



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: **Courage**

September 2025

It has been such a joy to welcome the children back to school this term. Despite the ever-changeable autumn weather, they arrived looking smart in their uniforms and full of enthusiasm for the year ahead. The classrooms and corridors have quickly filled with energy and laughter as pupils shared their holiday stories and settled into their new learning journeys. We are so proud of the positivity they have shown, living out our school vision of Inspiring us all to create a better world. Just as “you are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world,” our children shine brightly, bringing hope, kindness, and inspiration into all they do. A particularly warm welcome goes to our new pupils, who have already become a valued part of the Holmer family.

Road Safety!

We'd like to remind families of some key safety matters and ask for your support: Do not drop pupils off in the road, as this puts children and drivers at risk. Pupils should not walk through the staff car park, especially Breakfast Club attendees, as vehicles are moving. Free parking for 30 minutes is available at the Leisure Centre at drop-off and pick-up times. Stickers are available from the school office. Thank you for your continued support. Let's work together to ensure everyone stays safe as they travel to and from school.



Each week, we share a new big question for pupils to think about and discuss with others. This week, our big question has been: **Do your thoughts belong only to you?** Take a moment to discuss this with your child - we would love to hear their thoughts!



Inspiring us all to create a better world

School Uniform Reminder

At Holmer, we are very proud of our school uniform and the way it helps our children feel part of our community. We ask for your support in making sure that pupils come to school dressed smartly and ready to learn.

Holmer School Uniform: Grey trousers, skirt or school pinafore; red polo shirt (with school logo or plain); green cardigan or jumper (with school logo or plain bottle green); green cardigan or jumper (with school logo or plain bottle green); dark socks or tights; black flat shoes; green checked dresses may be worn in summer; hair bands should be plain and in school colours (red, green, or hair coloured).

Jewellery: No jewellery should be worn, except for small round stud earrings (silver or gold only) and a watch (not a smart watch). Earrings must be removed for PE. If your child has newly pierced ears, studs should be covered with tape until they can be removed.

Hair: Hair that is shoulder-length or longer should be tied back neatly.

PE Kit

Dark green shorts; white T-shirt (with logo or plain); green hoodie (PE only - this does not replace the school jumper/cardigan); dark tracksuit bottoms (winter months); black pumps or dark/white trainers (no bright colours).

For safety: Earrings and watches must always be removed before PE lessons.

This helps keep all our children safe, comfortable and ready to learn and play. Thank you for your continued support!



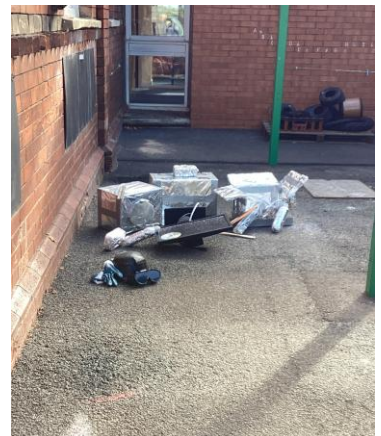
Year R

Wow, what a fantastic first month at school our children have had. The children have settled into Holmer with enthusiasm and spirit. The children have settled into the school routine wonderfully and we are very proud of them! We have been exploring the story of 'The Gruffalo' this month and enjoyed retelling the story to our friends. We baked Gruffalo cakes using rice krispies and chocolate as well as oranges for his eyes and blueberries for the prickles all over his back. We thought they were delicious! We learnt about how to cook safely and made sure to wash our hands to keep germs away. We had so much fun!



Year 1

Year 1 children at Holmer Academy were met with an unexpected surprise at the start of term when a mysterious spaceship crash-landed in the school playground. The Year 1 pupils quickly discovered the craft belonged to a small, yellow alien named Beegu, who had become lost and was feeling lonely far from home. Rising to the occasion, the children showed remarkable empathy and imagination, creating new friends for Beegu using playdough and craft materials. We were so impressed with their creations! A truly out-of-this-world start to the school year. Well done Year 1!



Shining Leaders: Pupils Making a Difference!

Our Pupil Leadership Committees are brilliant examples of how young people can make a real difference in our school and beyond! From the Worship Committee, Social Justice Committee, and Eco Committee to the Sports Leaders, Peer Mentors, Digital Leaders, Community Champions, and Pupil Council, each group plays an important role in spreading kindness, taking action on key issues, and building a strong sense of community. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and dedication help make our school a brighter, more welcoming place for everyone. We warmly welcome all new pupils to these committees and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will create throughout the year. We can't wait to share their achievements with you!



"Pupils' love for learning is sparked at this inspirational school." OfSTED 2024
Ofsted Outstanding Nov 2024



HOLMER C OF E ACADEMY
OPEN DAYS

Is your child starting school in 2026?
If so, we would love to meet you at one of our following open days!

WHEN:

- ✓ Open morning, Wednesday 8th October 9:30am
- ✓ Open evening Wednesday 8th October 6pm
- ✓ Open morning, Wednesday 5th November 9:30am

BOOK A VISIT:

☎ 01432 273301

✉ admin@holmer.hereford.sch.uk

*Alternatively, contact the school office for a bespoke tour.



Open Days

Do you know anyone who is looking for a primary school place for their child starting next September? If so, we would love to meet them at one of our upcoming Open Days:

08/10/25 9:30am

08/10/25 6pm

05/11/24 9:30am

Do spread the word and let people know to arrange visits by contacting our school office at 01432 27301 or via email: admin@holmer.hereford.sch.uk



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @holmeracademy where you can see photos of your children's learning and other exciting activities which take place during the school day!



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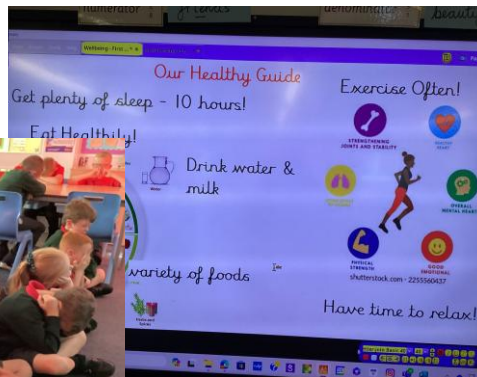
Year 2

In Year 2, we have had a fantastic start to our art lessons this year, with the children exploring the use of charcoal, oil pastels, crayons and chalk to create different marks. We have been experimenting with charcoal to make bold, expressive lines and learning how to smudge and blend it for softer effects. Alongside this, we have used pastels and chalk to add vibrant pops of colour, discovering how the combination of both mediums can bring depth and contrast to our artwork. We have also explored some artwork by Saeed Akhtar and Käthe Kollwitz and have identified how they have shown tone in their pieces of artwork which is something we will be working towards creating ourselves by the end of the half term. Great work Year 2!



Year 3

What a super start to the year we have had in Year 3! We spent the first week doing a variety of activities that improve Wellbeing including breathing techniques, thinking about our superhero powers and healthy living. We also talked about resilience and how we can achieve goals. We discussed how we can meet our Growth Mindset target for this half term which is 'I get ideas by looking at what other people have done well'. Don't forget to ask your child how they can complete this target at home!



Do you have a fixed or growth mindset?



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Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the year! In Literacy, the children have been fully immersed in our class book *Wolves* by Emily Gravett. They began by stepping into the story through drama, bringing the characters to life and exploring how humour and language create such an engaging text. The children showed great imagination when writing their own alternative endings, offering clever twists and surprises that kept the wolf on his toes!

As part of their work, they became creative advertisers, setting up their own "wolf companies" and producing persuasive leaflets to warn rabbits of the dangers of wolves. These leaflets were full of eye-catching slogans and clever details that demonstrated both flair and understanding of persuasive writing

Through art, the children have also explored wolves in more depth, using sketching and creative techniques to capture their power and character. This has not only enriched their Literacy learning but also inspired them to think carefully about how imagery and words can work hand in hand.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a superb start to the year! In Literacy, the children have been exploring our class book *The Promise*, delving into the meaning behind the language and writing imaginative descriptive pieces in role as the main character, the little girl. They have also been making thoughtful predictions about what she might do next. In Maths, we've been busy partitioning numbers all the way up to 1,000,000, showing great resilience and enthusiasm. Our new topic on Ancient Egypt has already sparked lots of excitement as we begin to uncover fascinating parts of history. To round off these first few weeks, Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful morning at the Christian Life Centre, learning about the teachings of Jesus and reflecting thoughtfully on their own views.



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Keyrings on Bags

We've noticed a growing craze for keyrings on school bags! While we understand that many children enjoy collecting them and having a few on their bags, some bags are now carrying very large numbers of keyrings. These can be at risk of getting lost or damaged, and we've also found that swapping keyrings between children can sometimes cause upset when they later want them back. To help keep things simple and fair, we kindly ask that children limit themselves to one keyring per bag. Please also make sure that anything sentimental or valuable is left at home, and remind children not to give away or trade their keyrings. Thank you for your support in keeping things positive and enjoyable for everyone.



Year 6

Year 6 have made an excellent start to the year with some amazing learning taking place! In literacy, they have been studying *Rose Blanche*, a thought-provoking text that links closely with their World War II topic in history. Through role play and diary writing, the children have explored events from different perspectives while also deepening their historical understanding by learning about the Battle of Britain and the reasons behind Britain's success. Their visit to Hereford Cathedral during the Hereford's Military Festival gave them a valuable insight into wartime code-breaking at Bletchley Park, helping to bring history to life. In addition, pupils took part in innovative workshops with NMITE, where they enjoyed using VR technology and Spheros to explore programming. It has been a busy and enriching month of learning for Year 6!



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This month our Christian value has been **COURAGE**. We show this through our service to others and through our courageous advocacy.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.
Deuteronomy 31:6

TALK TOGETHER about Courage

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

Nelson Mandela



READ TOGETHER...

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

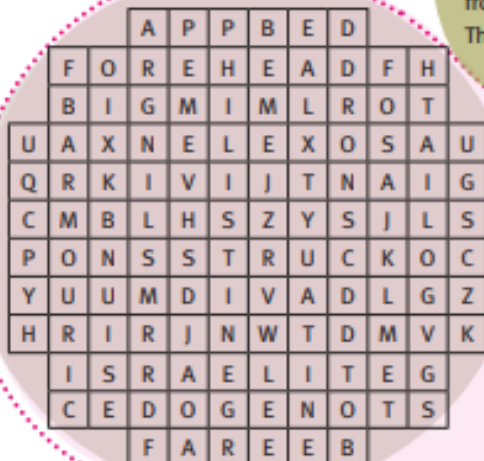
The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17



QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

- | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| ARMOUR | BOY | DAVID |
| COURAGE | FOREHEAD | GIANT |
| GOLIATH | GOD | ISRAELITE |
| PHILISTINE | SHIELD | SLING |
| SOLDIER | STONE | STRUCK |



October 2025	Event
Friday 3rd	5H Class Worship
Wednesday 8th	Open Morning 9.30am
Wednesday 8th	Open Evening 6pm
Friday 10th	Harvest Festival
Monday 13th	Year 1 & 4 Swimming Starts
Friday 17th	Year 6 WW2 Day
Tuesday 21st	3J Stoneage Workshop & Parents Evening
Wednesday 22nd	3S Stoneage Workshop & Choir performance at Dunelm
Thursday 23rd	Parents Evening 5.30pm - 8pm
Friday 24th	3J Class Worship
Friday 24th	School closes for half term



November 2025	
Monday 3rd	School reopens
Monday 3rd	Year 3 & 5 Swimming starts
Wednesday 5th	Open Morning 9:30am
Friday 7th	4H Class Worship
Monday 10th	Anti Bullying Week starts
Thursday 13th	Flu Vaccinations – Yr R, 1 & 2
Friday 14th	2TW Class Worship
Thursday 20th	EYFS Small Breeds Farm Trip
Friday 21st	6P Class Worship & Rags to Riches Collection
Monday 24th	Flu Vaccinations – Yr 3 - 6
Tuesday 25th	Parents supporting wellbeing session – EYFS, KS1 & Yr 3
Thursday 27th	Parents supporting wellbeing session – Yr 4-6
Friday 28th	5R Class Worship

“You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world.”