

Newsletter 1 – Friday 5th September 2025

Welcome back!

Welcome back to a new academic year at Holly Hill. We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break.

The children have settled into their new classes and new routines beautifully and already, the learning environment is feeling calm, focused and happy. We have welcomed lots of fabulous new additions to school this week including our gorgeous new FS1, FS2 and Year 3 children, as well as many families who are new to the area. We hope that you all very quickly feel part of our lovely school community and that you have been made to feel very welcome.

I write a weekly newsletter every Friday, post it on the website in the 'Newsletters' section and also send the link to parents via text. It includes celebrations of the week as well as important reminders and dates so please ensure you keep up to date by having a scan through it each week.

Annual diary dates will be sent out to parents by the end of next week. This will give you all of the key dates for the year ahead (such as sports day and Christmas shows) so that you can get them into your diary.

Lots of new staff too!

We have also welcomed four new members of staff to school this year.

Mrs. Seery and Mrs. Garland are our new office team. They have had an amazing first week and have got a good handle on how to keep us all organised and running efficiently.

Miss Carter and Miss Self have joined our Upper Key Stage 2 team teaching in Year 5 and Year 5/6. Again, two fabulous new additions who feel like part of our Holly Hill family already.

I know that the whole community will make them all feel very welcome – they have already realised what a special place this is to work!

A bit about me

For those of you who don't know me, a little introduction. I'm Leanne Steed, I've been the Headteacher here for nearly 8 years and the Deputy Head here before that for 4 years. This is an area and community that I know very well and feel very proud and privileged to be a part of. I live in Derbyshire so my own children have had the longest summer break of all time! I have a son who is 11 and a daughter who is 6. I was a little late in this morning as it was my son's first day at secondary school and I just wanted to make sure he got off ok – the top button of the shirt and the stiffness of the blazer were causing more stress than necessary!

I honestly can't believe how fast his primary years have flown by – such a special and precious time. At Holly Hill, we all understand this and share a love and passion for primary education. Our aim is to ensure that your children feel happy and safe here every single day and that we make lots of special memories to be treasured for years to come along the way. We want your child's "Holly Hill" years to be the absolute best and I have the most wonderful team here who work hard to ensure we achieve our vision.

Our website – class pages

Each class has its own page on the school website where teachers will post what the children have been up to in class. You will also find the knowledge organiser for each half term on this page so you can see which subjects and topics your child is learning about. We will be developing the class pages over the next

week or so and adding all of the important information you will need for the year ahead. Class pages can be found here:

<https://www.hollyhillschool.co.uk/class-pages/>

Uniform reminders

The majority of children are looking super smart and ready to learn in their uniforms. Thank you to parents for your hard work over the summer to get them all kitted out. Some children have slight variations to our policy and we have been reminding them of our high expectations in the early days so that we can get it right for the rest of the year.

While the weather is still quite changeable, jumpers and cardigans get taken on and off all day. Please make sure your child's name is written clearly on the label so that we can get them back to the right children. Please also make sure that they have a coat in school every day – the rain has been quite a challenge this week!

We have a number of girls returning to school with false nails. These are not permitted in our uniform policy as they can be a Health and Safety hazard not only to the girls wearing them but also the children around them e.g. during PE. Please ensure that any false nails are removed at the earliest convenience. Thank you.

Classroom drop ins – Thursday 11th September, 3.30pm

On Thursday 11th September, from 3.30 – 4.00pm, parents are invited to an informal visit to your child's classroom. This is an opportunity to put a face to the name of your child's teacher or TA, say 'hi' and have a look at their classroom environment. It's very informal (definitely not parents evening), just an opportunity to ensure that you all feel comfortable in school, confident in the day to day life at Holly Hill and have had a chance to meet your child's teacher ready for the year ahead. We look forward to seeing you if you are able to call in.

School photographs – Tuesday 16th September

On Tuesday 16th September our school photographer will be in school to capture the children and their siblings looking fabulous at the start of the year. We will organise individual and sibling photographs during the school day.

If you wish to have a family photograph taken with siblings **who do not attend our school**, please go to the Infant hall from 7.30am on Monday morning to get the photograph taken.

The week ahead...

- Thursday 11th September, 3.30 – 4.00pm – Classroom drop ins
- Tuesday 16th September – Individual and sibling school photographs

We are very much looking forward to a great academic year ahead and will work in partnership with you to ensure that your children are happy, safe and thriving at Holly Hill.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Leanne Steed

Headteacher

