



# Holbrook C of E Primary School

## *Together we Learn*

### Upcoming dates

05.02.23 - Child's Mental Health Week

06.02.23 – Safer Internet Day

13.2 and 15.2 - Parents consultation evenings

16.02.23 – Last day of the half term

26.02.23 – First day of Spring Term 2

26.02.23 – LGBTQ+ History week

29.02.23 – School disco

*A full lists of dates for the year can be found on the school website*

### Message from the Mrs Taylor:

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back for the new year in school and although Christmas seems a long time ago now, I hope everyone had a good break. We have lots going on again this term with a disco, first aid sessions, and a focus on well-being with child mental health week to name but a few events!

**Vacancies:** A reminder of our vacancies for playworker, cleaner and midday supervisor. If you know anyone who may be interested to this role, please point them to the Derbyshire County council vacancies page where they can find details, or give school a call.

**Staff shout outs:** January can be a long month, and we still seem to be plagued by coughs and colds. I would really appreciate you taking a minute to make someone's day by giving a shout out to any members of staff who you would like to show some appreciation to. I do get lovely feedback from parents about staff so this is your chance to tell them directly and give a little boost for our staff-well-being. The very short form is here:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrb3cv\\_YPOJWZfpGtzGyEzVZFeMkmo77jgW4rmaaX7eV6xKA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrb3cv_YPOJWZfpGtzGyEzVZFeMkmo77jgW4rmaaX7eV6xKA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Attendance:** I was pleased to see that school attendance last term was higher than the previous year, autumn term 2022, despite all our illness. Thank you for supporting us by helping your child to attend regularly. 95.9% is above the national average, but still well below our pre-covid levels, which matches the national picture. We are keen to continue to build on this, so please do speak to us if you are having any problems with your child's attendance. We can support with any anxiety issues around school or anything else, or with issues such as tricky mornings or refusals. We have seen it all so please just let us know if you are having difficulty with attendance and punctuality, we are happy to offer support.

### This term's value:

This term we are looking at building our resilience. Our bible verse to support this is Proverbs 4:26

*'Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.'*

Our bible story to support our value is the story of Joseph and his special coat.

Our collective worship piece is 'O Haupt Voll Blut Und Wunden' by Bach.

You can hear this piece by following the link: [Bach - BWV 244 - Choral: O Haupt Voll Blut Und Wunden - YouTube](#)



**Safeguarding:** We have a handful of children who have been coming to school with smart watches. These represent a safeguarding risk if they have the ability to record or take pictures, so to make sure we are keeping everyone safe, please can I ask that these are left at home.

**Phonics Success:** We received a letter this week, which I have attached, from the Minister for Schools, congratulating Holbrook on our outstanding achievement in the 2023 Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. Our results last year placed us in the top 5% of schools nationally and this is thanks to our skilled staff and rigorous approach to reading. I am very proud of everyone!

**First Aid:** Years 5 and 6 attended a first aid course this week with the British Red Cross. They really enjoyed learning about CPR, so do ask them what they have been up to. Learning basic first aid is one of our enrichment commitments for the children of Holbrook School, and in the summer term our reception children also complete a 'mini-first aid' session.



### Sporting success:

Well done to the children who represented school in a Boccia tournament at Alfreton Leisure Centre. Ben and Arthur managed to come second place out of all the schools, despite having one less team member than others. Well done everyone!



**Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP**  
Minister for Schools

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Mrs Ingrid Taylor  
Holbrook Church of England Primary School  
Derbyshire  
Moorside Lane  
Belper  
DE56 0TW

08 January 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mr. Taylor'.

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 95 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at Holbrook Church of England Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 5 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Damian Hinds'.

**Damian Hinds**  
Minister for Schools