



Year 7



EXCELLENCE EQUITY ENGAGEMENT ENTERPRISE

letter

Dear Parent/Carer

We've been really impressed with the start our new Year 7 pupils have made at Hollingworth. They have quickly and successfully made the transition from being the oldest children in a small school to the youngest children in a very busy, large secondary school.

This newsletter has been created to give you an update on life at Hollingworth. I hope you find it useful.

As always, if you have any queries about school life or concerns about your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Darren Randle
Headteacher



Reading

At Hollingworth, we are determined that every child achieves their full potential. Studies have proven that children who read for pleasure are not only more emotionally intelligent and are able to relate to their peers more effectively, but are also likely to do significantly better at school than those who do not read. In order to support this, we require that your child brings a book to school with them as part of their basic equipment.

To support this, we have a well-stocked library that is open from 8.05am each day until 4.00pm where they may borrow books, and there is also a local library in Milnrow. In addition, through an initiative run by Booktrust, your child has selected a book from a book list which will be arriving in the school shortly. You can help your child to engage with reading by trying some of the following things:

- Ensure your child reads for at least 80 minutes a week – that is under twelve minutes a day.
- Discuss books and newspaper articles with your child.
- Sharing stories with your child – listening to them read, and then asking them to listen to you.
- Using electronic devices to play audio books – in the car, on-line – anywhere!

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

ibiddle-mogg@hollingworthacademy.co.uk

Parking

Our most important job as a school is to ensure our pupils are safe. In recent years we have become increasingly concerned about the welfare of our children at the end of the school day due to the potentially dangerous parking outside, particularly parents parking on double yellow lines. Although we have members of staff outside at the end of the day, we have approximately 1,250 pupils exiting the building. Many are crossing the road in between illegally parked cars. We do not want any of our children to be put in harm's way. Therefore, can we ask parents to arrange to park their cars further away from the school grounds and ask your child to walk to you. Again, this helps to develop their independence too.

Homework

We understand that sometimes the transition to secondary school can be a difficult one for some of our Year 7 pupils. The amount of homework pupils receive can test their organisational skills and that is why we encourage pupils to record all homework in their planners. We also explain that the most important point is the day homework is due in, not the day it is received, e.g. a piece of homework received on a Monday which has a week's deadline does not need to be completed straight away but can be balanced out so that more urgent homeworks are completed first. This does help pupils to become more independent and develop their planning skills. However, we are also aware that some pupils can spend too much time, expecting perfection for every piece of work. We do want them to have a life outside of school and, therefore, in Year 7 each piece should take approximately 30 minutes; if your child is doing significantly more than this, please encourage them to move onto other homeworks. It is acceptable for parents to sign a planner explaining 30 minutes has been completed. Parents can also support their children by checking homework is written clearly in the planner. If at the beginning of the year planners could be checked every evening, it does help the children settle and relieves anxiety. Please be aware that the school also has an after school homework club every day in the LRC from 3.00 - 4.00pm.

Appointments in School

It may be necessary from time to time for you to come into school to meet with a member of staff. First thing in the morning is always an extremely busy time settling the children in and dealing with numerous queries. Therefore, staff are not often available to come to Reception. There are large numbers of children entering and leaving the building at the start and end of the day and we would ask, therefore, in the interests of pupil safety, if you could please avoid coming into Reception at those times. For this reason we do ask parents to call before they come in.

Enrichment Clubs

When the school day ends at 2.50pm there are a number of Enrichment clubs that Year 7 can get involved with. These are a great way to make new friends and be involved in a wider range of events. All of the clubs available to Year 7 are shown below, and can be viewed on our website by clicking on the 'Pupils' tab and 'After School Clubs'. Due to the wide variety of clubs on offer and the fact that pupils change their minds, we cannot always inform parents of their children's attendance. Therefore, it is the pupil's responsibility to inform parents of the clubs they are attending.

	Subject/Activity	Start/End	Time	Staff (Location)
Monday:	Badminton	12.09.16 – 17.10.16	2.50-3.50pm	Mr Maddison/Mr Carter
	Homework Club	05.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Travis (LRC)
	Music Theory	12.09.16 ongoing	3.00-4.00pm	Mr Theed (004)
	Equality Alliance Club	31.10.16 – 13.02.17	2.50-4.00pm	Mr Williamson (223)
	Vocal Group	12.09.16 ongoing	3.00-4.00pm	Mr Kay (009)
Tuesday:	Band	20.09.16 ongoing	3.00-4.00pm	Mr Nelson (009)
	British Sign Language (10 places)	13.09.16 – April 17	2.50-4.20pm	Miss Calveley (234)
	Charity Club	13.09.16 ongoing	3.00-4.00pm	Miss Edwards (221)
	Dodgeball	13.09.16 – 18.10.16	8.00-8.30am	Mr Maddison
	Fitness	13.09.16 – 18.10.16	8.00-8.30am	Mr Whelan
	Football	13.09.16 – 18.10.16	2.50-3.50pm	Mr Carter (3G MUGA)
	Homework Club	06.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Travis (LRC)
	STEM Club	27.09.16 – 23.05.17	2.50-3.50pm	Miss Beckham (027/105/123/129)
Wednesday:	Band on the Run	14.09.16 ongoing	3.00-4.00pm	Mrs Dring (009)
	Homework Club	06.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Travis (LRC)
	Reading Club	14.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Miss Southern/Miss Power (209)
	Fitness Club	14.09.16 – 19.10.16	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Warriner
	Football Training	14.09.16 – 19.10.16	2.50-3.50pm	Mr Frain/Mr Barton (3G MUGA)
	Football Training (Girls)	14.09.16 – 19.10.16	2.50-3.50pm	Mr Stretton (3G MUGA)
	IT Homework Club	14.09.16 – May 17	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Shaw (114)
	Mowtinator	07.09.16 ongoing	3.00-4.00pm	Miss O'Hare (124)
	Rugby Training	14.09.16 – 19.10.16	2.50-3.50pm	Mr Whelan
	Textiles	07.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Williams (229)
Writer's Bloc!	14.09.16 ongoing	3.00-4.00pm	Mr Kay (004/011)	
Thursday:	Badminton	15.09.16 – 20.10.16	8.00-8.30am	Mr Mannion
	Cross Country Competition	29.09/06.10/13.10.16	2.50-4.30pm	
	Homework Club	06.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Travis (LRC)
	Netball Practice	15.09.16 – 20.10.16	2.50-3.50pm	Miss Whitley/Mrs Parkinson
	Textiles	08.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Williams (229)
Friday:	Badminton	16.09.16 – 21.10.16	8.00-8.30am	Mrs Warriner
	Homework Club	06.09.16 ongoing	2.50-3.50pm	Mrs Travis (LRC)

Contacting Pupils at School

Please be aware of the school's policy regarding mobile phones. Pupils are not allowed to have them switched on from the first bell at the start of the day and should only be switched on after they have left school at the end of the day. If you need to contact your child we would appreciate your support by contacting the school (choose **Option 4** for Reception and **Option 1** for Pupil Queries) and not via your child's mobile phone. If their mobile is used during the day, it could lead to it being confiscated and your child being issued with red slip points.

Absences

If your child is unable to attend school at any point, please could you contact school by telephone in the first instance as early as possible. This avoids the anxiety of a truancy call being sent out to you. It would also be appreciated if this could be followed up with a note from home in your child's planner explaining the reason for the absence. All pupils are expected to collect any work or homework they have missed during an absence and complete it as soon as possible, as the last thing we want is anxious pupils who are behind with their work!

Routine Medical / Dental Appointments

1. Could we politely ask you to make routine medical and dental appointments for your child during school holidays or after school please. We understand that this is not always possible, but to minimise disruption to lessons we need to reduce the number of medical and dental appointments currently taking place.
2. At least 24 hours' notice should be given, in writing, to your child's Head of Year to request time out for a medical or dental appointment. This is to cover safeguarding requirements. If it cannot be avoided in taking your child out of school during school hours, please write a note in their planner which your child should take to their Head of Year first thing in the morning, or the day before if it is a morning appointment, so they can be issued with a pink slip.



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