

News from the Early Years- September -October 2023

Hi Parent/Carers and friends we hope you are all well. The Reception class is now nearly full and our nursery friends have started to visit and spend longer periods of time. This year has been a great start, the children have settled quickly. Thank you all for your continued support and an extended welcome to Holmleigh Primary School.

We are excited about this year and the wonderful knowledge and skills your child will be learning at Holmleigh. We are a nurturing team who are always willing to help. If you have any concerns or questions remember to refer to your class handbook. You can also either arrange to meet the class teacher or email the Early Year Lead: Angie Manderson via email at: nursery@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk

Nursery Class start and finish Times

Session	Gate opening times
Morning nursery session	9.00am the gate will be opened
End of morning session	11.55 am the gate will be opened
Nursery finish at 3.25	3.20pm the gate will be opened

Reception Class start and finish Times

Reception	9am-3.30pm
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Spare clothes and additional layers of clothing

Every child will have a numbered peg bag which can be used to store their spare clothes. **Please note the peg bag will remain at school and will not be sent home.**

All clothes must be clearly labelled and easily managed by your child. We recommend **loose tops, elasticated waist trousers, velcro shoes, socks** instead of tights. Send spare clothes in a plastic bag **and include spare plastic bags for wet clothes.** Check this bag regularly to ensure the clothes are suitable for the changing weather and growth spurts.



Every child in the early years must now have a pair of wellington boots with their name written on it.

Healthy Lunches

Most children in the Early Years are enjoying a healthy school meal or packed lunch, however there are still a few packed lunches which are not following the healthy eating guidelines. Please check the poster which was sent home in the Heath Pack which contains further suggestions for a healthy packed lunch. There are a few children in the Early Years with allergies. As a school we do not allow any nut containing foods in school. Please make sure packed lunches are free from nuts, unfortunately this does include the well-loved peanut butter spread.

Personal Development

- Throughout the year all the children in the Early Years will be encouraged to do the following:
- Maintain and establish healthy tooth brushing
- Make healthy food choices
- Go to bed at a sensible time to establish healthy sleep routines
- Exercise every day!
- To drink water throughout the day and understand the importance of doing this.

A Quality Curriculum

In the Early Years we use observations of children's interests, developmental next steps and mini-projects to further develop skills and knowledge in the early years. We collect significant learning for each child which is placed into a Memory Book. Please collect the suggested things below at home with your child and give them to a member of the Nursery or Reception class. We will be sending you further information about Memory Book contributions at a later date.

Class	Mini-Project	Things for parent/carers to collect from home for the half term. Only 2 photographs maximum
Reception	Out and About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photographs in the community; Morrison's, parks, post-office• Objects collected from walks; pinecones, acorns, conkers etc• Photograph of your child when they were a baby
Reception	Out and About Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photograph of own family• Photos of any members of children's family when they were young and present picture for comparisons (these pictures can be sent in as a hard copy or by email at: reception@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk)• Photograph of your child using a phone, ipad, electrical device
Nursery	I Spy with my Little Eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photograph of your child out in the community- what do they see?• Photograph of your child's family and special people in their lives
Nursery	I Spy with my Little Eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photographs of dark places in the community/home/evening pictures• Photograph of your child using a hole puncher/scissors/garlic press/colanders.• Photographs of special family events

Festival, Celebrations and British Values

British Values is a government initiative to teach students the **values of Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance.**

In the Early Years we will be continuing to develop an awareness of festivals and celebrations including Black History throughout the year, please see the box below.

Event	Date	Parent support at home
Weekly visits to Stamford Hill Library	Commencing:	Make sure you are a member of the local library. Continue to share books at home about sleep routines and bedtimes, healthy eating and exercise.
Black History Month assembly	Thursday 12 th October-	Letter to follow
The Early Reading Experience at Holmleigh	Monday 16 th October	Parent/Carer workshop- 3.40-4.15pm in the Nursery class.
Friends of Holmleigh Movie Night!	Thursday 19 th October 2023	Letter to follow
INSET DAY	Friday 20 th October 2023	Please note (SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS)
HALF TERM Monday 23rd October-Friday 27th October 2023		
Return to school Monday 30th October		

Name Writing

This term there will be a lot of emphasis upon name writing. Please support your child at home to practice writing letter shapes and some of the letters in their name.

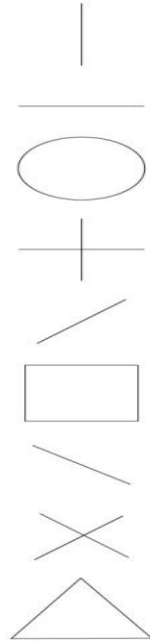
Name writing is one of the ultimate comparisons between children around ages 4 and 5: who is writing their name yet, and who isn't? Is there something wrong if a child isn't writing their name before reception class? What if they don't even want to try??

Even in a world where technology is king, we still tend to push children into writing very early. So early, in fact, that they might not be developmentally ready for the task. Some children are able to write their names at age 4 or before, but some typically developing children still aren't ready until well into age 5! So before you panic about getting those letters on a page, let's understand more about name writing.

What can I do to support my child with name writing?

Upper case letters are easier to learn than lower case letters. (Weil & Cunningham (1994) confirmed this in their review of the available literature.) However, at Holmleigh we strongly believe in the teaching of an **uppercase letter** for the **first letter only** in your child's name.

When is a child ready to write? There has been a lot of discussion, and even some controversy about when a child is truly ready to write. At Holmleigh we provide opportunities so children are supported to understand and be able to create the underlying shapes that make up letters. See diagram below



TheAnonymousOT.com .

At Holmleigh we advise the following:

1. Practice the above pre-writing shapes with your child using different writing tools and surfaces.
2. Teach the first letter only written as an uppercase letter (capital) in your child's name. Write all the letters in your child's name as an outline for them to follow with their finger. Print out your child's name and display it all over the house.
3. Provide opportunities for lots of activities (see suggestions sent last week) to develop fine and gross motor skills. Chalk on the ground it great!
4. Let your child trace over highlighted large letters from their name. Choose a highlighter colour which is lighter than the marker as they need to see their attempt at writing their name.
5. Use a whiteboard so they can practice and rub out!
6. Explore different surfaces and only introduce lined paper when your child is writing sentences on their own. Presenting lined paper too early can also be a confusing experience for new writers.
7. Encouraging children to learn their name in a variety of mediums, without the constraints of lined paper, may encourage practice without frustration. This is where all that fun practice in paint, shaving cream, or play-dough can really come in handy.

What happens when children are pushed to write too early?

Putting pencils into little hands before they are ready may lead to immature and inefficient pencil grasps. Instead, engage your child in age-appropriate activities to help develop the upper body, shoulder, arm and wrist muscles. Activities such as jumping, crawling, scribbling on vertical blackboards, and shoveling sand with a spade, playing with play-dough and doing arts and crafts are all great motor activities to lay the foundations for a good pencil grasp.