

All About Holt House Infant School

The Curriculum



When children start school in reception they work on all the areas of learning in the **Early Years Foundation Stage**. We put an emphasis on personalised learning, which means that we find out about what the children are interested in and would like to learn about. We then craft our lessons to meet both children's learning needs and personal interests. This includes learning outdoors, which will happen in all weathers, so please make sure your child has strong shoes and a coat!

All children then follow the **National Curriculum** in Key Stage 1. In addition to the importance we give to **reading, writing and mathematics** we offer varied and exciting opportunities in all subjects: science, history, music, geography, French, design and technology, art and design, physical education, personal, social and health education, religious education and citizenship. All classes have an outdoor learning area; the children love to extend their learning in this environment. Creativity (the use of imagination to come up with new ideas) is encouraged in all subjects, with planned opportunities.



Computing is taught as part of the curriculum with a variety of equipment including new networked computers in all classrooms. All the classrooms have interactive whiteboards which the children use as well as the staff.

At Holt House we are committed to meeting your child's individual needs. Classes are mixed ability and teachers assess what each child can do very carefully and will discuss with you what your child's next steps in learning are. Classes are organised each year according to the needs and number of children in the school at that time. We ensure that there is continuity and stability for every child.

We believe that parents/carers and teachers working together bring about the greatest success for children. There are many things you can do to help your child to learn and classteachers will always be prepared to give you ideas. In Foundation 2 your child will have a *Record of Achievement* in which you will be closely involved. In Key Stage 1 children have home school diaries and home activity books in which you will find your child's next steps in learning and weekly activities your child can do. The weekly activities are linked to the learning your child is doing in school and are intended to be both interesting and fun. In school, teachers work closely

together so that children in the same year group follow the same curriculum and areas of learning. We continually strive to give children the best possible learning opportunities and experiences.



We pride ourselves on our provision of creative learning. This means that we make links between subjects and present learning in a way that engages the children's interests and helps them use their imaginations. It also means that children are given opportunities to work independently so that they can follow their own lines of enquiry.

We enhance our curriculum with lots of trips out and different visitors to school.

All children have equal opportunity to take part in all aspects of learning. We track the progress of children very carefully and if anyone is falling behind we give them extra support to help them to catch up.

Age appropriate sex education is taught as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education Curriculum. There is an agreed policy for sex education which is available on our website or from the school office.



Sports and Activities

Physical Education (PE)

Holt House provides a wide range of physical activities including gymnastics, dance, games and athletics in which all children are expected to participate. We are members of the school sports partnership and take part in events with other schools. A number of external coaches also visit school. We provide two hours of PE every week and the opportunity to access five hours of physical activity every week. Children need to bring shorts, tee shirt and plimsolls for PE lessons. Holt House has healthy schools status.



After School Activities

Holt House provides a wide range of very popular after-school activities. Examples are yoga, French, computer and film clubs. These is a small cost for the hour's session from 3.15 to 4.15pm. Parents and carers are required to book and pay for activities in advance and to sign our terms and conditions document.

Holt House also provides 'wrap around care' from 7.40am to 8.40am and from 3.15pm to 5.45pm. Details of our Breakfast Club and After-School Club (Smart Kids) are on the website. We also provide two holiday clubs a year, for a week at Easter and two weeks in the Summer.

Music

We are a Gold Sing-Up school and all children have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in year 2. Children also have the opportunity to have private violin lessons if parents and carers wish to pay for tuition from the Sheffield Music Service. There is financial help available for families on income support.

School Uniform

All children are required to wear:

- pale blue, navy or white polo shirt
- navy blue sweatshirt
- navy, grey or black skirt, pinafore or trousers
- sensible black shoes
- blue and white checked dresses (summer only)

Uniform can be ordered from the school office with the enclosed order form. Please make sure that every item has your child's name on it, or uniform could get lost on the very first day it is worn!



School Day

School starts at 8.50am. Parents and carers are welcome to come into school at 8.40am to read with their child before school begins. School finishes at 3.15pm for Foundation 2 (reception) children and 3.20pm for Key Stage 1 children. If parents and carers are late to collect their child, then their child will be taken to SmartKids (the after school club) and a charge will be made. This is because we have no other safe waiting area. Before and after school parents and carers are responsible for the safe supervision of their own children on the school site.

Lunch Time



Lunch time is from 12 noon to 1pm for Foundation 2 and 12.10 to 1.10pm for Key Stage 1. Our school kitchen provides healthy, freshly cooked school lunches. The kitchen can also cater for children's individual dietary needs, if there is supporting medical evidence. All children are entitled to a free school lunch however a very few children do bring a healthy packed lunch and a drink in a carton. No sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks are allowed in school.

Our lunch time supervisors are excellent. They ensure that each and every child is looked after and organise different games for the children to play each day. Children who find lunch times long and a bit busy can go to Sunshine Club, which is in the quiet area and supervised by a member of staff.

Snack

Milk is provided free of charge to all children before they are five. For children who have had their fifth birthday parents and carers can pre-pay for school milk every term. All children are provided with a piece of free fruit at morning break time. Crisps and biscuits are not allowed at snack time. Parents and Carers are also requested to provide their child with a named water bottle so that children can have access to drinking water throughout the day.



Attendance

Good attendance is crucial if children are to make good progress at school and we do everything we can to encourage good attendance. Not only do we make school a lovely place to come to every day, but we also give prizes and certificates for good attendance.

School does not agree with leave of absence in term time as it disrupts children's learning. This is particularly concerning in an infant school like Holt House, because the children are very young and can easily forget school routines. We find that children can take a long time to catch up once they have returned from their term time leave.

However the headteacher does have the authority to authorise absence from school for exceptional circumstances, such as to attend a funeral.