



NORTHOLMES JUNIOR SCHOOL

Believe.....Achieve.....Succeed

A member of the Greenfields Federation



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Co-educational Community School
7 to 11 year olds



Headteacher: Mrs S. Anderson
Chair of Governors: Mrs H. Oakley

Prospectus
November 2016

Welcome to Northolmes Junior School

We are pleased that you are considering sending your child to Northolmes Junior School. Thank you for taking the time to read this prospectus which I hope will go some way towards answering your questions and informing your choice.

Northolmes Junior and Littlehaven Infant Schools are part of the Greenfields Federation. With a common ethos across both schools and a shared Leadership Team and Governing Body we aim to create a stimulating environment where your child is happy, feels valued and achieves their full educational potential.

Northolmes provides a welcoming, happy and purposeful atmosphere where children feel valued and they can develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children are encouraged to develop lively, enquiring minds, as well as their imagination and curiosity. We wish to foster a desire and self-motivation to learn. By working in collaboration with others, children learn respect, tolerance and sensitivity towards each other and the world in which they live.

Northolmes values high achievements in all areas of the curriculum. Learners are encouraged to do their very best at all times. Parents, Staff and Governors work together to provide a quality learning experience for all our children to prepare them for their future education and for success in a rapidly changing world.

Prospective parents are very welcome to visit the school. Please phone or e-mail the school to make an appointment. I am always delighted to show parents around so they can see the care we take in making the formative years in education both happy and fulfilling. A new joiners booklet is available from the office which contains everything you need to know to prepare for your child's first few days at school with us.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you and your child to our school community.

Sharon Anderson
Headteacher



NORTHOLMES
JUNIOR SCHOOL
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Our aims

We are a nurturing school.

We encourage and develop self-belief, confidence and respect in every child.

Believe in myself and others.

Achieve by being inspired.

Succeed as an independent learner.

Core Values:

We will:

Show **Respect**

Develop **Independence**

Show **Perseverance**

Be **Reflective**

And **Work together**

We have five core values that we focus on through the work of this school and Littlehaven Infant school.

We use these values to help us plan our assemblies, the curriculum and other activities that children are involved in.

We aim to:

- Provide a happy, caring and stimulating learning environment to meet the educational needs of every child.
- Create an atmosphere of respect where everyone is included, treated equally and where diversity is celebrated.
- Promote a positive attitude to lifelong learning through creative, exciting and challenging teaching of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Engage parents/carers and the wider community in an active partnership to support the children's development and the vision of the school.
- Celebrate our successes as individuals and as a School.
- Have high expectations of everyone – educationally, morally and socially. Embrace the spiritual, emotional, cultural and physical well-being of every child; promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Why choose Northolmes?

Experienced Staff

At Northolmes we are experienced staff, committed to ensuring that children enjoy school and learn to the best of their ability. Everyone – teachers, teaching assistants, administration and support – focus their efforts on making the school a safe and fulfilling place for the children. Through continuous training we are committed to maintaining our professional standards and expertise in order to help each child achieve. Our school is a calm and happy environment where children flourish.

Interesting and engaging learning

The curriculum is the vehicle through which we ensure that all our children receive broad, balanced and exciting learning opportunities. As defined by the National Curriculum 2014, we teach the Core subjects: English, Maths, Science and Foundation subjects: Computing, Languages, Design and Technology, Geography, History, Art & Design, Physical Education and Music as well as Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education. Subjects are, where appropriate, taught in thematic topics and are often learnt 'cross curricular' to make learning more relevant to our children.

Topics and themes are taught in phases—Years 3 and 4 (Lower Key Stage 2), and Years 5 and 6 (Upper Key Stage 2). This allows teachers to work collaboratively and provide the children with opportunities to work alongside others where appropriate, as part of the learning process.

We provide a wide range of learning situations i.e. individual, paired, supported, independent, groups and class work so that differing needs can be met, ensuring access to the full curriculum for every child.

Parental Involvement

We work with parents to give children the best possible education. You will be kept informed about what your child does at school and what you can do to help them. We encourage parents to come in and help with different activities such as reading and art and also to accompany us on school trips.

Transfer within the Federation

With a shared Leadership Team and Governing body we ensure that the transition from Littlehaven Infant School to Northolmes Junior School is as smooth as possible. The children visit Northolmes regularly for various activities and towards the end of the final year at Littlehaven the Year 2 and Year 3 Teachers discuss the children to ensure a planned move. Our experience is that Littlehaven children are ready for the move to an environment that is already very familiar.

The well-managed and smooth transition between Littlehaven and Northolmes schools helps the children with the move to secondary school a few years later, a point noted by the senior schools.

The Curriculum

We provide a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum which caters for the needs of each individual. Children are encouraged to become confident, enthusiastic learners engaging in collaborative and independent activities. They are expected to make choices and decisions and through self assessment help to plan their own learning priorities. We believe that developing the skills of independence is very important and we use the 6 R's: respect, resourceful, resilient, reflective, resourceful and reasoning to help the children to become more independent in their work and their lives.

The teachers tailor lessons to the children's abilities and different learning styles so that they are stimulated and interested in what they are learning. When your child is at the school you will receive regular, detailed information about what they will be learning.

English

Teachers follow the 2014 National Curriculum when planning English; it gives detailed objectives for exploring different methods of communication. This includes the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening (including drama).

English is the thread weaving through all of the children's learning, allowing them to transfer their skills to many different areas. Northolmes gives children the very best teaching and learning opportunities in order to develop into confident communicators who can express their views, feelings and ideas, clearly and imaginatively.

Mathematics

Daily mathematics sessions give children the opportunity to learn a range of mathematical skills through a mixture of whole class teaching, group work and independent study. During these lessons we encourage children to ask, as well as answer, mathematical questions.

Practical activities, exploration and discussion, investigations, development of mental strategies and written calculations are all aspects of

the Maths curriculum. Using resources and real-life contexts we aim to promote confidence and competence with numbers and the number system helping children to understand the importance of maths in everyday life.



Science

An emphasis on practical scientific activity at Northolmes helps to encourage children to understand the world in which they live. Drawing on their own experiences and natural curiosity, children are encouraged to observe, study, question, plan, investigate and experiment. The scientific method of investigation is developed over the junior years and children are expected to relate their findings and draw their own conclusions from a variety of experiments. This enables them to record how things are and ways in which they may change. This is achieved by giving as much practical experience as possible.

Computing

ICT is an exciting, motivational subject which promotes thinking and problem solving skills across a range of subjects. It allows the children to explore the world around them in new ways and can enrich and support learning across a range of activities. Our aim is to teach the children to use technology with purpose, confidence and discrimination.

We have a large networked ICT suite; every child has access to a computer and is able to work independently. Our whole school network allows children to share ideas and resources. Each classroom also has computers, ipads and an Interactive Whiteboard to support and enhance children's learning in all subjects.

Languages

At Northolmes all children learn a second language. We aim to foster children's curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world; enabling children to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. We aim to provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.

History and Geography

These subjects enable children to gain an understanding of people in society through time and place and at Northolmes they are integrated into topics where possible. In addition to acquiring knowledge about other times and other places, our children develop general and investigative skills, through looking at artefacts and documents from the past. These skills are also developed in geography through activities such as interpreting plans, maps and diagrams, appreciating the chronology of time and finding information from a variety of relevant sources, including our local environment as well as atlases and non-fiction material.

Design & Technology

Design & Technology provides practical learning experiences and offers opportunities for children to develop and refine the skills associated with designing, making and evaluating different products. DT allows children to actively participate and respond to the changing technological world around them; as users, consumers, designers and inventors. The children have the opportunity to apply scientific skills, mathematical skills and information technology.

Art & Design

The aesthetic development of children is encouraged at Northolmes through music, drama and art. Art gives children the opportunity for practical, creative activities and the means to express their ideas in a visual form. Children enjoy painting and sketching, using a variety of media, observational drawing, collage, pattern making, modelling, pottery and printing. Our children are provided with opportunities to expand their art skills using a range of ICT programs and digital equipment, as well as exploring and using the outdoors to influence their work. In addition to illustrating their own work, the children study the work of different artists to support and influence their ideas.

Music

The music curriculum provides opportunities for the children to explore their musical potential and creativity. A specialist teacher develops skills in singing and playing musical instruments. All children are encouraged to express themselves through their own composition and performance. They listen to, and appreciate, a range of different music styles from a range of different times and places.



There is a choir which performs in assemblies and at the Horsham Music festival and clubs where children are taught to play specific instruments. Peripatetic teachers are available to give tuition to small groups of children who play brass, stringed or woodwind instruments and Drums –there is a fee for this service. An orchestra of our musicians meets once a week and performs to the school and parents.

Through the year, there are a number of productions – plays and musicals, to give the children an opportunity to work at something together and express themselves creatively. These shows are always eagerly awaited by parents and children who come to watch. We are very proud of the standard of music and drama at Northolmes.

Physical Education (PE)

PE is an important part of schooling and we are aware of the need for physical fitness for the child's well being. We aim to develop the skills required to take part in any sport.

The PE Curriculum incorporates the following elements:

- Gymnastics
- Athletics
- Outdoor Games e.g. Football, Netball, Hockey, Rugby, Cricket.
- Swimming at Horsham Pool (we invite contributions for this activity) the children will progress through the ASA Swimming Awards Scheme
- Dance

We also provide opportunities through clubs and school teams for children to take part in team games.



We have taken part competitively in football, netball, hockey, rounders, swimming, cross-country running and athletics.

Religious Education (R.E.)

R.E. is taught throughout the school in accordance with the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus, focusing on Christianity and introducing Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, and Buddhism.

Children are given opportunities to explore religious beliefs and traditions in the world they live, either in separate lessons or within cross-curricular topics. Visiting speakers, handling artefacts and local visits all support their learning.

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from R.E. or assemblies can do so by contacting the Headteacher.

Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

PSHCE is more than a subject and curriculum area – it is an approach to education that supports the development of the whole child through a range of experiences within and beyond the classroom. PSHCE is concerned with the development of:

- Personal qualities and attitudes such as self-confidence, respect, honesty, consideration, tolerance and responsibility
- Knowledge and understanding about yourself, others and their surroundings, social responsibilities and moral ideas and behaviour.
- Abilities like personal organisation, working with others, managing conflict, making decisions and self assessment.
- Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) will be a topic for children in all years in the Summer Term. Parents will receive an outline of the work that will be covered before the topic begins. They will also be invited to view any video materials used.

Children's questions are answered sympathetically and with understanding by the class teacher, taking into account the age and development of the child.

We believe that our school core values of Independence, Respect, being Reflective, showing Perseverance and Working Together underpin our curriculum and develop the children's understanding of society and being good citizens.

Curriculum Enrichment

As a result of our ongoing commitment to a creative and enjoyable curriculum, Northolmes uses creative teaching and learning methods to impact on and improve standards. Our curriculum is enriched and enhanced by first hand experiences in all sorts of ways. Visitors to the school have included emergency services, authors, story tellers, dentists, health visitors, a medieval performing group, musicians, theatre groups, circus and skipping workshops, and the list goes on... Children also have the opportunity to go on educational visits. These include:

- Local trips to churches, parks and nature reserves
- Places of special interest for a particular topic



Year 6 residential visit.

Every year the older children have an opportunity to spend 5 days at an activity centre where they participate in outdoor adventurous activities such as: archery, fencing, climbing, abseiling, sailing and mountain biking.

Class Organisation

Classes are of mixed age and ability. Within each class, teachers will use a range of ways of grouping children to ensure that they learn to the best of their capability. The ratio of teachers to children ensures that teaching groups are kept to 30 children or below and a number of teaching assistants work with the children under the direction of the class teacher. Children requiring additional support may receive this within the classroom or in a small group area.

Your Child's Progress

During the course of the school year there will be two occasions when parents are formally invited to meet the class teacher. In the Autumn and Spring Terms you are invited to talk to your child's class teacher and discuss your child's progress and their targets. We also have open afternoons when you can come and look at your child's work. In the Summer Term a written report will be sent to you informing you about your child's progress. Parents are welcome to make an appointment with the class teacher at any other time to discuss their child's progress.

Homework

We believe that homework is an effective way of:

- Extending coverage of the curriculum
- Improving attitudes to learning
- Increasing independence in learning
- Fostering the home/school partnership
- Raising levels of achievement

Children are given a home-school contact book and in this book they are able to keep a record of the reading they complete at home. They are also encouraged to practise spelling rules and times tables when they are at home.

To support the topic that children are learning in class, they will be provided with a homework grid. This grid provides them with a large number of activities, from which the child can select the ones they wish to complete. The activities encourage Literacy, Mathematics, Art, Music, collaborative and independent skills. Each piece of work is worth a set number of points and during the term children complete tasks to earn themselves a certificate.

Children in year 6 are also given a Maths or English task each week, in addition to the homework grid.

Children with Special Educational Needs

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils have equality of opportunity irrespective of their needs. To ensure that this happens the progress of all children is monitored carefully and if a child is experiencing difficulties – learning, emotional, physical or behavioural – we put a structured support system in place. This may include working as part of a small group or individually with our Learning Support Assistant or Learning Mentor.

The programme of work is reviewed regularly in conjunction with our Special Educational Needs Coordinator. If necessary, advice will be sought from professionals who support the school such as advisory teachers, the educational psychologist or school health practitioners. A Special Needs policy, which conforms to the Code of Practice relating to Children with Special Educational Needs is available for parents to view in school, as is the Accessibility Plan which describes how the school will help to enable access for all pupils and parents/carers. The school SEND 'local offer' and locality offer is available on our website.

If your child has a disability and you are considering Northolmes Junior School, please contact the school to discuss and organise personal admission arrangements.

'Gifted and Talented' Children

Some children show a natural flair for particular subjects, working far in advance of other children of the same age. For example, a child might show an exceptional understanding of how to solve complex problems in mathematics, or a child's artwork may demonstrate an extraordinary imagination.

Teachers are constantly monitoring and evaluating the work of their pupils in all subjects. Within the school, work is carefully matched to the child's needs and to their accelerated pace of learning.

Behaviour

The general behaviour of children is a matter of great importance in the running of our school and to the well-being of the community. Qualities of honesty, kindness and fair dealing are constantly encouraged, whilst politeness and thought for others are regarded as the basis of relationships between children and teachers. Children are expected to be responsive to discipline and to observe the school rules. Parents are consulted at an early stage when a child's behaviour causes concern. Also, parents are encouraged to seek advice from the school if their child's behaviour at home is causing concern. The school can seek to obtain special support for parents in this situation, if appropriate. A Behaviour Policy is available for parents to read. Please contact the Headteacher for further details.

Partnerships with Parents

We believe that it is vital that the school and parents work together closely and we will strive to develop this partnership. We will ensure that parents are kept fully informed about events in school by using "Parentmail", an electronic communication system, through our notice board in the playground, our School Web Site (<http://www.northolmes.w-sussex.sch.uk>) and with regular newsletters. We also regularly update parents about the progress of their child through parent/teacher meetings and an end of year report. In return we ask parents to share with us knowledge about their child. We are keen that parents feel welcome in school and very much value the time and energy that some parents are able to give as volunteer helpers.

Parental Concerns

As a school we are keen to quickly resolve any parental concerns. If for any reason you have questions or concerns about your child, in the first instance please talk to your child's class teacher. If these concerns are not satisfactorily addressed, then please contact the Headteacher.

Northolmes School Association (NSA)

Every parent of a child in the school is automatically a member of 'The NSA' and those who choose to become more actively involved do so by: attending the regular committee meetings; getting involved with the social and fundraising events and help to plan new ventures. We have a notice board in the playground, information area on the website and a Facebook group which will keep you informed of forthcoming events.

Community Cohesion

We want our children to grow up with a feeling of belonging to the community, feeling supported by the community and having a sense of responsibility to that community. Part of this encompasses:

- Harvest Festival links to the Salvation Army
- Summer and Christmas Fairs when the local community is invited into the school
- Christmas carol singing and visits to local retirement homes
- Informing the community of activities through the local newspapers
- Charity days including fundraising for a variety of local, national and international charities (such as Sussex Air Ambulance, Red Nose Day)
- Encouraging consideration for our immediate neighbours
- Children getting involved in the School and Eco Councils.

The Governing Body

The role of the governing body is to challenge and support the Headteacher and staff of Northolmes Junior School to provide the best possible education for all of its children, constantly looking for ways to further improve standards and achievement.

School governors are volunteers and drawn from all walks of life. They have a genuine interest in and desire to improve education for children at Northolmes. They give up their time freely and also attend training courses to ensure that they are able to make well informed judgements and decisions.



Other useful information

Clubs

We have a programme of clubs run by members of staff, parents and outside organisations which take place after school. Clubs have included Drama, Dance, Board Games, Drawing, Football, Netball, Athletics, Rounders, Stoolball, French, Basketball, Tag Rugby, Country Dancing for the Horsham Festival, Computers, Journalism and Book Club.

Parents interested in helping with clubs to broaden the activities enjoyed by the children should contact the Headteacher.

Bikeability

Each year a Bikeability course is run for all our Year 6 children. Road Safety Officers organise this course and test the children once it is completed. There are cycle racks at the School which can be used by Year 6 children who pass their test and by any younger child who rides to school with an adult and has a cycle pass. Cycle passes can be obtained by Parents from the School Office.

School Meals and Snacks

Pupils have the option to have a hot school meal or bring in a packed lunch from home.

Packed lunches

Packed lunches should consist of a balanced diet. We are keen to encourage healthy eating in the school and ask parents to provide fruit/vegetables in lunchboxes and restrict biscuits and crisps.

Hot Meals

Chartwells provide a balanced and nutritious menu for children who prefer a hot meal at lunchtime. A 4 week menu is available from the school office or online. If parents wish to order hot meals for their child they should book these directly with Chartwells at www.mealselector.co.uk or ring 01243 836130.

If you are in receipt of certain benefits your child may be entitled to free school meals. For more information contact the School Office.

Snacks

If children would like a morning snack during breaktime one can be brought in from home. Snacks should be fruits or vegetable only.

Pupil Premium

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits then you can apply for Free School Meals:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from National Asylum Support Service (NASS) under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no working tax credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit

If you apply, this school will receive a 'Pupil Premium' Grant of £1300. The Pupil Premium Grant is specifically used to target the progress of the children who receive the grant. An overview of how the school spends this money is available on the School Website.

Admissions

The admissions policy of Northolmes Junior School is common to all Community Primary schools in West Sussex. All requests for places, including those for children with disabilities, should be directed to the West Sussex Admissions Team:

Telephone: 03330 142903

Email: admissions@westsussex.gov.uk

Further details relating to admissions can be found on the West Sussex County Council website: www.westsussex.gov.uk

Priority for admission is given to children living within the designated area, but consideration will also be given to children outside the designated area if there is sufficient accommodation within the school.

The School Day

The School opens at 8.40. From this time there is a member of staff on the playground so parents can leave their child in their care. At 8.50 the bell rings; the children line up and are collected by their Teacher.

Hours	8.50am – 12.15pm
	1.20pm – 3.30pm

Liaison with other schools

Northolmes Junior School and Littlehaven Infant School are now joined together as part of a new Federation. This allows the staff of both schools to work more closely as a team. Working together we are able to ensure your child's transition from Infants to Juniors is a successful one.

Littlehaven pupils have the opportunity to spend time at Northolmes during their time in Year 2. They visit the school to watch the Christmas and Summer productions, and during the Summer Term they also spend time at Northolmes using the ICT suite and becoming more familiar with the school. Our teachers visit the children in their classes at Littlehaven Infant school and discuss each individual with the Year 2 teachers. Year 2 pupils will then spend a morning at Northolmes with their new teachers. In the term preceding admission to the school, parents of children joining Northolmes in the September are invited to meet their child's new teacher and ask any questions they may have.

During year 5 and 6 children are given opportunities to visit both Millais and Forest Boys to take part in a range of activities. These may include sporting activities, visiting art exhibitions or watching performances of plays. These opportunities allow the children to familiarise themselves with the secondary schools they are likely to attend.

Year 6 children visit their chosen secondary school at the end of the summer term. Prior to this induction day, representatives of the secondary schools visit the year 6 children and discuss the transition with them. The children get a chance to ask questions that they may have. Year 6 teachers also spend time discussing individual children's needs and attainment with the secondary school in order to ensure there is a smooth transition for all children.

Absence

If a child has to miss school for appointments or illness we ask parents to send a note into school in advance or phone the School before 9.15am on the first morning of absence. Any other absence must be authorised by the Headteacher.

Attendance

Following the government's changes to Attendance (Regulations) 2013, the governing body strongly discourages absence from school during term time.

School Uniform

Girls	Boys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain grey skirt or pinafore dress or plain black or grey sensible trousers • Light blue blouse or polo shirt • White socks or grey tights • Navy blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan • Summer dress – navy blue checked <p>Shoes – low heeled black. Boots, platform soled shoes and sling backs should not be worn in School. White or light coloured sensible sandals for the summer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey or black trousers • • • Light blue shirt or polo shirt • Grey socks • Navy blue sweatshirt or jumper <p>Shoes – black</p>
<p>P.E. kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plimsolls or black plain trainers (that are suitable to be worn outside in any weather) • White shorts • A coloured t-shirt (which reflects the house that the child is a member of) • Drawstring bag for kit • Navy or black track suit bottoms 	

Jewellery

Only simple stud earrings can be worn in school, for safety reasons these must be removed for PE and swimming lessons. This is in line with West Sussex County Council guidelines.

Hair

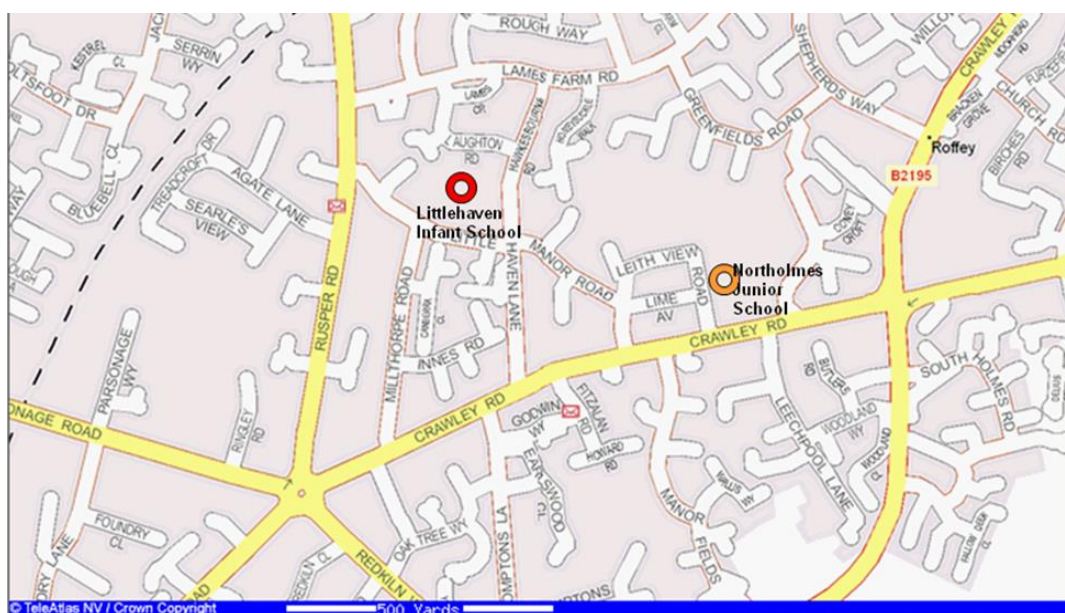
Long hair should be tied back.

Coats

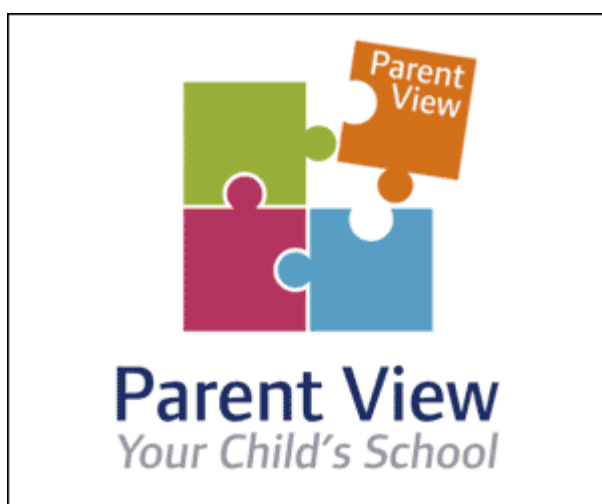
All children should have a suitable coat for cold weather. They will also need a rainproof jacket for all year round.

Jumpers, cardigans, fleeces, polo shirts and P.E t-shirts with a school logo are all available from Taylor Made Uniforms Limited. Contact them on 01403 250644 or visit the website at www.taylormadeuniforms.co.uk

Map of School location



Ofsted Parent View



School Inspection Reports and Information

Northolmes Junior School's Data Dashboard:

An overview of Year 6 progress and attainment over the last three years.

<http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk/dash.php?urn=125836>

Northolmes Junior School's Ofsted Inspection Reports:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/125836>