

Holly Class Newsletter

January 2010

Welcome back to Holly Class!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas holiday, despite the weather and are looking forward to the start of the new year. It is lovely to see the children keen and excited to be back at school. For those of you new to Holly I have attached our curriculum overview showing our intended topics, as well as our revised timetable, although these are always subject to change to meet the children's needs.

Having covered all our single sounds the children will continue to have short phonics session each week, along with handwriting practise. We continue to encourage the children to express their ideas both verbally and in writing, using a cursive script. As you may remember, starting with a 'printed' style of writing then moving on to 'joined up' writing at a later stage can add an extra layer of difficulty and cause confusion. It is for this reason that we have opted to use a single cursive style of handwriting right from the start. The most important feature of cursive script is that each letter is formed starting on the line, rarely taking the pencil off the paper - and consequently, each word is formed in one, flowing movement. The key advantages to this system are:

- By making each letter in one movement, children's hands develop a 'physical memory' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape;
- Because letters and words flow from left to right, children are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult (like b/d or p/q);
- There is a clearer distinction between capital letters and lower case;
- The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves speed and spelling.

The Year 1 children will have a greater focus on writing this term. They will need our support and encouragement 'to have a go' at expressing their ideas, using their home journals where possible.

P.E., as you will see from the timetable, continues to be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays so children will need to bring their P.E. kit into school on Monday and take it home to wash on Fridays. Holly Class 'wellie walks' will be on Friday mornings and we ask that children keep wellington boots in school along with any all weather/waterproof clothes that they may have.

For those children who need support with toileting, we would be grateful if you could continue to provide a change of clothes, wet wipes and nappy sacks, so that we are prepared for any accidents.

As regards snack time, your child may bring a drink (preferably water or fruit juice) and healthy snack. Milk is available to order from the office and free fruit is also provided.

As always the children will bring home their reading books, keyword booklet and sounds for you to share with them each day. We hope to change their reading books on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. However, if you feel it needs to be changed before then, please place it with their reading diary in the basket which is left out each morning at the back of the class, in the writing area. The children will resume guided reading sessions each week when we look at a trickier, text in more depth.

Some of you may be aware that I was hoping to organise some informative sessions on the Early Years Curriculum and how your child is assessed. It seems that the best time for those of you who expressed an interest, is on a Friday, between 3.30 - 4.00p.m. so I will confirm a start date for these sessions as soon as I can. If any of you did not return the reply slip but would still like to attend, please just let me know.

If you have any queries or questions please feel free to ask Mrs Smith or myself. I am usually available in the classroom first thing for a quick word or an appointment can be made via the office for matters requiring a little more time.

Thank you for your help and support.
Mrs Lisa Plant and Mrs Pauline Smith

Evercreech CE Primary School - Holly Class Curriculum Overview 2009/10

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<u>Knowledge and Understanding of The World (Science/ D.T./Histor y/ Geography)</u>	YR Ourselves/ Healthy Living	YR Festivals/ Light & dark	YR Festivals/ Light & dark	YR Growing/ Mini beasts	YR Rainforest/ Jungle	YR Seaside
	Y1 Science Unit 1A Ourselves	Y1 Science Unit 1D Light & dark	Y1 Science Unit 1F Sound & hearing	Y1 Science Unit 1B Growing plants	Y1 Geography Exploring habitats	Y1 Geography Unit 4 Going to the seaside
ICT	Unit 1A Use program representing real and fantasy.	Unit 1B Word banks.	Unit 1C Finding information around us	Unit 1D Labelling & Classifying	Unit 1E Pictograms	Unit 1F Instructions
RE	Making Friends/ Harvest	Festivals	Bible stories/people who help us	Easter	The World Around Us	The World Around Us
PE	Dance & movement/ outdoor activities	Dance & movement/ outdoor activities	Dance & movement/ gymnastics	Dance & movement/ gymnastics	Dance & movement/ games	Dance & movement/ games
CD	Self-portrait	Light & dark/texture	Modelling/ sculpture	Pattern	Colour	Texture/ sculpture
PSED	Keeping healthy	Respecting others	Keeping Safe	Caring for our Environment	Caring for our world	Beach safety

Holly Class Timetable 2009/10

SPRING TERM

	8.55 - 9.10	9.10 - 9.45	9.45-10.15	10.15-11.00	11.00 - 11.15	11.15-12.15	12.15 - 1.15	1.15-2.30	2.30 - 2.45	2.45-3.15
MM	Handwriting names/books		CLL Week end News	KUW	BREAK		• C. I. play Obs		BREAK	
T uTu	REGISTRATION Phonics & handwriting-PS Y1 CLL-LP		French	PD	PSRN + Thinking Skills - PS		• G. reading groups - LP • C. I. play Obs		Class Assembly	
Ww			CD		CLL Readers/ keywords		PD		Praise assembly	
T hTh			CLL	Hymns 10.20-11.00	PSRN + Thinking Skills - PS		• C.I. play Obs Y1 FL		PSED	
FF			KUW Welly Walk		PSRN + Thinking Skills - PS		• C.I. play Obs			