



WELCOME TO HOLBECK CLASS!

Staff

The teaching staff in Holbeck class are Kate Coleman (teacher) and Sarah Morton (class teaching assistant). Our door is always open and we encourage you to call in to see us at any time. We would also like to canvas for any class help with reading – it doesn't have to be a consistent time or day, any time is great to give a listening ear. In the past few years it is evident that the time that parents, grandparents and carers donate to hearing readers has significantly supported the children's reading progress - more than staff alone can ever do.

Daily routine

Our gate opens at 8:45am; parents and carers are welcome in the classroom, especially at the beginning of the day to help find pegs and trays and to help children to self-register for their choice of lunch. We always do have a small activity on the carpet to take part in while we settle everyone and say goodbye to parents.

Phonics and English are taught in the mornings with fruit being offered as a mid-morning snack and maths is taught in the afternoon. It would help if you could provide your child with a labelled water bottle, which they can fill fresh every day in class. Dinner is 12-1:15. All children in Foundation are entitled to a free school meal, although if they would prefer, they can bring a packed lunch. PE will happen each week on a Wednesday afternoon, although depending on things happening in school it may vary and so leaving your child's PE kit on their peg each week would help tremendously. Please label ALL your child's belongings. Your child will be taking part in baking/cooking every Tuesday, for this we ask for a £5 a half term contribution.

Weekly homework

We firmly believe that you, as parents, are the first and most important educators of your children and feel that it is important that we support you, in order for you to support your children in learning at home as well as at school. So please get in touch if you have any questions about how to support your child or want to ask for additional resources to borrow.

We will be sending home Robot Word cards featuring common exception words (words that cannot be broken down) that your child can practice reading at home throughout the week. These will be listened to every Monday afternoon & if they get every word correct they get the next card to learn.

We like to encourage the children to read as much as possible because this is the cornerstone to successful, independent learning. One of the ways we do this is to encourage the children to swap and choose their own readings books from their allocated colour band box whenever they wish to and we encourage you to do the same in the mornings when you drop your child off. Another way is the use of our Owl Tree system. Your child has their own owl which sits at the bottom of the tree at the beginning of each week. If your child reads once and it is written in their home-school reading diaries then they can move their owl to the first branch, a second time of reading in the week will mean they can move to the second branch and so on. If they read more than three times in the week their owl will be at the top of the tree and on Friday morning they will go into a prize draw and if selected they will be able to choose a present bag to borrow for the week. If you would like any other hints and tips on encouraging your little one to read, please call by.



The final piece of homework is a bit of fun – we have a family board game library in class which the children are allowed to borrow from on Fridays. However small and unimportant this seems, the things learned from playing a family board game are very important; carefully counting the dots on the dice and moving their piece that amount of spaces, taking turns, sharing, congratulating winners and how to lose a game. Please return your game by the following Thursday and put in our Home-Learning Challenge unit ready for the children to choose another.

We are super excited to give your child the best start to their educational career. Together as a team, we will help the children become their BEST, even from day one. We look forward to working with you!

Mrs Coleman & Mrs Morton.

Dear Parent,
We understand that you are scared
to wave your child goodbye
and leave him in a teacher's hands
don't worry if you cry!

We're used to weeping parents
It's hard to leave we know.
But it's time to share him (just a bit)
To help him learn and grow.

Let us reassure you
That we'll give your child our best
We'll wipe his tears, soothe his fears
And change his dirty vest!

If your darling child is full of cold
We'll blow their nose all day
Just like you, we'll care for them
In a special way.

We'll treat him like we would our own
We'll catch him from a fall and
If there is ANY problem
We'll be sure to tell you all.

It's true he'll grow to love us
They'll talk of school a lot
It doesn't mean they hate you
And that you should lose the plot!

We'll tell you a secret...
That when your child is here
They talk to us as much of you
Of this please have no fear.

You'll always be their mummy & daddy
Whilst teachers come and go
To them you are their number one
This we truly know.

Soon you'll see some changes
In your little girl or boy
They'll become more independent
And to see this, it's a joy!

We'll teach them all we have to give
To share, climb and to write
But to you they safely will return
To tuck them in at night.

With love from your Holbeck teaching staff.

xXx