



NEWSLETTER



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The children and staff of Holsworthy C of E Primary School came together this morning in collective worship to pray and remember the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Pupils reflected on how they will remember the Queen and what they will learn from her. All agreed that Queen Elizabeth was loved and respected for her dignified, humble and selfless life of service. We will take guidance from the government over the next few days regarding arrangements and we will update parents as we know more. Rest in peace, Queen Elizabeth II.

Update to Behaviour Policy

In our school, we are regularly reviewing and updating our approach and provision. We like to base our approaches on research, to try and ensure any changes we make result in a positive impact. Most recently, we have been reflecting on our behaviour policy and we have considered the research/work of behaviour consultant, Paul Dix. I believe the behaviour in our school is good but I think we should always be looking to improve and I don't want us to rest on our laurels. So, we have decided to review and update our school's Behaviour Policy in line with some of Paul Dix's research.

The new policy is awaiting approval by governors at the next meeting but the first thing to note is the change of name, as the new policy will be our 'Relationships Policy.' This is to emphasise the importance we place on developing really positive relationships with our pupils based on mutual respect. We are also seeking to simplify and adapt our policy to provide consistency and the best possible support for the children with their behaviour. I have outlined some key elements to our approach below:

- Our school rules (have been simplified):
 - o Be ready
 - o Be respectful
 - o Be safe
- Visible consistencies:
 - o Teachers meet and greet pupils each morning.
 - o Adults persistently catch pupils doing the right thing whilst also always addressing inappropriate behaviour.
 - o Children's positive behaviours are celebrated in a range of ways including 'Recognition Boards' in all classrooms.
 - o Pupils are praised in public and reminded about inappropriate behaviour as privately as possible – we are not seeking to humiliate!
 - o Staff use consistent language when addressing inappropriate behaviour and when holding restorative conversations with pupils.
 - o Consequences have a restorative ending: reminder, caution, last chance, time out and repair.

How can parents/Carers help?

- Informing the school of any circumstances which may affect their child emotionally.
- Ensuring the children wear the school uniform.
- Ensuring children arrive at school punctually.
- Being respectful when on the school site.
- Reminding children of the importance of their behaviour and the school rules (ready, respectful, safe).

WELCOME BACK!

It has been lovely to welcome back children and families this week, after what I hope has been a good summer break for everyone. A particularly warm welcome to any families, who are new to the school. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have regarding the provision we offer. Walking around the school and talking to the children, it feels like everyone is settling back into school routines really well.

As you may be aware, some new staff have joined the team this academic year. A warm welcome to our new teachers: Vicky Blake and Felicity Paddon and also our new Deputy Headteacher, Amy Frost. Ms Frost will not be class based, enabling her to spend more time on the development of teaching and learning across the school, through the coaching and mentoring of colleagues.

School Uniform

Many thanks to all the parents who have been ensuring their children have the appropriate uniform for school (see website if unsure or contact the school office). Please can I highly recommend labelling items / writing your child's names on labels as this can save a lot of disappointment and frustration further down the line.

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, NEW START

Let's Have Best Attendance Ever!

After several years of frustration, this is the year we get attendance back on track! Prior to the pandemic, the national attendance for pupils in primary schools was around 96%. Historically, we have found this figure a challenging target but this is the year we beat it!! I was so grateful to parents for supporting our attendance drive in the Summer Term (following lots of Covid absence in the Autumn/Spring) when we brought persistent absence down from around 30% to 20% in just one term. National levels for persistent absence were around 9% prior to the pandemic, so we can better this figure this year! I will continue to send out an attendance bulletin each week and I urge all parents/carers to ensure their children are only absent due to genuine illness or exceptional circumstances. If you anticipate any challenges in relation to attendance then please contact the school and we will see how we can help. Please can I also remind parents to always contact the school in relation to absence. If we are unable to speak with you, we may be required to visit your home or contact the police to ensure that you and your children are safe.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGETS 2022/23

Whole School Attendance – 96.5% or above

**Whole School Persistent Absence – Below 7.5%
(less than 90% attendance)**

Holsworthy C of E Primary Remembers Fr Christopher Penn & Fr Michael Reynolds

We have received news of the passing of Father Chris Penn and Father Michael Reynolds. Both served our school as governors and as parish priests for St Peter and Paul's in years gone by. Colleagues in the school talk of the very active role they played in both school and community life. They will be fondly remembered.

Nursery is now full

We have received an unprecedented level of uptake for Nursery places this year which means we are now full for the academic year. If you require a place for your child this year then please contact the school and we can place you on a waiting list. In light of this surge in demand, we strongly advise contacting the school if you have a child requiring a place from September 2023.

Parking Reminder

Keep Our Children and Families Safe

You will all be aware that parking is a challenge for our school community and I certainly acknowledge this. However, parents who are required to drive their children to school are eligible (based on distance from the school) for a parking pass for the car park by the leisure centre. Please contact the school office if you believe you are eligible. If you have a pass that you no longer use than please return this to the school office.

For parents who live close to the school, we really urge you to walk in with your children for both health and safety reasons.

For parents wishing to drive but not eligible for a parking pass because they live too close to the school then please ensure you prioritise safety of our children when parking on the road outside the school:

- Do not park on the pavement.
- Do not use the driveway to the Children's Centre / Early Years – there will be many children and families coming out the bottom gate.
- Do not use the staff car park – If staff have to wait to begin supporting the children, this jeopardises the children's safety.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS MATTER