

Holt House
Infant School
and Pre-School



Newsletter September 2017

www.holthouse.sheffield.sch.uk
www.carterknowle.sheffield.sch.uk

Welcome to a new school year!

It's lovely to see everyone again at Holt House and Carterknowle and to meet our new families. If you are new to our schools we extend a warm welcome. The children are all enjoying their new classes and are already doing some great learning.

Schools Priorities

At the recent Ofsted inspection at Carterknowle, one of the strengths that the inspectors identified was the federation between Holt House and Carterknowle and the benefits it has brought. We are going to build on that strength this year and bring the two schools closer together by working on joint projects, sharing staff training and by having one calendar of events and a federation newsletter - instead of one for each school. We hope that parents who have children in both schools will find this useful, as they will only have one set of information to look at. This is our first federation newsletter and whether you have children in both schools, or one, I hope you find it interesting and helpful. The joint priorities that we have this year are:

- To help more children to achieve the expected standard in phonics and reading.
- To improve children's maths reasoning skills.
- To have excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- To build on the good practice we have, so that all teaching is consistently good or better.
- To teach British Values
- To improve our partnership with parents.

Parent Partnership

The relationship between school and home is crucial to children's success in school. This relationship is very important to us and we all want to do our best to get it right. It is one of the things that Ofsted has asked us to improve at

Carterknowle and a really good opportunity to work together as a federation to improve something together. We have commissioned a consultant from the Leading Parent Partnership Award Scheme to work with us on this project. The first step is to evaluate the current situation, so that an action plan can be written. You are warmly invited to be involved with this and to come to a parent focus group on **Tuesday 26 September 9am-10am** in the **Carterknowle studio**. Amanda Livesey, Vice Chair of Governors and parent will be there on behalf of the governors. This meeting is open to all Holt House and Carterknowle parents and carers. We look forward to seeing you there to move forward together. I will also be sending out a paper questionnaire for anyone unable to come to this meeting.

Summer Holiday Works

Thank you to Mr Hitchcock at Holt House and Mr Buchan at Carterknowle for their hard work over the holidays to get our schools ready for the new year. Both schools have had work done to their roofs and some new paintwork. At Holt House five classrooms have had new smartboards and at Carterknowle the ICT suite is being expanded so that children can have a PC each, rather than having to share.

Staff News

Welcome to Mrs Raza (Pre-School TA); Mrs Wathall (Honey bees TA); Mrs Mitchell (Butterflies teacher); Ms Rowe (Y3MB TA); Mr Cain (Y4TC teacher) and Mrs Colegate (Carterknowle Office). Congratulations to Mrs Bailey (Holt House Office), Mrs Khanom (Tigers TA) and Mrs Laybourn (Y6HL teacher) who are all having babies over the next few months. We will be advertising for cover for Mrs Khanom and Mrs Bailey. Ms Deans will be returning from maternity leave in December and taking over Mrs Laybourn's teaching duties in Y6HL. We will be welcoming back Mrs Bibi (Pre-School TA) from her maternity leave on 18 September.

Home-School Diaries

Children are being given their new home-school diaries this week. Please make sure this comes to school every day. Teachers will be writing in it about your child's reading every week and also want to know about your child's reading at home. There is a message box for parents to use on every double page. This is a really important way in which your child's teacher and you can communicate with each other about your child's learning and welfare.

You can also contact us by seeing one of the staff members on duty, attending a school event, sending an email (enquiries@holthouse.sheffield.sch.uk/enquiries@carterknowle.sheffield.sch.uk), writing a note, or telephoning.

Homework

Homework will be sent home from next week. We aim to send home straight forward tasks that support the learning the children have done in the classroom and helps children to develop good home study skills for the future. They shouldn't take too long! If your child needs help with their homework then both schools have lunchtime homework clubs once a week. The most important thing to do, however, is to make sure your child has lots of opportunities for reading and to listen to stories.

Events

All the events for both schools have been sent out and are also on our websites. There is extra information just about your child's class on their class newsletter. We are working on booking all the trips and visits and will get a schedule out to you as soon as possible. Our first federation event is 'Jeans for Genes' Day on **Friday 22 September** where, for a donation of £1 to this charity, children can wear their jeans to school.

We are running this event at the request of one of the children and are looking forward to an early dress down day!

School Uniform

Thank you for all the hard work you've put in to get your child's uniform ready for the new school year. The children look very smart. Please remember to *name everything!* All children will also need a PE kit, water bottle and book bag in school every day.

Orienteering

Congratulations to Evan Jenkinson, Corin Varela and Anyes Varela who took part in the points scoring orienteering event on 17 June at Forge Dam. Overall, for the School Orienteering season 2016/17 there were two Carterknowle children who finished in the top 10: Anna Osborne and Evan Jenkinson – very well done! If you would like to go orienteering this year, please see Miss Bannister.

Young Artists Exhibition

Well done to our Y5s who are having some of their art work exhibited in the Young Artists Exhibition at:

St Andrew's Psalter Lane, Sheffield
3.15pm-6pm: Wednesday 20 & Thursday 21
September.

This is a free exhibition so do go along and see the work of our very talented and creative young artists on display. Refreshments will be available.

Basic Skills Quality Mark

Congratulations to Carterknowle, who achieved the National Basic Skills Agency Quality Mark last term.



The Basic Skills Quality Mark is an award that celebrates and supports continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy. It is awarded to a setting or school to recognise their provision, practice and performance in literacy and numeracy, and is valid for three years. A school or setting must demonstrate a whole school approach to improving standards in literacy and numeracy, with evidence of the impact of its approaches. It provides a framework for self-evaluation and continuous improvement of the basic skills of all pupils in a school, including those who underachieve and those who under attain. You can find out more about these at www.qm-alliance.co.uk. Good luck to Holt House who are having their renewal assessment for their early years quality mark this term.

Thank you for your support for our two schools - it makes a big difference. Have a great half term and please let Miss Clark or me know if there is anything with which we can help.

with best wishes - Mrs Haynes