



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

Friday 15th December 2017

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

PTA Winter Fair

The Christmas fair at Holly Park was as ever a wonderful community event for all of our families. It brings children and parents together to share the fun whilst at the same time raising much needed funds for the school. This year our fair was opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet. We had a mix of traditional game stalls such as the toy tombola alongside our Year 5 and 6 creative apprentice stalls which were run by our pupils. They had lovely creative stalls encouraging visitors to make all kinds of Christmas decorations. Santa was as usual very busy and his grotto was a treat! There were plenty of delicious food stalls including mince pies and mulled wine. The addition of the outdoor ice skating rink was a fantastic addition – lots of fun was had on there! The lively band and the carol singers added a festive feel to the proceedings. The raffle prizes (including a hamper from the school staff) were well received. We hope that families had an enjoyable afternoon and everyone seemed to get into the festive spirit. We estimate the fair made approx. £3,000.



ECO Council Christmas Tips

1. Reuse wrapping paper or recycle it.
- 2 Make your own Christmas cards.
- 3 Avoid silver and metallic cards and wrapping because it can't be recycled.
- 4 If you have a real tree put it in the green bin after Christmas
- 5 Put on an extra jumper instead of turning on the heating.
- 6 Put your Christmas lights on a timer switch
- 7 Avoid buying gifts with lots of packaging.
- 8 Keep your cards to make new ones next year.

Parent Questionnaires

Parent questionnaires went home last week. We would be very grateful if we could have them back by Tuesday 19th December. Thank you.

Christmas Post

The Christmas post box is out and ready for children to put their Christmas cards in. Please ensure that all cards have full names and classes on the envelope. The last day to post cards will be **MONDAY 18th DECEMBER**

Santa's House Of The Future

Entries from the PTA & Austin Chambers Santa's House of the Future Competition were on display at Austin Chambers and at the Winter Fair last Saturday for people to vote for their favourite one. A huge thank you to Austin Chambers who generously sponsored our Winter Fair. Both partners of the firm came down to the fair and were very impressed with the buzz and family friendly feel. The winner was Chloe in Y6 who will receive a £50 Vue Cinema voucher.



Snow and Ice

For health and safety reasons we decided to close the school on Monday 11th December. These decisions are never taken lightly. We have to consider how safe it is for staff to come into school, how many staff will make it in and also consider the safety of parents and children travelling to and from the school. The roads around the school were treacherous, the temperatures freezing and more snow was forecast. I keep in constant contact with Mr Reid who lives on site, the Chair of governors who also lives locally and also the heads of our local schools – in fact as heads we have a Whatsapp snow group so we can liaise with each other about what we are intending to do! We made the decision to give parents as much notice as possible by informing you on the Sunday evening. Poppy enjoyed the day at home and had fun leaping, rolling and even eating the snow!!!!

The next day we opened the school to extremely icy conditions. Mr Reid was not able to clear the snow the day before as all schools have a lone working policy - staff should not work alone on site. We cancelled breakfast club to give Mr Reid an extra hour to clear playgrounds before children and parents came in, however the ground was frozen solid and this was clearly not enough. A group of staff tried their best to clear the path and playground but it was frozen solid ice. Of course secondary schools have teams of site staff to clear their grounds. There is no good just putting grit down - the ice has to be broken and then grit put on top. Paths were made up as quickly as they possibly could be - the main path, a path down to the juniors and then down to the car park. Infants & nursery went in the main door and through the dining room as there was no time to clear a path around to nursery. These paths were done later. I was informed that several staff actually saw some parents not keeping to the gritted path (despite my text and staff instructions) and walking across the ice. Of course every year (and it hasn't snowed in 5 years) the snow comes at different times of day etc and causes different problems. If this were to be the case again with the overnight freezing - I would perhaps not open the school until later in the morning to give the Site Manager more time to clear more areas or keep the school closed for a further day. We are not able to grit the pavements outside the school – our responsibility is for the school site only. One of my local primary Headteacher friends did tell me that a group of volunteer parents turned up at their school at 7.30am with shovels to help clear paths – perhaps this is something our parents may think of in the future. Please be assured that we always have the health and safety of the children uppermost on our mind. We continually risk assess, consider and evaluate what we do. Thank you for your support during what was a difficult couple of days.



Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

Winners of Punctuality parrot		Y3 Hazel Class
Winners of Attendance Alligator		Y2 Rowan Class

Housepoints for this week

Phoenix	367	points
Unicorn	209	points
Hydra	185	points
Griffin	179	points
Dragon	145	points

Well Done **Phoenix**

Diary Dates

Monday 18th December Y3 Nativity at 2pm
 Monday 18th December Reception parties
 Tuesday 19th December Nursery parties
 Tuesday 19th December Y3 Nativity at 6pm
 Tuesday 19th December KSI parties
 Wednesday 20th December Term ends at 1.30pm
 School starts for the Spring Term on Wednesday 3rd January at 8.55am

Music News

Instrumental Tuition and Ensembles: next term's sessions begins on Friday 5th January with guitar lessons. All of the other tutors start back on their usual days in the week beginning Monday 8th January. **Infant Choir Thursdays (3:30-4:15 pm in the main hall):** 4th January (Year 2); 11th January (Year 2). A letter will be sent home early next term inviting Year 1 children to join Infant Choir – as long as the deadline for applications is observed, your children will be a member of Infant Choir. The first Year 1 Infant Choir session will be held on Thursday 25th January. **Barnabas Choir Tuesdays (3:30-4:30 pm in the main hall):** January 9th (Chamber Choir); January 16th (Chamber Choir); January 30th (Years 3 & 4 Barnabas Choir). Year 3 children who sing accurately in tune and have a good vocal range will be offered a place in the choir next term. Early next term look out for the letter offering your child a place in the choir. We now have a **Holly Park Music Blog** which will give you access at home to recordings of some of the songs the choirs are learning. This can be accessed using: <https://sites.google.com/hollyparkschool.co.uk/music/home> **Please be aware of the issues regarding your children accessing the internet – strict parental supervision is essential.**

Dog Blog

Do take a look at the new 'dog blog' on our school website. The blog can be accessed on the right hand side of the website near the picture of Poppy OR under the about our school tab. The blog is a week by week update about school life as seen by Poppy the school dog. It makes for an entertaining and amusing read. Do show it to your children they will love it. My son read it last weekend and can't wait for next week's instalment!

