



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 27

Friday 5th May 2017

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Year 2 Scooter Training

Last week for the first time ever at Holly Park our Y2 children took part in Scooter training. The children had great fun in the playground and then out in the streets learning about how to be safe when riding a scooter. They learnt valuable skills such as stopping safely.



Attendance and Holidays

I just wanted to remind parents about the importance of good attendance. Children who don't have good attendance find it very difficult to achieve well and make good progress. As an example - attendance of only 80% equates to 38 school days being missed across a year and that is equivalent to a child being away for a whole half term of school!!!!!! If a child has significant absence such as this, it is then irrelevant as to whether it is authorized or unauthorized because at the end of the day the child has been away from school (whatever the reason) and missed out on their education.

Parents will have heard in the news that the Supreme Court ruled on 6 April 2017 that regular attendance means attending 'according to the rules'. The ruling points out the impact on the life of the school and provides a valuable message to parents that the actions of a minority of parents have a wider impact on the school as a whole. (see points 40 and 41 below from the case) The practical effect of the decision is to make clear that there is no arbitrary figure of what constitutes regular attendance. Global measures such as school attendance targets do not provide a benchmark for individual pupils. Schools have been advised that they should continue using the Fixed Penalty Notice process as normal. Holiday in term time is NOT permitted.

'40. It is not just that there is a clear statistical link between school attendance and educational achievement. It is more the disruptive effect of unauthorised absences. These disrupt the education of the individual child. Work missed has to be made up, requiring extra work by the teacher who has already covered and marked this subject matter with the other pupils. Having to make up for one pupil's absence may also disrupt the work of other pupils. Group learning will be diminished by the absence of individual members of the group. Most of all, if one pupil can be taken out whenever it suits the parent, then so can others. Different pupils may be taken out at different times, thus increasing the disruptive effect exponentially. '

'41. Finally, given the strictness of the previous law, Parliament is unlikely to have found it acceptable that parents could take their children out of school in blatant disregard of the school rules, either without having asked for permission at all or, having asked for it, been refused. This is not an approach to rule-keeping which any educational system can be expected to find acceptable. It is a slap in the face to those obedient parents who do keep the rules, whatever the cost or inconvenience to themselves.'

Parent Governor

Papers have gone home to every family this week. Anyone who might be interested should come and speak to Mrs Pelham about the role and collect a governor information pack outlining the role and responsibilities of a school governor. The role of a governor is voluntary but there is a great deal of accountability attached to the role. The role of a governor involves being able to attend evening meetings each term, going on training and also being able to commit to making visits into school during a working school day on a fairly regular basis.

Value of the Month (May) – Co-operation

The value for May is Cooperation! Please find some time to talk at home about what it means to cooperate with each other! Good definitions are - Working together to get something done. Talking and agreeing how to do something. Being helpful and doing your bit to sort something out. Children need to think about how they need to co-operate and work together as a team to achieve goals. Co-operation is – Teamwork, Interacting and joining in, Listening and respecting each other, Lending each other a helping hand, Working together, Trust and support, Helping one another, Not letting other people down, Sharing each other's ideas, Compromise, Communicating with each other, Responsibility to others.

Diary Dates

Monday 8 th May	Y6 National Test Week
Tuesday 9 th May	Chestnut Class Assembly at 9am
Thursday 11 th May	HPS Book Club at 9am
Friday 12 th May	Y2 Cake sale
Monday 15 th May	Enabling Enterprise Week
Tuesday 16 th May	Mulberry Class Assembly at 9am
Wednesday 17 th May	Year 5 Review for parents 2. 30pm

Diary dates for the term were e-mailed out on Monday

Parent Workshops

Thank you to those parents who were able to come and support our workshops – Maths for Y2, maths for Y3, Online Safety for Y4 and SPAG for Y5. They were all very well attended and the children love working with parents. We hope that you do find them useful.



Change in the Ball Area

This term we are making a change to the use of the ball area. For this half term the children will be able to play tennis in the ball area on their rota day and next half term it will be cricket. We want to broaden the opportunities offered at break times and ensure that the ball area is not just for those who like football.

Toys in School

A reminder that toys and playing cards should not be brought into school. This includes fidget spinners. I have spoken to the children in assembly this week.

Children At The End Of The Day

Please can I urge parents that if they see a child at the end of the school day who appears to have been separated from the parent in the playground (particularly very young children) to please take the child back to their class or take them to the school office or a member of staff at the school gate. Please do NOT under any circumstance decide to take the child to their home or to your home as nobody knows where they are and this can lead to very distressed parents and staff.

Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

Winners of Punctuality Parrot		Y1 Pine
Winners of Attendance Alligator		Y4 Sycamore

Housepoints for this week

Phoenix	239	points
Hydra	236	points
Dragon	213	points
Unicorn	208	points
Griffin	152	points

Well Done **Phoenix**

Music News

Instrumental Tuition: There will be NO Instrumental Tuition lessons for Year 6 pupils on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. Any sessions missed will be made up by the tutors before the end of term. There will be no Woodwind lessons or Wind Band session next week. Tablas and drum kit lessons are postponed, too.

Barnabas Choir: CHAMBER CHOIR (Years 5&6 Barnabas) sessions – **May 9th** (Year 6 will be involved in SATs tests during the day and are free to attend or miss this session). There will be CHAMBER CHOIR rehearsals on May 16th and May 23rd. After half-term there will be one more CHAMBER CHOIR rehearsal on June 6th, before the choir perform at the Arts Depot, North Finchley on Monday 12th June.

Years 3, 4 & 5 Barnabas Choir will have a choir session on 27th June.

Infant Choir Concert

The infant choir concert was a treat. The children clearly enjoyed their singing and had lots of fun. They sounded beautiful. They sang songs from across the curriculum - geography, history topics, in other languages and lots of songs they had composed themselves. They sang songs about bullying and of course our Holly Park school song. Another lovely event by Mr Hogan and the children.

