



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18

Friday 9th February 2018

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Attendance

In line with my continued messages about attendance you will receive 2 bits of information about your child's attendance next half term. Shortly after the holiday ALL parents will receive a letter indicating how their child's attendance is at this mid-point in the year.

A green letter will indicate attendance of 96% or more – which is great.

An amber letter will indicate attendance of 94%-95.9% - which is around the expected mark.

A pink letter will indicate attendance of 90% - 93.9% - this is of concern because it is below the expected attendance levels.

A dark pink letter which will indicate attendance below 90% - which is of serious concern

At parent evening (which is in the final week of the Spring term) you will receive a breakdown of your child's attendance at the end of the second term. This will give the exact attendance figure and will show where the absences have occurred. We hope that you will find these two pieces of information useful.

Weekly Class Reporters for the Website

Do check out the year group sections of the school website as our weekly class reporters are doing a fantastic job of reporting back about what they have been learning. There have been some great comments such as:

Y3: "Another great week of learning!"

Y3: "We had great fun in the playground pretending to be Roman soldiers with our new shields."

Y4: "In swimming I'm improving."

Y4: "We really enjoyed doing things in Y4 this week."

Y3: "We had a writing workshop, it was very fun."

Y2: "I enjoyed maths."

Y5: "Our last Forest School was really good.! We got to make bows and arrows, it was really cool."

Y5: "This was our class's fantastic week!"

Y4: "We all loved weaving."

Y2: "The big news in year 2 is that everyone got their parts in the infant show. When you see it you'll think it's amaaaazing!"

Y3: "Learning about magnets was really interesting."

Outcomes at Holly Park

Parents do sometimes look at schools in the league tables and ask me questions about Holly Park. It has come to my attention that some of our newer parents may have concerns or perhaps not be clear about what they mean. To be honest, as Headteachers and school governors we are not really concerned with league tables and neither are the LA or Ofsted. League tables do NOT compare similar schools or give a clear picture. What we are concerned about is how did that cohort of Y6 children perform in relation to their starting point and MOST importantly how much PROGRESS did they make as individuals. For the last cohort of Y6 children we knew that they would not attain highly as a group because they had low starting points. We also had 10 new children join us at the start of Y6 who were not going to meet the end of year expectations. Results of tests are never a huge surprise to a school as we monitor every child and how they are doing throughout their whole time at school with us.

I can tell you that our Y6 writing was externally moderated last year and the moderators felt the teacher judgments were spot on, that spelling was some of the best they had seen and that ALL children were good writers in terms of composition and effect and that the children were given some great opportunities to write covering lots of different genres. I can also tell you that all schools have a challenge visit by a Barnet Network Inspector in the Autumn term. Our visit in December judged our outcomes to be GOOD. Last year we knew attainment of the cohort would be low – in fact it was better than we predicted. However we were very pleased with the progress that the children made. It is progress that is most important.

Can You Help Raise Money For The School Through Match Funding At Your Work Place?

Did you know there are hundreds of organisations which offer their employees the chance to boost their fundraising efforts by 'matching' the money they raise for a chosen cause? Is your company one of them? By manning a stall at the Winter Fair for ½ an hour, a Shell employee raised £350. Since the school year started, five donations have raised an impressive £3,500 for PTA funds. Your company may offer a match funding programme so it's worth speaking with your HR department. It is usually a simple case of filling out a form and then supplying a letter on 'Headed Notepaper' confirming the amount raised at the event and your involvement. Please reach out to the PTA Committee by emailing ptahollypark@yahoo.co.uk if you need more information or help approaching your organisation. Look out for a leaflet about match funding which will be e-mailed out.

Infant Show

The infant show this week was fabulous. The children spoke, sang and danced beautifully. The scenery was superb. We hope that all the infant parents enjoyed it. Every child had a small part to play but together as a team they make up a lovely show. My personal thanks go to the KSI staff - teachers and teaching assistants for all of their hard work putting it all together. Thank you to Mr Hogan for the singing and a huge thank you and well done to Mrs Fitzpatrick for producing and directing 'Pictures at Our Exhibition'. There are lots of pictures on the website.



Diary Dates

Friday 9th February	End of Half term at 3.30pm
Tuesday 20th February	Instrumental Concert
rehearsal all day	
Wednesday 21st February	Year 5 Football
Competition	
Thursday 22nd February	Holly Park Maths Day
Friday 23rd February	Parents in to do Maths
Friday 23rd February	Holly Park Maths Day 2
Friday 23rd February	PTA Discos
Tuesday 27th February	Instrumental Concert
Wednesday 28th February	Y4 Football Competition
Thursday 1st March	World Book Day
Thursday 1st March	House Competition
Monday 5th March	Barnet Dance Festival
Tuesday 6th March	Hazel Class Assembly
Wednesday 7th March	The Holly Park Book Swap
Friday 9th March	Y3 PTA Cake Sale
Friday 9th March	Y3 Curriculum Day
Friday 9th March	Y4 Sleepover

World Book Day – Thursday 1st March

I am writing to give you advance notice that World Book Day is the 1st March and we would like all the children from Nursery up to Year 6 to dress up as their favourite book character. The children also have the option of bringing in a prop that represents their chosen character if they don't want to dress up. For example: for Jack and the Beanstalk, 5 magic beans or a golden egg; for Cinderella, a glass slipper or feather duster etc. The children will then have to use their questioning skills to work out who the character is! Of course they could do both – dress up and bring a prop! The children will also be taking part in a variety of activities during the day. All of the class teachers will be sharing their favourite picture books with the children. We hope that the children will make a real effort with their dressing up. Thank you in advance for your support

Netball News

The netball team played very well last week in a netball tournament. They won their first two games but unfortunately lost the last two games. They missed the semi-finals by one point. They played very well as a team and were very supportive to each other. The team are doing very well in the league and have won all their matches so far.



Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

Winners of Punctuality parrot		Y2 Rowan Y4 Mulberry Y4 Sycamore
Winners of Attendance Alligator		Y5 Hawthorn

Housepoints for this week

Griffin	446	points
Phoenix	327	points
Dragon	311	points
Hydra	311	points
Unicorn	301	points

Well Done **Griffin**

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. A letter has been sent home with ticket arrangements. The deadline for ticket applications is today (Friday 9th February). If there are any spare tickets available we will send a text to parents. We will be having a **rehearsal day** for the concert. **This rehearsal day will be held during school time on Tuesday 20th February.** Children involved in the concert will need to bring into school their musical instrument and music on this day.

Choirs – Assembling the repertoire of songs. It is important that parents put the song sheets we are distributing in a plastic wallet file or ring binder, so that the children can bring these to rehearsals.

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

Barnabas Choir - Tuesdays (3:30-4:30 pm in the main hall). Here are the dates after half-term. Years 3 & 4: 20th February; 13th March. Chamber Choir (Years 5 & 6): March 6th and 27th. If we need another Chamber Choir rehearsal (in preparation for the Barnet Schools' Music Festival) it will be on 20th March. We will let parents know, nearer the time.

Nutella

A reminder that Nutella chocolate spread by nature of its title contains nuts. We have had a couple of children bring in the new Nutella 'B-ready' snacks in lunch boxes. Please avoid these for packed lunches.

Parents Giving Out Letters

Please can I ask that parents do not give out letters to other children or families via the book bag system. I have had a couple of instances where parents have brought letters to me that were not sanctioned by the school, I had no knowledge of and they had gone home in the book bag.

