



HOLMLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL INSIGHTS

The Power of Play at Holmleigh

Mrs Molley

Deputy Headteacher

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As a school, we believe that learning does not stop the moment children step out of the classroom; in fact, some of the most vital social and emotional development happens during structured play at break and lunchtime. Play is far more than simply 'letting off steam'.

It is a fundamental part of childhood, where children learn to negotiate, solve problems and collaborate. By providing a structured approach to these intervals, we ensure that every child feels included, active and inspired to explore their own creativity.





We are incredibly fortunate to have dedicated spaces for our different age groups, with EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 enjoying their own separate playgrounds. This allows us to tailor the environment to the specific developmental needs of the children.

In the EYFS and KS1 playgrounds, the focus is often on imaginative play and developing those all-important motor skills, while our KS2 space offers more complex challenges and opportunities for team-based activities. Having these distinct areas ensures that all children have the space they need to play safely and confidently.





We also make use of our Multi-Use Games Area, where structured ball games such as football and dodgeball take place.

Of course, a great playground needs great tools, and we are committed to providing high-quality equipment that sparks engagement. Whether it is sports gear for a friendly football match, skipping ropes for rhythmic play, or loose parts that encourage building and invention, the variety available ensures there is something for everyone. This diversity is key to maintaining a positive atmosphere where every child can find an activity that resonates with them.





None of this would be possible without the incredible support of the Friends of Holmleigh. Their tireless fundraising efforts have been instrumental in the planning and ongoing development of our outdoor spaces.

Thanks to their funding, we are in the early stages of being able to invest in the specialised equipment and resources that will make our playgrounds vibrant places to be. Their contribution has directly enhanced the daily lives of our pupils, turning break times into a rich extension of the school day.





Ultimately, by prioritising structured play, we are nurturing well-rounded individuals.

When children return to their desks after a high-quality break, they are not just physically refreshed, they are socially energised and ready to learn.

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