



Holly Hill Primary and Nursery School

..... No limit to learning

Welcome to Holly Hill Primary School



Foreword: Mark Eadon, Headteacher, says...

I am delighted to welcome you to our school prospectus and hope that you find it useful and informative.

I have been head teacher at Holly Hill for ten years, and see our wonderful school as a hidden gem in the heart of the community. We hope that you will come and visit us to see for yourself what we have to offer, and take the first step on you and your child's relationship with the school.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning. The school has recently been awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award in recognition of the work we do to work with you, the parents, to support your child's learning. This was also mentioned as a strength by Ofsted.

Get in touch

Please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to visit us and see how wonderful our school is. To make an appointment please email: office@hollyhill.notts.sch.uk, telephone: 01773 783909. We respect and welcome all suggestions for improving our work in the school.

"One thing I really like is how all the children are rewarded for their efforts, and every achievement is recognised. This positive attitude makes the children want to work and to do their best because they know their teachers care about them."

Julie's daughters have flourished in every way at Holly Hill Primary School, and she is its most passionate supporter

Looking back and moving forward

Julie was not quite sure why Andy was so determined that their daughters should attend his old school – until she saw it for herself. "Because he had enjoyed his school days at Holly Hill so much he was adamant that he wanted the same experience for Jaimie, Brooke and Darcie," Julie says. "When we went to visit I could see immediately what he meant – it was still the warm, friendly and lively school that he remembered. The children were all polite, well-mannered and respectful to adults and other children alike, and we have never had a moment's doubt that we made the right choice."

Communication counts

One thing in particular which stands out for Julie is the first-class communication between home and school. No more out-of-date letters crumpled and forgotten at the bottom of school bags! "The new website is wonderful, and I use it all the time," she says. "I know exactly what classwork and homework is being set, when assignments are due in, what the weekly spellings list contains and anything at all which is relevant to the school or my own children in particular. I also get regular texts to let me know if an after-school club is cancelled, for instance, or that one of the girls has arrived safely on a school trip and what time they are expected back. The system is superb and I wouldn't now be without it."

A stake for all in children's early education

For the last eight years, Julie has been a committed member of the Holly Hill Parent Teacher Association, at first as a helper at discos and fetes but more recently as Treasurer and Assistant Chair. "The PTA is far too valuable an asset to lose so when those positions became vacant I was happy to step in. It is not just a fundraising organisation, although we do raise quite a lot to support various projects and to purchase extra equipment, but it is also a means of bringing families into the school community. With teachers, support staff and parents working so closely together, everyone feels that they have a stake in the children's wellbeing and education."

New initiatives for excellent results

From an academic point of view, Julie is delighted with the progress all three of her daughters are making and believes that new initiatives embraced by the school show in the excellent results. "One thing I really like is how all the children are rewarded for their efforts, and every achievement is recognised. This positive attitude makes the children want to work and to do their best because they know their teachers care about them."

A little, hidden gem

It is not too strong to describe Julie's feelings towards Holly Hill Primary School as passionate: "I am totally in love with this school! Because it is tucked away and out of sight, a lot of people don't know it's there but they should, and I will do what I can to make families aware of what a little gem it is."

Children say:

Jaimie: "My teacher is not just my teacher but my friend!"

Brooke: "I love learning lots of new and interesting things, and it's fun."



Julie and Andy Smedley live with their three daughters Jaimie, Brooke and Darcie, who are 11, eight and five years old respectively.

School day



School hours

School starts at 8.50 when the children are collected by their teachers from the playground.

Lunchtime is from 12.00am to 1.00pm and the day ends at 3.30 when the teachers will bring the children out to you.

Children in the nursery start slightly later, at 9.00a.m and finish at 11.30, with afternoon sessions running from 1.00-3.30

Wraparound Care

Many children attend the Pre-School Learning Alliance's Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs at Holly Hill. For further information or to reserve a place please telephone 07908 649121 or e-mail selston.childcare@pre-school.org.uk

Uniform

We aim to promote an atmosphere that encourages effort, enjoyment and celebrates the achievements of all our pupils. The schools concern for these high standards is also reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and the feeling of belonging it creates. All uniform items, including P.E. kit are readily available from the High Street or can be ordered through school. Every effort has been made to keep the uniform simple to avoid unnecessary expense.

Full details of our school uniform can be found on the school website or in our parent handbook.

School meals and snacks

School meals

School dinners are provided for the school by the school's catering service. All the meat used in Nottinghamshire County Council school meals is provided fresh from a local butcher, Mike Maloney. Vegetarian options are provided. If your child's diet does not suit our menus due to food allergies or intolerances, religious or ethical beliefs please let us know so we can make alternative arrangements. Menus are available on our school website.

Family service

The children in Foundation and the infants have 'family service', where they sit around a table and are served their meal, much as at

the dinner table at home. The juniors collect their meals from a serving trolley and have a choice, hence the two different menus.

Free school meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can have free school meals.

Healthy snacks and drinks

Under the Fruit in School scheme children are entitled to a piece of fruit each day free of charge. This is given as a playtime snack. Children are encouraged to drink water and can fill water bottles from fountains throughout the day.

"The Headteacher knows every child by name and all the staff are approachable and helpful, and to me that all adds up to an excellent package."

Joanne has been involved with Holly Hill Primary School since she was a child, and could think of nowhere better for her own children to be educated

Heart of the community

In many ways, Holly Hill Primary School could be described as the heart of the Selston community, as Joanne and Andy are by no means the only local parents who went there themselves as children. "It has always been a very friendly school and I meet lots of my old school chums in the playground at the beginning and end of the day," says Joanne. "We didn't really consider anywhere else for Abbie and Zak because Holly Hill is close to our hearts but of course, if it were not as good a school as it is, we would have looked elsewhere."

Encouragement and reward

Overall, Holly Hill offers Joanne and Andy's children everything they could wish for: high educational standards combined with fun, and both Abbie and Zak are keen learners who enjoy every school day. "Because the home/school communication is so good, we are always completely up to date with the work they are doing, the homework they are given and with their progress, and every so often there are open days when we can go into the classroom to see everything at first hand. We also enjoy the Holly Hill Heroes Assembly where the children are rewarded for particular achievements with a certificate in recognition of effort. Things such as this encourage the children and help to involve parents, which I really like."

Onwards and upwards

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Holly Hill suffered a fall in rating a few years ago but this was swiftly and effectively remedied making it, believes Joanne, an even better school than before. "We were actually very surprised by the result as we had not had cause to be particularly concerned about anything. Nevertheless, the school made a huge effort to address the issues and within a few months everything was not only back on track but actually improved. We saw this episode as a small glitch and are more than pleased how things have worked out so well."

Familiar faces

Another thing which stands out for Joanne is the fact that staff turnover at Holly Hill is minimal, which shows what a pleasant environment it is in which to work. "Although none of the current teachers were there when I was a pupil, I do remember a few of the teaching assistants! It is lovely to see familiar faces but even better to know that the children have continuity in the staff. I think it helps them with the transition periods between Nursery, Foundation and beyond. As far as my own children are concerned, their Foundation Stage at Holly Hill was when they made a massive progression, and that set them up so well for the rest of their primary years at the school we are so lucky to have in our village."

Children say:

Abbie: "There's a variety of things to do after school. There's always someone to talk to about problems or worries as the teachers are approachable, and I feel safe."

Zak: "I like my lessons, some are fun! And Reading Morning because parents can come in to read with you. Also the teachers are nice and helpful when you're hurt."



Joanne and Andy Faulkner live in Selston with their children Abbie, ten and Zak, seven.

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5

Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7

Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1-2

- Areas of the curriculum are:
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.

"I have nothing but praise for Holly Hill School and would recommend it to anyone..."



Lucy is delighted that Holly Hill Primary School is making her children as happy as it made her, her mum and her siblings all those years ago!

Fond childhood memories

There was never any doubt about which school Lucy and Russell would send their children to, as Lucy, her brothers and sisters and even her mother had all had a very happy early education at Holly Hill Primary School. "Although we didn't live in the village when George was due to start school we put his name down for Holly Hill as soon as he was born," says Lucy. "I had very fond memories of my time there, and it was lovely to find that George's nursery teacher was the same lady who taught me years ago! In the four years since George started it has absolutely lived up to our expectations."

Every child an individual

Perhaps reflecting the size of the village, Holly Hill is a relatively large primary school but even so, George and Harry's classes have only around 24 children in each. As George is the oldest in his class, Lucy was concerned that he would find the work too easy but her worries were soon put to rest. "What I like is that the children are given age-appropriate work and enough to challenge them," she explains. "I did think that George might be held back but that hasn't been the case at all; he is treated according to his ability rather than his age, and doing very well."

An effective approach to lessons

Harry is not quite such a keen scholar as his brother, but Lucy has been impressed by how he is encouraged to do his best. "I can never get Harry to sit down and

practise his reading at home, so when I went to an Open Morning at the school and watched how well he engaged with a phonics lesson I was thrilled. The teachers manage to draw a very fine line between being friendly and expecting the children to complete their work, and it is clear that this approach is very effective."

Home from home

In fact, believes Lucy, the school has a family atmosphere and both George and Harry are very keen to please their teachers. "Neither of the boys has ever said they don't want to go to school and there have even been a few tears sometimes during the holidays when they can't go! Holly Hill is a little community of its own, and knowing your child is happy at school is so reassuring." Something else which keeps George happy is the wide range of after-school clubs which he is able to attend, from French and Maths to Library Club, PE and IT – most of which are free.

Big is beautiful!

Lucy feels strongly that no-one should rule out Holly Hill because of its size. "I know that some people might be put off because it is bigger than some primary schools but that is deceptive. It is in a world of its own, set back from the roads in lovely open space, and with fantastic staff who are approachable and friendly. I have nothing but praise for Holly Hill School and would recommend it to anyone."

Children say:

Harry: "I loved it when the teachers dressed as superheroes and rescued Mrs Parwood who was tied to a tree! And when we are allowed to go and play on the field, and roll about in the grass, and hide in the willow den!"

George: "I love my teachers they are very kind and I learn lots and lots. My favourite activity is IT with Mrs Warsop when we all get to learn and have a go on the laptops and Ipads."



Lucy and Russell Garland live in Selston with their children George, seven, Harry, five and Oscar, who is two and half.

Extended curriculum: trips and visits



Trips and visits

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities. Recent educational trips have included a trip to Cresswell Craggs and a trip to London to see a performance of 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe'. We also run a range of residential visits. This year our year 2s had a one night residential in Yorkshire, whilst the older children visited Hathersage and Walesby for full week visits, taking part in more adventurous activities.



Communicating with parents

We let you know how your child is progressing at regular intervals. We also invite parents and children each term to come into to school talk to teachers to discuss the progress of pupils. Parents are welcome to speak to the school at any time if they have any concerns. We have an 'open door' policy so parents are always welcome.

Friday's Holly Hill Heroes assembly

Groups and individuals are recognised in Friday's Holly Hill Heroes assembly where certificates are awarded for writer and mathematician of the week. Parents are invited to this assembly to share in their child's achievements.

Phonics mornings

Details about how we teach phonics can be found on the Phonics page of the school website, which can be found on the parents section. Special phonics open-mornings and information sessions are held throughout the year... details will appear on the calendar section and reminders will go out with the weekly newsletter.

School News

Parents are updated with school news via the school website and weekly newsletters. We are also developing facebook and twitter pages as an additional method of keeping you up to date with what is happening

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Educational Needs

We believe in a whole school approach to special needs. We value the abilities and achievements of all our pupils, and are committed to providing, for each pupil, the best possible environment for learning. This will involve staff, parents and governors in working together as a team, sharing and striving for common goals and objectives.

Individual needs

We provide education for all pupils through a variety of access strategies including appropriate differentiation, resources, support and facilities as necessary. All pupils' individual needs are met and we actively remove barriers to learning to accommodate and value all pupils' diversity. All pupils are entitled to receive, within a suitable peer group, a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that will ensure progression.

Access

At Holly Hill we take pride in the inclusive nature of our school, and aim to give equality of access to all our pupils, whatever their needs. We have worked hard over recent years to make all areas of the school accessible to all who enter the site, and take pains to accommodate different requirements.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.

"Holly Hill Primary School has proved to us that they are committed to their pupils, whatever challenges may be involved..."

If a child needs extra help a parent needs the right school, and Gail has found that for her son at Holly Hill Primary School

Knowing what makes a good school

As a university graduate, Gail believes that it was Holly Hill Primary School which provided her with the good educational grounding to help her to succeed as she has, so she and Jonathan had no doubt that it would also be the right school for their own children to attend. Gail had also been in fairly close touch with the school subsequently through her nephew's time there, and she was happy to continue the family association.

A positive attitude to disability

Blakeney was diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) when he was five years old and subsequently with other associated conditions. Although his behaviour at home was often difficult to deal with, at school he coped fairly well and it took some time for Gail to make his teachers aware of his problems. "Once we had convinced the staff that Blakeney had a genuine disability, they were right there on our side," she says. "Since then, they have put so many measures in place to help alleviate his physical and mental difficulties and we could not be more pleased. Now, he is progressing so much better in every way, largely because of the positive attitude of the school."

Commitment

Autism is a difficult condition to address as each individual displays very different traits. However, the staff at Holly Hill have proved willing to learn and shown a commitment which Gail greatly admires. "Several of his teachers, the new SENCO and others have gone out of their way

to ensure that Blakeney has the extra support he needs to enable him to continue in mainstream education. Along with several other children, he attends the regular Phoenix Nurture Group to help his social and emotional skills, and FunFit to improve his fine and gross motor skills. These interventions have made a huge difference to him, and also to other children I see when I volunteer for reading practice each week. The school has taken all our concerns on board, listened to what we have to say, and are making life better for those children who need extra support in some way."

Going the extra mile

Gail can quote many examples of how staff Holly Hill have gone the extra mile to make certain that Blakeney is able to benefit as much as possible from his education: the time when his Teaching Assistant was unable to accompany him on a school trip and went to great lengths to make other arrangements, and communicate this fully beforehand. How his FunFit teacher always ensures his interventions are included in his timetable, even it means she has to give up her own lunchtime. How they arrange small-group sessions for pupils without making them feel stigmatised in any way. How Blakeney's sporting talent is encouraged. And also how they have been willing to push Blakeney to achieve his potential:

Children say:

Blakeney: "I like Holly Hill because the teachers are nice and they care about me. I can go to FunFit and Phoenix which I really, really love. These groups help me do better and now I like coming to school."



Gail and Jonathan Asher live in Selston with their sons Blakeney, nine and seven year old Kelling.



There are a wide variety of afterschool clubs that children can enjoy. These include:

- Drama
- Cookery
- Homework
- Netball
- Reading
- Athletics

Sport

As well as following the Physical Education programme of work as set out in the National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for your children to enjoy extracurricular sport and team games. Swimming is taught to all children in year 3. We also employ a specialist PE teacher one day a week who works alongside our teachers to deliver PE lessons. He also runs a range of lunchtime and after school clubs throughout the year.

Gemma wanted a caring and homely environment for her children just as much as she wanted good education – at Holly Hill Primary School she has found that, and more

Part of the community

What does any parent want from their children's school? A good education, a setting where they are safe, cared for and happy, and in the right place to be able to be a part of the local community. That is certainly what Gemma wanted and is what she has found at Holly Hill Primary School.

"Holly Hill was the closest school to where we lived and that was a significant factor for me when I chose it for Ruby," Gemma says. "I work long hours and needed the convenience that the location of the school offers, but if I hadn't been more than happy with the school I would have had to make other arrangements. Thankfully, Holly Hill has more than lived up to my hopes and expectations, and in more ways than I first thought."

Pride in achievement

Gemma says she can't really explain why she loves Holly Hill School so much but it is clear that there are many reasons for her appreciation. "I'm fortunate that I have never had any particular issues with Ruby's progress but if she has ever needed a bit of extra help she's had it straightaway," she says. "Ruby is above average in her work and I put much of the credit for that to her teachers. In Holly Hill Heroes

Assembly, when the children are awarded Certificates, you can see the real pride on the teachers' faces and that is lovely to watch. They honestly care about what the pupils are achieving."

Giving something back

Because of her long working hours, Gemma is not able to attend events at the school as often as she would like but she makes every effort to contribute as far as possible. "I try to help the PTA when they organise fundraising activities, or I'll go along to clean and tidy the classrooms, and I go in to read with the children every so often. Having seen how incredibly hard the staff have worked and their dedication to the school, I feel it is only fair to give something back and I enjoy doing so."

Family atmosphere

Another reason why Gemma values the family atmosphere of Holly Hill is that Ruby and Freddy are able to experience a far more stable and secure life than she herself experienced as a child. Coming from a Services family – her father was a Royal Marine – she and her parents were constantly moving around the country and she was rarely able to make lasting relationships. "Holly Hill is a very friendly little school and my children are making friends there who they will be going on to secondary school with, and hopefully beyond. That continuity is important to me for their sake and it makes me so happy that they have such a caring and supportive early educational setting."

Children say:

Ruby: "All my teachers make me feel special like you do, Mummy."

Freddy: "I like to paint everyday and like to play outside."



Gemma Huckerby and her children Ruby, six and Freddy, three, live in Selston.

Admissions

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our nursery or school are invited to visit and look around at any time.

Nursery

Children start our nursery in the term after their third birthday. During the week they attend six sessions - five mornings and one afternoon, or five afternoons and one morning. Depending on when their birthday falls, they will have between three and five terms in our nursery before moving on to the reception class.

School

Children start at Holly Hill Primary School in the autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

Applications

If your child lives in Nottinghamshire, you must apply for a school place through Nottinghamshire County Council. There is a link on the school website that will take you straight to the Nottinghamshire County Council web page relating to school admissions where you will find everything that you need. You can find this link by going to 'About Us' and then scrolling down to 'Admission Arrangements'.

Tel: 01623 433499
Email: admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk
Web: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions



Admissions

Friends of Holly Hill

Parents and the school enjoy working together through the 'Friends of Holly Hill' PTA, to raise funds for school. Fundraising helps the school buy items and activities that the school does not have sufficient budget to pay for from schools funds. It is also a great opportunity for parents and teachers to get to know each other.

Do you want to join the PTA?

The Friends of Holly Hill are always looking for new recruits, whether this is to come to every meeting or to help at one off events! They are a very friendly team and everyone and all offers of help are welcome. They also run a Friends of Holly Hill Facebook page and more information can be found there.

Voluntary helpers

The school uses voluntary helpers to enhance the curriculum, to provide support for children and staff in a range of ways and to support out-of-school activities. Voluntary helpers may include parents, governors and other members of the local community. Voluntary helpers will be required to work within the school's health and safety policy and LA guidelines. All prospective voluntary helpers will receive a copy of the "voluntary helpers in school" policy, which is available from the school office.

Governorship

Our school governors proactively manage the school with the Headteacher and help to ensure that the school vision and aims are demonstrated in the daily workings of the school and the strategic direction of the school supports this vision. Our Governing Body is made up of elected parents, members appointed by the Local Education Authority (LEA), co-opted governors, teacher representatives and the Headteacher who has the option of being a governor. Members are elected for period of four years.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Our parent governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact the school office.





Head teacher: Mr Mark Eadon

Holly Hill Primary and Nursery School, off Portland Road
Selston, Nottingham.
NG16 6AW

Telephone: 01773 783909

Fax: 01773 783909

E-mail: office@hollyhill.notts.sch.uk
www.hollyhill.notts.sch.uk

No limit to learning

