down! Firstly, I just want to say a huge thank you to the Holne Chase community for making me feel incredibly welcome this week. It has been nice to see lots of friendly faces, hear your kind words of support and your welcoming 'Hellos'. It has been a great start to the year and your children have made our school proud; I feel extremely privileged to be Principal of Holne Chase School.

New Staff

As well as myself, there are other members of staff who have joined the Holne Chase family. Miss Millie Tyerman is the Early Years teacher, Mrs Emma Cook is the Year 2 teacher and Miss Amelia Wren is the teacher in Year 5. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to the school and wish them the best of luck in their new role this year. A complete staff list is available on our school website.

Values



This week, I kicked off the year with an assembly discussing the value of 'Resilience' using the story 'The Magical Yet'. This story is about a girl who cannot ride her bike and eventually gives up! However, when she finds the power of her 'Magical Yet' she achieves more than just riding her bike.

The children thought about things they felt they were not able to do but with the help of their 'Magical Yet' (resilience) they could turn '*I can't do it!*' into '*I can't do it **YET!***' and eventually achieve their dreams.

At home, I encourage you to talk to your children about how you have used your 'Magical Yet' and what you have achieved as a result. If you see examples of your child using their resilience at home, please let your class teacher know as we would love to hear all about it.

Arbor

Thank you to those parents who frequently check Arbor for updates both via the 'In App Messages' but also with the emails that are sent. Please ensure that your most up-to-date information (including medical) is on Arbor so we can contact you accordingly. It is important that you check these regularly for communication to keep you informed throughout the year.

Attendance

An area I will be focusing on this academic year, is the children's attendance. You will know that persistent absence can have a detrimental impact on their academic and personal development and with the disruption to learning over the last few years, it is important now more than ever, that your child attends school every day. We accept that occasionally your child will be unwell and unable to attend school, however, your child's attendance should be 95% or above by the end of the academic year. Each week, I will be monitoring the attendance of the whole school and particularly those children whose attendance could fall below the 95% threshold. This will be to support you in increasing their attendance to ensure your child has the best opportunities to succeed in their learning.

Punctuality

A component of attendance is the children's punctuality. I have been impressed with the promptness of the children and their eagerness to start the school day. From Monday, the classroom doors will be open from 8:40am – 8:50am with the gates being locked **from 8:50am**. This is to ensure that teaching can begin to maximise their learning time. Please ensure that your child is at the classroom door ready for 8:40am. Any children arriving after 8:50am will need to go via the school office and be marked as late.

Reading

At Holne Chase, we want to instil a love of reading into our children, which we can only achieve with your help! Earlier this week, I sent out an email with a link to a parent reading survey. If you have not done so, please complete this as it is key to enabling us to provide the relevant support to families with reading at home. To help you, we have purchased a brilliant new reading scheme of books to be taken home from Early Years to Year 6. Staff are currently assessing the children's reading to determine the correct level of book and they will be sent home in the next couple of weeks.

Encouragingly, over 75% of parents would like to attend a reading workshop! Therefore, when the reading books are ready to be sent home, I will be leading reading workshops to support you on how to use the reading scheme, the expectations of home reading and resources that can be used to help your child's progress. Please keep an eye out for those dates.

Breaktime Snacks

As a school, it is important that we promote healthy eating and the benefits it has to their growth, brain development and the positive impacts on their learning. From Monday, children will only be allowed to bring fruit or vegetables to eat for their breaktime snack. Please ensure that a healthy snack is provided for your child to eat at breaktime; Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 have a healthy snack provided for them as part of the Government scheme. Treats such as crisps, chocolates etc. can be had during their lunch as part of their balanced meal if they have packed lunch. We would appreciate your support with this as we promote healthy living to the children.

And finally...

Yesterday evening, we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Although we knew this day would come, I know it has still been a huge shock to the school community. In class today, the teachers have spoken to the children about her death and provided them with the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. If you need any advice on how to speak to your children about her passing or any support you might need with dealing with grief, please do contact us. On behalf of everyone at Preston Hedges Trust, we extend our condolences to the Royal Family for their personal loss.



Again, thank you for a great start to the new academic year. I know there will be some challenges throughout the year but I can promise you there will be far more positives! Remember, if at any time you have any questions or queries, please do contact me via the school office and I will always be happy to help.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to see you all on Monday.

Mr Killick
Principal

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