



Settling in at Holmleigh Primary
School in the
RECEPTION CLASS

A PLACE WHERE...

'Teamwork makes the Dream work'

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Welcome to Holmleigh!

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the Holmleigh Primary School Early Years family—and to our new school site! This booklet includes photographs of our amazing early years team. We are a vibrant, multicultural, and nurturing school, with a dedicated team of staff who work in close partnership with children, their families, and the wider community. Our aim is to ensure that every child feels happy, secure, healthy, and valued, while developing into a successful learner who experiences success every day.

At Holmleigh, we are committed to providing high-quality care and education in an inclusive, supportive, and stimulating environment. We encourage children's natural curiosity through play and exploration, support their personal, social, and emotional development, and promote critical thinking through creative and mathematical problem-solving experiences.

Our approach is firmly rooted in nurture and co-regulation, helping children build resilience and confidence. We equip them with the skills and mindset needed to become lifelong learners who make a positive contribution to society.

We look forward to an exciting journey ahead with you and your child.

Warm regards,
The Early Years Team
Holmleigh Primary School

Key Person Approach

Positive Relationships

'Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships'

Our Key Person Approach at Holmleigh

At Holmleigh, we follow the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and operate a flexible key person approach to ensure every child feels secure, supported, and valued.

Each child is assigned a key person who plays a vital role in helping them settle, feel safe, and build positive relationships. Your child's key person will also work closely with you to develop strong partnerships between home and school. They are part of a dedicated team that carefully plans experiences tailored to meet each child's unique learning and developmental needs.

As a small and nurturing school, we encourage parents and carers to speak with any member of the Early Years team if they have questions or need support and not just their child's designated key person. We're here to work together to ensure the very best for your child.



School Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

<i>Inset Day (School closed)</i>	<i>Monday 1st September</i>
<i>Inset Day School closed)</i>	<i>Tuesday 2nd September</i>
<i>Inset Day (School closed)</i>	<i>Wednesday 3rd September</i>
Starts (open for children)	Thursday 4th September (Years 1-6)
Last day	Friday 24 th October
Half term	Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October
Open for children	Monday 3 rd November
Ends - Christmas Holiday	Friday 19 th December @1.35pm

Spring Term 2026

<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Monday 5th January</i>
Starts (open for children)	Tuesday 6th January
Last day	Friday 13 th February
Half term	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February
Open for Children	Monday 23 rd February
Ends – Easter Holiday	Friday 27 th March @ 1.35pm- Friday 10 th April

Summer Term 2026

Starts (open for children)	Monday 13th April
Bank holiday (School closed)	Monday 4 th May
Last day	Friday 22nd May
Half term	Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May
Open for children	Monday 1 st June
Ends – Summer Holiday	Monday 20th July @1.35
<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 21st July</i>

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

Nursery and Reception classes will have a staggered return in September 2025. Please refer to settling in booklet for more information.

Throughout the year, Nursery will open and close at different times to the rest of the school. Please check with the Nursery team for confirmation of the dates and times.

Nursery ends for Summer Term on: Tuesday 14th July 2026

From Monday 13th July to Friday 17th July 2026, we will be closed for home visits and admin tasks.

All about Settling into Holmleigh Reception class

Start Dates and Times (Reception class only)

After observing our successful settling in process at Holmleigh, we are proud to say it works and the majority of our children settle quickly into our school. We take into account the wider issues in society and amend accordingly. This year we will continue to welcome all children and families who are new to Holmleigh first. These groups will be closely followed by children who attended Holmleigh Nursery, please see the chart below for the start dates.

Extended Settling-In Period – Reception Class

At Holmleigh, we believe that the settling-in process should never be rushed. Transitioning into Reception is a significant step, and we aim to handle it with care, sensitivity, and a personalised approach for each child.

We recognise that some children may have previously attended nursery full-time. While we acknowledge this experience, our priority is to ensure a smooth and positive transition into our school environment.

To support this, we implement a short initial transition period of **two days**. This allows your child time to adjust gradually, become familiar with their new surroundings, and begin building relationships with staff and peers.

If your child requires more time to settle, we will work closely with you to implement a **staggered approach** tailored to their individual needs. Our goal is to help every child feel secure, confident, and happy as they begin their journey in Reception.

Waiting to collect your child

Please be patient with us as the end of the day is a very busy time and many children from the Reception class are trying to collect their things and listen to new information. We need parent/carers to adhere to the following:

- Be on time.
- Stand back and wait for your child to come to you.
- Do not shout out to the practitioners, we will dismiss children as we see parent/carers.
- Do not push to the front always consider others who have been waiting before you.

- If you need to see the teacher, please wait until all the children have been safely dismissed before approaching them.
- If your child forgets something send your child in by themselves to collect whatever they have forgotten.

Preparing Your Child and Supporting Their Learning

Starting Reception is a significant milestone for both children and their families. It can be an emotional time, filled with excitement but also some understandable nerves especially as it marks the beginning of formal education.

At Holmleigh, we aim to make this transition as smooth and positive as possible. Our **settling-in process** is carefully planned to give children the time they need to adjust and to build trusting relationships with staff. This process begins well in advance through **home visits, Open day and Meet and Greet session**, all designed to help children and families feel welcome and comfortable.

We understand that some parents and carers may find it difficult to leave their child, particularly if the child is visibly upset. In these situations, we provide reassurance and support. We encourage parents to leave confidently, knowing that a member of our team will be there to comfort and support your child. You will only be contacted if your child continues to struggle to settle after the initial separation.

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare

Our experience shows that the following tips can help support a positive transition:

- **Stay positive.** Try not to show your own worries or anxieties to your child.
- **Talk together.** Discuss what school might be like and what they could learn.
- **Encourage independence.** Help your child practise managing their coat and belongings, feeding themselves, and using the toilet independently.
- **Model curiosity.** Show how to ask questions, so your child feels confident doing the same.
- **Get involved.** Attend school events like the Summer Fair to help familiarise both you and your child with the school environment.

- **Encourage creativity.** Provide materials at home for drawing or mark-making. These can be brought into school to help your child feel connected.
- **Have meaningful conversations.** Talk with your child regularly, listen to them, and offer a variety of experiences.
- **Visit the library.** Share and enjoy books together at home to develop early language and literacy skills.
- **Explore practical learning.** Activities like cooking can introduce important early maths concepts such as counting, measuring, and following steps.

With your support and our partnership, we can ensure that your child has a confident and happy start to their school journey.

Mental Health and Wellbeing at Holmleigh Primary School

At Holmleigh Primary School, we understand that **wellbeing** encompasses every aspect of a person's health including **physical, emotional, and mental** wellbeing. We are committed to promoting **positive mental health** and wellbeing across our entire school community, recognising that mental health is just as vital as physical health. When mental wellbeing is strong, we feel balanced, resilient, and capable of managing life's daily challenges. We are more engaged, motivated, and able to bounce back from setbacks. Our aim is to create an environment where all members of our school community, pupils, staff, and families feel supported, valued, and understood.

Our Wellbeing Goals for Pupils

- Through our wellbeing provision, we aim to support children to:
- Learn and explore the world around them
- Feel, express, and manage a range of emotions
- Form and maintain healthy relationships with others
- Cope with change and uncertainty
- Build resilience and self-esteem
- Grow and thrive both in and out of the classroom

Our Whole-School Approach

We are dedicated to promoting mental health through:

- **Universal, whole-school strategies** that support the wellbeing of all pupils and staff
- **Targeted approaches** for individuals or groups identified as vulnerable or in need of additional support
- A school culture that prioritises compassion, connection, and open communication

Working Together with Parents and Carers

We recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in supporting their children's mental health. We are committed to working in partnership with families to ensure every child receives the care and support they need.

To support parents and carers, we:

- Make our **Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Policy** available on the school website
- Share **reliable sources of information and support** through our website and school communications
- Ensure all parents know **who to talk to** and how to seek help if they have concerns about their child's mental health
- Host **information sessions** with tips on how to support children's emotional wellbeing at home
- Keep parents informed about the **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum** and suggest ways to continue conversations and learning at home
- Provide **parent workshops** based on feedback and topics suggested by families

At Holmleigh, we believe that promoting mental health and wellbeing is a shared responsibility and one that helps lay the foundation for a happy, healthy, and successful future for every child.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet.

We hope it is useful!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

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