



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 30

Friday 13th May 2016

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Next week's lunch menu will be: Week 4

Outdoor Writing Areas

As part of our project to improve playtimes at Holly Park, we are in the process of developing different areas in the playground for the children to try out various activities. We have a story garden area in the KS2 playground and a quiet area in KSI, where the children can sit on mats with cushions and read books from the outdoor reading boxes. To further develop these areas we are going to introduce outdoor writing boxes in both playgrounds, which we are hoping will help to inspire creativity and a love of writing amongst the children. If you have any of the following to spare at home or are able to donate anything it would be greatly appreciated if you could send them in to the office or Miss Mountford for our outdoor writing boxes:

- Pens
- Pencils
- Chalk
- Paper
- Card
- Cardboard
- Interesting objects that could inspire writing

Year 5 Residential to Gilwell Park

The Y5 residential was a huge success. The children left school on Wednesday morning and returned on Friday afternoon. They were accompanied by some Non Stop Action staff, Mrs Thomas, Miss Michael, Mr Reid, Miss Roe, Mr French, Ms Owen and Miss Biggs. The weather was glorious and the children were very well behaved. The accommodation was as usual lovely and the food delicious and plentiful. The activities included: grass sledging, zip wire, camp fire cooking, 3G swing, It's a knock out, archery, orienteering, crate stacking and climbing. In the evening there was tug of war, a quiz, camp fire sing song and torches in the dark. There are lots of pictures on the Y5 page of the website. Thank you to all the staff who went and particularly Mrs Thomas who organised it.



School Budget

I am just writing to let you know how difficult it has been to set a balanced budget for Holly Park for this new financial year. I am sure you have heard about the difficulty schools across the country are facing with their budgets nationally. The original budget given to us this year was less than the previous year. And on top of that we have had to absorb a 3% increase in national insurance contributions for all staff out of our school budget with no extra to take account of this. This combined with services we have to pay for, the increasing costs of goods and facilities, the usual incremental uplifts and the fact that any school carry forwards are subsidising year on year have meant that we have had to make cuts across the board for the coming year. The cost of this to our budget is significant. We have had to reduce 'non-essential' spending – inevitably this means spending less on the curriculum, intervention groups, building works and school improvement. Our budget is very tight and there is certainly no slack. Not only have many of our 'wish list' ideas had to be put on hold, but we have had to make basic changes to what we are already doing, not out of choice but out of necessity. Projections show that our budget going forward is likely to be unsustainable. Of course we are not alone in this situation. Many Barnet Heads I talk to and our local partnership schools are in a similar financial position. As a group of local partnership Heads we have written to our local councillors to ask them to champion the case for school budgets generally but in particular the case for outer London boroughs in the consultation on school funding nationally and we have urged them to lobby to ensure that Barnet schools do not lose any money as a result of the new national funding formula proposals. It seems we will be even more reliant on and grateful for PTA fund raising in the coming years. Thank you to our Holly Park parents for your continued support of the school.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 17th May
 Mulberry Class assembly at 9am
 Wednesday 18th May
 Y5 Review for parents at 4pm
 Thursday 19th May
 HPS Book Club for parents and children 3pm
 Monday 23rd May
 Secondary Transfer Meeting for Y5 parents at 7pm
 Friday 27th May
 Secondary Transfer meeting Y5 parents repeated at 9am

Woodland Spring Festival at Coppetts Wood

For your information the annual spring festival is on again on Sunday 22nd May between 1pm and 4pm. Lunch, snacks and refreshments are available. Face painting, live music, clay modelling, treasure hunt and lots more. Free entrance.

Football Tournaments

This term we have sent a team from every year group to play football at an inter school football tournament against many other local schools. Some of the teams have been mixed boys and girls. Everyone enjoyed these friendly matches. Thank you to Mr Reid and parents who accompanied them. We still have Y4 to play.



The Year 3 Team

School Dinner Menus

We realise that some parents check the menus every day to see what is for lunch. We understand that sometimes frustrations occur when what is on offer does not match the menu exactly. Whilst every effort is made to keep to the menu for the week, due to delivery problems or swaps made by the supplier changes may occur. This is out of the control of both the kitchen and the school.

Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

Winners of Punctuality Parrot		Y1 Chestnut Y2 Rowan Y3 Hazel Y5 Maple
Winners of Attendance Alligator		Y1 Pine Y5 Juniper

Housepoints for this week

Unicorn	220	points
Griffin	216	points
Hydra	202	points
Dragon	155	points
Phoenix	127	points

Well done **Unicorn**

Music News

Instrumental Tuition and Ensembles Parents are reminded to complete the B.E.A.T. 'Practice Books' each week.

Instrumental Tuition for Autumn Term 2016 In recent assemblies we have been 'showcasing' different musical instruments that children may learn at Holly Park. A letter will be sent out to parents of children currently in Years 1 – 5 inviting applications for the academic year 2016-2017. Our team of tutors will audition each child wishing to start a musical instrument for the first time – in order to ensure the child's suitability for the instrument. Please look out for the letter and respond before or by the deadline.

Chamber Choir (Years 5 & 6 Barnabas Choir): 7th June. The choir will be performing at the Barnet Schools' Music Festival, which will be held on the evening of Monday 13th June at the Artsdepot Theatre, N12. Parents should have already applied for tickets for the concert through the school. If there are any remaining tickets for the performance, these may be purchased from the Artsdepot box office on Monday 23rd May.

Barnabas Choir Rehearsal for Years 3 and 4 is on Tuesday 28th June. Barnabas Choir will be performing at our annual summer concert (at school) on Tuesday 13th July at 7:00 pm. Barnabas Choir members can access the songs we are learning via the school website. All lyrics must be learned off by heart.

