

Frequently Asked Questions

Howes Primary School

Seek Permission

We will always seek your permission if any activity takes place after school. If we are playing a sport at another venue we will try to arrange transport - but it may involve children sharing lifts in other parents' cars. We will always inform you of the arrangements. We will ensure that children are brought back to school but it is the parents' responsibility for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are made for your child to get home from school.

Collective Worship

Howes is a diverse community school and our assemblies reflect the values of the school and the faiths within our community. During our Friday 'celebration' assembly we recognise and share the achievements of children, both in and out of school, children who have had birthdays and also share Housepoint totals for the week. Parents will receive a letter of invitation if their child is due to receive a certificate in this assembly.

If you wish your child to be withdrawn from our assemblies on religious grounds, please discuss this with the Head teacher so that alternative arrangements can be made for their care during this time.

Homework

Our school homework policy is designed to ensure school and home work together in partnership for the benefit of the children. We ask parents to spend some time every evening either sharing books with their child, or listening to them read. Ten minutes is sufficient in the Early Years but by Year 2 this should increase to 15- 20 minutes.

Please support your children by finding out more about the topics they are covering; details of these are sent out to parents at the start of each term. If you have any queries or concerns about the quality or quantity of the homework please do not hesitate to have a chat with your child's teacher.

Books

From the beginning of their time at Howes, children are able to borrow books and enjoy reading them at home. Taking the time to share these books with your children is an important part of developing their interest in pictures and stories and encouraging a love of books. It is also the first stage in learning to read. Unfortunately, books are expensive and if a book is lost or damaged at home a contribution of £2 will be requested to provide a replacement.

Nylon book bags with Velcro fastening and a carrying handle can be bought at the school office, these are ideal for keeping books in good condition and encouraging children to take care of them.

Special Educational Needs

Howes is an inclusive school with a dedicated Inclusion Team that is fully committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils. Our staff ensure that the school provides the best support possible for children identified as having special needs. We discuss any support plans with parents and provide regular feedback on progress. External agencies may need to be consulted on some occasions but only with prior consent from parents.

Please have a look at our Special Needs Policy on the school website for more detailed information or arrange to speak to a staff member if you have any concerns.

Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school. There is wheelchair access to all teaching areas and disabled toilets with wheelchair access.

More Able

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.

Charging Policy

A wide range of additional activities, including clubs, visits and residential experiences can make a valuable contribution towards pupils' personal and social educations. We hope that parents will be prepared to make voluntary contributions towards these activities so that they are able to proceed, but if this causes difficulties please contact the school.

How To Pay

Our preferred method of payment is via SIMS Pay, which is a safe and secure online payment service for processing debit and credit card payments. A unique activation reference is created at the beginning of the school year. We will inform parents by writing if there is a special event when cash may be required but normally children will not require money during the school day. Any money that is sent into school should be in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the child's name, class and the amount contained. All return slips and envelopes should be sent to class.

Please try and send the correct change for payments as very little money is kept on the school premises.

Emergency Arrangements

If there is bad weather, please do not leave your child at the school, or send them off to school, before you check that there is someone here to receive them. Announcements will be made on the school website, text to parents and on local radio stations.

Medicine in School

If your child requires regular, long term medication such as an asthma inhaler, this should be discussed with the class teacher and the appropriate medication form completed. Any inhalers brought into school should be clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage requirements.

The school does not accept responsibility for administering short term medical treatment such as antibiotics. In most cases it should be possible for parents to ask their doctors to arrange dose frequencies so that medication can be taken outside of school. Where medication has to be administered by staff the parents or guardians of the child must complete a written agreement form prior to the medication coming on to the school premises.