

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you regarding the increasing number of children bringing 'fidget toys' into school.

At Holmer, we are fully committed to supporting all pupils and recognise that some children benefit from reasonable adjustments to help them focus and engage in their learning. For a small number of pupils, carefully selected fidget resources can be a useful tool to support concentration and self-regulation.

However, we have recently seen a significant rise in the number of fidget items being brought in from home. In many cases, children are bringing multiple items, and these are increasingly being used as toys rather than as learning aids. This has led to distractions in the classroom, disagreements between pupils, and other children wanting similar items, which can impact the learning environment.

To ensure that classrooms remain calm, focused, and purposeful spaces for all pupils, we are introducing the following approach:

- Children should not bring their own fidget toys or similar items into school.
- Any request for the use of fidget resources must be discussed with the class teacher and, where appropriate, with our school SENCO, Mrs Harding.
- Where a child is identified as benefiting from a fidget aid, the school will provide a standardised fidget resource (a marble mesh) for this purpose. These have been designed specifically for the purpose of supporting focus through quiet, repetitive hand movement, without causing distraction to the user or others.
- If a child does not respond positively to a marble mesh, we will review whether a fidget resource is the most appropriate support for them, or whether alternative strategies may better meet their needs.

While our standard approach is to use a marble mesh, we recognise that a small number of children may have more specific sensory needs. In these cases - particularly where a child has an identified need or a well-established attachment to a specific resource - alternative arrangements will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the class teacher and SENCO.

We want to emphasise that fidget resources are intended to support learning, not to serve as toys or distractions. By taking this approach, we can ensure that support is used appropriately and fairly, while maintaining a positive learning environment for all children.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further in relation to your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,
Jayne Maund

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