



Holmer Green Junior School
We inspire, we enable, we achieve. Together.

The Common
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Dear Parents and Carers,

As your child begins Year 6 in September, we know that many families will be starting to think about the move to secondary school. Although the application process is managed by Buckinghamshire Council, we wanted to provide an overview of how Holmer Green Junior School supports pupils and families throughout the process.

Applying for a secondary school place

Applications for secondary school places open in early September and must be submitted by 31 October. We strongly encourage all parents to apply on time, as late applications significantly reduce the chances of securing a preferred school. Parents can list up to six school preferences and should include a realistic mix of schools, including a local catchment school where appropriate.

We also encourage families to:

- Visit school open evenings.
- Carefully read each school's admission arrangements.
- Consider transport arrangements and eligibility.
- Complete any Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) required by individual schools.

The Secondary Transfer Test (11+)

The Secondary Transfer Test is not compulsory. If you are considering a Buckinghamshire grammar school, your child will need to sit the test unless you choose to withdraw them. We ask parents to confirm whether they would like their child to take the test as soon as possible or over the summer break.

At Holmer Green Junior School we:

- Administer the Practice Test and the Transfer Test in school on 8th and 10th September.
- Ensure all testing follows Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools' guidance.
- Provide a calm, supportive environment for pupils.
- Do not coach children for the test beyond the familiarisation materials provided by Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools, as all schools are required to follow the same guidance.

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Our priority is to ensure every child feels confident and supported, regardless of whether they decide to take the Secondary Transfer Test. We encourage children simply to do their best and remind them that there are many excellent secondary schools available locally.

Where appropriate, we have applied for approved access arrangements for pupils who routinely receive support in school, ensuring they are able to access the test fairly.

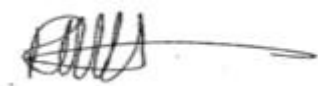
Headteacher recommendations

As part of the grammar school process, Buckinghamshire grammar schools ask primary headteachers to provide a recommendation based on each child's consistent academic performance and attitude to learning. These recommendations are submitted before test results are known and are only used if a Selection Review becomes necessary.

We are always happy to discuss the process, provide general guidance and answer questions about secondary transfer. However, decisions about admissions and school allocations are made by Buckinghamshire Council and individual admission authorities.

Further information, including key dates and admissions guidance, can be found on the Buckinghamshire Council and Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools websites. We appreciate that choosing a secondary school is an important decision for every family. We look forward to working with you over the coming months to ensure your child has a smooth and successful transition to the next stage of their education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Cusdin', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robin Cusdin
Headteacher
Holmer Green Junior School