



Holmewood Nursery School and Tree House Children's Centre

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Dear parents and carers

Welcome! We are looking forward to another happy and fun filled year of learning at Holmewood.

For new children and families, starting a nursery can be daunting. We will work with you so that your children are happy and comfortable with the separation and new routines. Please let us know should you have any queries or concerns.

We have a few updates followed by reminders:

Adult Volunteers Needed for Wednesday 11th October

The older children have all been invited to join an exciting trip to Kew, however there is a risk of cancellation as we do not have enough adult volunteers. We only require 20 parents to assist us so that our safe ratio of one adult to two children can be met. Please let the office know as soon as possible, if you or a member of your family can help.

Primary School Admissions

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, you must apply online for a primary or infant school place for September 2024. The deadline for on-time applications is midnight on Monday 15 January 2024.

<https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions-and-appeals/primary-school-admissions/apply-primary-school-place-2024-2025>

Curriculum Newsletters

Please look out for your class's curriculum newsletter as these help you to support your child's learning. Newsletters are emailed and paper copies can be requested from the office.

With best wishes

Tania and all the Holmewood staff

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Important Things To Remember

Packed Lunches

We have been delighted to see such an amazing array of packed lunches and children continue to leave far less food waste than we experienced with school dinners. We are really impressed by the warm meals in food flasks!

As we have several children with severe food allergies we have to insist on no nuts or chocolate and this includes peanut butter, Nutella and similar nut based spreads. Also, we wish to ensure all children are having a balanced nutritious and healthy diet. We ask that you do not add packets of crisps (a few crisps are fine) or more than one biscuit. Please can you also help us to ensure lunches are free from known choking hazards such as uncut grapes.

Voluntary School Fund

The voluntary school fund is used to purchase the children's fruit. We also use the income towards the cost of outings, ingredients for activities, garden and allotment resources, the chickens' upkeep and when possible, additional enrichment such as visits. We suggest a weekly voluntary donation £2.00 (full-time) or £1 (part-time) that be can be put into the class school fund tins. If you prefer, you can pay by card in the office, and some parents prefer to pay a monthly or other lump sum. The school fund is also boosted through our annual Christmas Raffle and in the summer through sponsorship of the Holmewood Heroes

Drops and Collections

Please remember to drop and collect promptly and leave as soon as possible so that we do not have large gatherings by the classrooms. When you collect your child/children from the classroom, they are your responsibility and you must ensure you keep them safe.

In the morning, children have their story group session between 9:00am and 9:15am, if you arrive at or between these times, you will be reminded to wait in the hall until 9:15am. This also applies between 12:45pm and 1:00pm as this is the afternoon key group session. These are both really important and valuable learning times that we do not want disrupted and we thank you for your support with this.

At the end of the morning session the main gate is opened at 11:40 so that all children are collected by 11:45 and staff can go to their lunch break and return in time for the afternoon session. Staff are always happy to talk with you at the end of the day once all children have left; you can arrange to meet or chat by phone. At lunch collection, please try to avoid conversation at the door as this causes congestion; it also delays staff from going to their lunch on time which in turn impacts on maintaining correct ratios at the start of the afternoon session.

In the afternoon, the main gates are opened at between 2:40pm and 2:45pm for home time. If you are picking up at a different agreed time, please buzz the office and

remember to close the gates carefully behind you. At 3:25pm the gates are opened for the 3:30pm children to go home. While we understand about occasional lateness when you collect, persistent lateness of even 5 minutes will incur a charge as additional numbers of children can impact on our adult to child ratios.

Buzzer

Please do not let your children climb on the gate to press the button as they may fall and injure themselves. For safeguarding, please can you announce yourself to the office so that we know who it is.

Password and Emergency Contact Details

Please ensure all adults that are unknown to the school, have your child's password otherwise we are unable to release your child into their care

Emergency contact details must be kept up to date so we can always contact you easily, don't forget to let us know of any changes. You must provide at least 2 other emergency contacts on the form in case we are unable to contact you (make sure your contacts are able to get here quickly and willing to come in your absence if needed).

During unplanned closures or emergencies, we need to contact you quickly, in addition to telephoning, we may use texting and/or emails – remember to update contact details with the office immediately should any changes occur.

Cameras and Mobile Phones

We operate a no cameras/mobile phones policy. We ask that you do not use your mobile phones or cameras anywhere on the school/children's centre premises. If you need to make an urgent call, we ask that you kindly make the call outside of the school's main security gates.

Your views are important to us so do share them using our ideas and suggestion box outside the office; by email admin@holmewoodnurseryschool.org.uk, or by leaving a message with the office. Listening to the views of children, parents, carers and other users helps us maintain high quality provision which not only meets national early years requirements, but is responsive to our community.

We do have a complaints procedure in place and full details are published on our website, but it is our priority to ensure that we respond to your questions and deal with any concerns quickly and effectively.

Thank you