



## **Holmewood Nursery School and Tree House Children's Centre**

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## **WELCOME to Autumn 1**

A very special welcome to all the new children and families as well as our returners! It can be a very big step for new children and families as well as for those children and families moving class; we will continue to work closely with you and support you through the process, ensuring all children are happy and comfortable with the separation and new routines

We have a few updates followed by reminders:

### **Group Time**

Group times are an important part of your child's learning at Nursery. The morning groups start promptly at 8.50 am. Should you arrive late, please go and wait in the hall with your child until 9.05 am. The afternoon group session is at 2.15pm, please avoid early collections between 2:15 – 2:30 pm. These group times are valuable learning opportunities, we do not want them disrupted and we thank you for your support with this.

### **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.

### **Cake Sale Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Our first fund raising event will be a cake sale and we need your nut free baked or bought donations please. We also need you all to come and enjoy the sale as well!

### **Primary School Admissions**

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you must apply online for a primary or infant school place for September 2026. The deadline for on-time applications is midnight on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions-and-appeals/primary-school-admissions/apply-primary-school-place-2026-27>

With best wishes  
All Holmewood

## **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! We ask that you do not add packets of crisps or biscuits, a few crisps and/or a biscuit in a container are fine. Please can you also help us to ensure lunches are free from known choking hazards, such as, uncut grapes.

As we have several children with severe food allergies we have to insist on no nuts, sesame or chocolate; this includes peanut butter, Nutella and similar nut based spreads. All children should have a balanced nutritious and healthy diet.

### **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.

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.

### **Voluntary School Fund**

The voluntary school fund is used to purchase the children's fruit. We also use the income towards the cost of workshops, 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).

We aim to be a cashless school so please make sure you have set up your parent pay account or you can pay by BACS or by card in the office (some parents prefer to pay a monthly or other lump sum).

### **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](mailto: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