



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15

Friday 19th January 2018

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

International Lunch Day - 18th January

Our International Food Day went very well. The children enjoyed pasta, pizza (Italy) Thai green curry (Thailand) and chocolate orange sponge (South America – cocoa & oranges). The dining hall was decorated with flags and bunting from countries from around the world. The children came to school dressed either in costumes from different countries or in the colours of a particular flag. The costumes were amazing and many were extremely beautiful. Thank you for the great effort that parents put into this.



Cake Sale

Last week some ex Holly Parkers came along and did a cake sale. They are now pupils at Compton School and their school are raising money for children in Ghana. They (and their parents) made lots of cakes and they donated half of the cake sale proceeds to Holly Park. Well done!



Class Reporters

In order to keep the class pages on our website more up to date, we have established a system of class reporters. Each weekend a different child from the class will be chosen to go home at the weekend and to write up about what the class have been learning that week. Last week was our first reporting. Your child may well be chosen to do the write up for their class. Go onto the class pages on the website in a few weeks and have a read.

Result of The Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who filled in our parent questionnaire at the end of the Autumn term. This week we sent home the results of the questionnaire (via e-mail) along with a summary of some of the positive comments that you had to say. The results are also available on the school website. It is our strong belief that working closely with parents/carers is vital to the successful education and development of all our pupils. To support this I am keen to engage with parents and carers in a variety of ways including parents' evenings, coffee mornings, information meetings, informal conversations, parent tours of the school to name but a few. A particular focus, on an annual basis, is placed on formal consultation in the form of the parent questionnaire and it asks parents/carers to consider a variety of issues. Along with all of the other channels of information sharing mentioned above, these questionnaires can help to inform plans for the future direction of the school. In the next couple of weeks I will e-mail you again with a second letter with regard to the questionnaire and address some of the areas that you thought we could do even better at. Whilst it was lovely to receive several comments such as - 'I struggle to think of things. 'All our kids are very happily settled at Holly Park.' and 'I have trouble thinking of anything – I love this school' we are not complacent and know that there are areas we can always work on and that parents have concerns about. Obviously I cannot respond to every comment particularly as many were one off comments, but I will comment on those suggestions or ideas that were the most frequently mentioned or were recurring responses or concerns that parents had.

Diary Dates

Monday 22nd January	Y2 & Y6 Assessment Meeting for parents at 2.30pm
Tuesday 23rd January	Juniper Class Assembly
Wednesday 24th January	Y2 & Y6 Assessment Meeting for parents at 9am
Wednesday 24th January	Y6 Football Competition
Wednesday 24th January	PTA Meeting at 7pm
Friday 26th January	Y5 Maths workshop for parents and children at 9am
Friday 26th January	Netball Tournament
Tuesday 30th January	Maple Class Assembly at 9.10am
Wednesday 31st January	Y2 SPAG Workshop for parents 9am
Wednesday 31st January	Girls Football Tournament
Monday 5th February	Infant Show Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 6th February	Infant Show at 6.30pm
Wednesday 7th February	Infant Show 2pm
Thursday 8th February	Infant Show 6.30pm
Friday 9th February	End of Half term at 3.30pm

Attendance

At Holly Park the school governors monitor attendance. Our attendance is also monitored by the Local Authority. Attendance at school is extremely important for all children so that they can achieve as well as possible. Attendance is now part of safeguarding procedures. The government expectation is that attendance for each pupil should not fall below 95% and ideally should be 96% or above.

Attendance for the Autumn Term 2017 was the worst we have had at Holly Park over the last 3 years:

Autumn 2015: 96.27%
Autumn 2016: 96.05%
Autumn 2017: 95.24%

We are looking at the attendance of every individual child and in the next few weeks I will be writing to every parent whose child's attendance is under 95% as I feel it is important that you are aware.

Each pupil's welfare is of paramount importance to us, and we believe that regular school attendance throughout the year is essential for children's success and fulfilment.

Research shows that children with -

- Below 90% attendance, children have less chance of academic success than their peers
- Below 80% attendance there is serious concern about their academic success

Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

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

Housepoints for this week

Phoenix	287	points
Hydra	277	points
Griffin	227	points
Unicorn	184	points
Dragon	169	points

Well Done **Phoenix**

Music News

Instrumental Tuition and Ensembles as normal. The annual '**Instrumental Tuition Concert**' will be held on Tuesday 27th February at 6:30 p.m. Apart from the children who are just starting to learn an instrument with us, we try to include all of the other children who are learning to play a musical instrument at school. The tutors will let parents if their child is playing and which piece their child is performing in the concert. Most children perform in duets, trios or small groups. Year 6 pupils are given the opportunity to perform solo. A letter will be sent home nearer the time with ticket arrangements.

Infant Choir - Thursdays (3:30-4:15 pm in the main hall). Here are this term's remaining dates. Year 1: 25th January; 22nd February. Year 2: 8th March. FULL CHOIR: 22nd March. The deadline for Year 1 applications has passed.

Barnabas Choir - Tuesdays (3:30-4:30 pm in the main hall). Year 3 children who sing accurately in tune and have a good vocal range have been offered a place in the choir. The deadline for applications for Year 3 children is Thursday 25th January. Here are the remaining dates until half-term: **Years 3 & 4 Barnabas Choir: January 30th.**

Polite Reminder

You may have noticed a couple of new signs around the school. These signs refer to the fact that we would not expect our staff to be on the receiving end of any abuse and this includes verbal abuse. If you have any concerns, worries or problems, the staff at Holly Park are approachable and willing to discuss any issues calmly for the best outcomes for the child. It is very rare that we experience parents shouting at us or being completely unreasonable but it does happen and we will not accept this. May I remind you that we do have a parent code of conduct which we expect ALL parents to adhere to. A copy is on the website.

