

School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

And just like that...we are back! New year, new hopes and new adventures. A huge welcome to all of our returning Holbeton families and the new families joining us too. There's something so exciting about being on the precipice of a new school year and it has been wonderful to see lots of smiling faces, full of hope for the year ahead. I've enjoyed spending time with the children this week and the Holbeton magic has certainly captured me.

In our first whole school assembly, we talked about our motto 'Small but Mighty - Mighty Oaks from Tiny Acorns Grow'. We discussed what this means to the children. They talked about how, despite being a physically small school, we are mighty in the sport tournaments we win. Other children commented that it means 'we are small people, but we are strong'. It was lovely to unpick these with the children and what it means to them. I introduced them to our new acorn mascot and challenged them to think of a name! Meet Oakley everyone.



Over the last few days, I've enjoyed chatting to some of you at the school gate, but I hope to meet many more of you in the coming weeks. Please do approach me, I'm looking forward to working in partnership with you to get the very best for the wonderful children we have here at Holbeton – small but mighty!

Classroom News

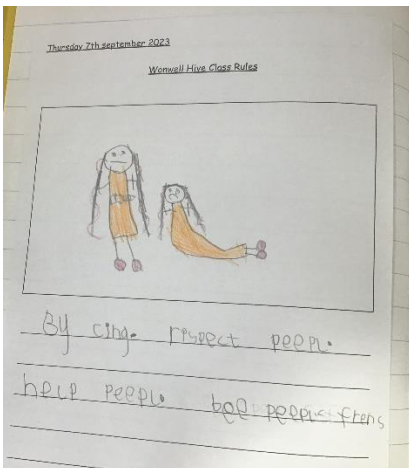
Nursery and Reception

What a wonderful start to the school year! It was fantastic to see our Foundation children full of smiles and confidence, ready to start their learning journey. Whilst the children were excited and ready to go, we recognise what a big step it feels for the parents. They received a treat bag to enjoy whilst the children were at school. We were also joined by some new pre-school children, who have enjoyed exploring the new space and getting to know us all. Amongst other things, this week we have explored the new trim trail, played with the parachute, used playdough, balanced on the planks outside and used the whiteboard to draw pictures. We are looking forward to our new adventures together!



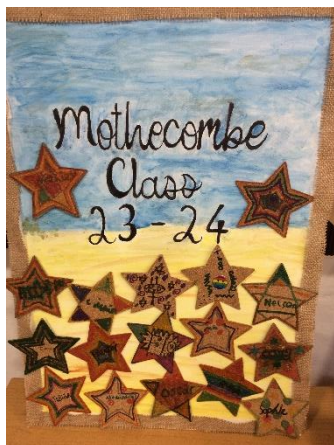
Year 1 and Year 2

Wonwell class have had a brilliant week with lots of excitement and fun things to do. The children have made honey biscuits for Winnie the Pooh, decided our class 'hive' rules and we even did some drama to act out our rules. We've had lots of time to explore our new classroom and really enjoyed hearing about everyone's summer holiday.



Year 3 and Year 4

What an exciting start to the Autumn term in Mothecombe Class. The children arrived back with a buzz of excitement and plenty of stories to share with everyone of their summer adventures. This first week has been spent getting to know each other and exploring our new classroom. The children have worked together in teams and learnt about how our brain's create new pathways of learning every day. We have also spent time creating a new class display to remind us every day that we are a team and we can achieve great things together by supporting each other and helping each other to grow. 'GO TEAM MOTHECOMBE'



Year 5 and Year 6

Welcome back Bigbury children. It's been great to hear about your holidays and everything you've done over the summer. This week we started our new class book 'Wonder' and we completed some artwork to show how we are all unique and 'wonderous'! We've made the most of the glorious weather and recapped our knowledge of place value outside using natural resources.



Lost Property

Please can all school uniform, lunchboxes and outdoor clothing be clearly labelled with your child's name. We currently have a mountain of lost property which will be on the playground tables at the end of day on Tuesday. If any of the items belong to you, please take them. Any uniform not claimed will be stored for a short time and then donated – thank you!



Children's Lunch Menu

Change:

South West Norse have reluctantly increased the cost of a school meal to £2.53 with immediate effect. Also Flap jack will be available from next Wednesday, the cost until half term is £1.80. Money for flapjacks can be dropped off at the school office (named please).



Scan here to see the latest
Norse lunch menu

After School Club – The Holt

We currently have a position available for an After School Club playworker and would love to welcome someone new to the team, to work alongside the current team, and enable this provision to be sustainable. It would really support school if all bookings for Before and After School Club were made with as much notice as possible. Due to reduced staffing and the need to maintain safe ratios, we may not be able to accommodate your booking on the day.



Diary Dates

Autumn Term 1

Week beginning 11 th September	Class Parent Overviews will be on the children's class pages on the website. This will provide you with an overview of your child's learning for this half term.
Friday 15 th September	Whole School celebration assemblies start. You will be notified and invited to join us (on the Wednesday) if your child is receiving a certificate in assembly that week.
Friday 15 th September	Stoke Class attending Farm School
Week beginning 18 th September	After School Clubs Start
Wednesday 20 th – Friday 22 nd	Residential at Beam House for KS2 children who have booked.
Friday 29 th September	Mothecombe Class attending Farm School
Monday 9 th October	Year 6 Junior Life Skills at Ivybridge Community College (morning only)
Monday 9 th October Wednesday 11 th October	Parent Consultation Evenings – online booking system will be available, and you will be notified when this is 'live'.
Tuesday 17 th October	Wonwell Class attending Farm School
Thursday 19 th October	Harvest celebration at the church. Date/Timings will be confirmed soon.

FOREST SCHOOL TIMETABLE



Nursery

Forest school will take place every **Friday** morning for Stoke class children.



Year 1, 2 and 3

Tuesday 19/9/23
Tuesday 3/10/23



Year 4, 5 and 6

Wednesday 13/9/23
Tuesday 26/9/23
Tuesday 10/10/23



Clothing

Children will need to wear their Forest School clothes to school with an additional pair of shoes in a bag to wear afterwards eg trainers. They will also need:

- long sleeve top
- long trousers
- wellington boots or sturdy walking shoes
- waterproofs (suncream and hat if nice weather and gloves if cold)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE
16+
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday