



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7

Friday 2nd November 2018

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Cross Country

On Thursday 18th October Holly Park took part in the first Cross Country race of the season. In warm and sunny conditions all the runners performed really well, showing great determination to complete the 1500m course. There were some stand out performances from Melissa T (5th in Year 6 girls race), Amarion (2nd in Year 5 boys race) and most notable of all Leila T (1st in Year 4 girls race). We await the overall results from the day before we head into the second race in the New Year. Well done to all the runners.



Be Bright Be Seen Day

On the last Friday of last half term, the children came to school wearing very bright clothes – everyone made a great effort. We have done this day as part of our work on road safety. Children and parents need to be aware that the nights are drawing in and more accidents involving children being knocked down on roads occur in the winter months. If your child has a dark coloured coat – make sure they also wear something bright or fluorescent too.



Parent Governor

I am sad to tell you that Hedley Dindoyal, dad to Milo and Jasmine is stepping down as a parent governor. I would like to thank him on behalf of myself and the governors for his time on the governing body. This means that there will now be a governor vacancy. Papers will be going home to every family next week. We would very much like to hear from any parents who are interested in joining Holly Park's governing body. May I remind you that you can email the chair of governors at tgraveney@hollypark.barnet.sch.uk if you have any questions or want any information. Further information about governors can be found on the school website. If you are interested in becoming a school governor you will need to contact Mrs Pelham for a chat before applying as it is very important that you are fully aware of what the role involves. 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 training. Being a governor also involves a couple of evening meetings each term and a couple of 8am meetings each term. A governor also needs to have time during the school day to come and join us on governor learning walks that take place each month. A couple of governor information packs outlining the role and responsibilities of a school governor are also available from Mrs Pelham. Anyone interested in being a governor needs to come and collect these. There is only one vacancy. If we have more than one parent nomination then it will go to a parent vote.

PTA News

Our winter fair is only 5 weeks away, Saturday 15th December 1pm-5pm and we would like to reach out to you for volunteering your time, your ideas, your skills or simple donations. If you know any new or existing businesses wanting or needing advertisement our brochure will come out on the 1st of December and be visible to 540 families. Please be in touch with Nathalie Y2 mum or Marilena Y1 mum or Amanda Glaser Y2/4 mum or the school office. Our Halloween freaky fruit cups made £25 for the school, sorry to all who missed out, we sold out in minutes!



Holly Park Book Club - Apologies

It would seem that there was some confusion about the Holly Park Book Club yesterday. The Book Club has been in existence for several years now. It is held once each term and is an opportunity for parents from nursery to Y6 to come into school and read with children in the class. I can see that for many parents this was not made clear and that whilst the date was well advertised some parents were unsure as to what it was. Apologies for this – I do usually try to put short explanations of upcoming events in the newsletter ahead of the event. I think that there was further confusion with the Book fair which is also happening at this time after school – some parents I believe were confused as to which was which. Many apologies for those who missed coming in to read and would have been able to – there will be another opportunity next term.

Communication

Apologies if the messages sent out yesterday came over as rather blunt in tone – this was not our intention. However I would like to remind parents about the variety of ways that the school communicates information with you. Communication is a two way process. Just as the school needs to communicate information to parents, parents also need to take responsibility for making a note of upcoming events. A leaflet with as many dates as possible is given to all parents in the first week of every term. It is e-mailed directly and hard copies are always available in the foyer. I would ask that parents take this leaflet and enter relevant dates into their own diaries. Please at the start of each term do make a note of key dates. The weekly newsletter has a date section each week with upcoming events for the coming 2 weeks. In addition dates are on two places on our website – the section that says news and dates and also on the home page right hand side there is a Google calendar which I believe you can link with your phone. In addition, we also try to send out text messages which are reminders of the original message. We try our best to send reminders by text but sometimes in the busy life of a school we do forget and that is our mistake. We know that these texts are useful and parents do come to rely on them. The school can always improve on communication. I know that texts are useful to busy working parents. I am a working parent too and I can understand from a parent perspective how important the text messages are and how important communication from the school is. We welcome feedback so, if you have any concerns or are worried about a date or indeed think we have made a mistake with a date (and this does happen) please ask a member of staff in the office, call the school or ask the class teacher – we are always happy to help. The school enjoys a good working relationship with parents and we look forward to continuing this in the future.

Deadlines

In our lives we all have to meet deadlines. I would like to remind parents about deadlines that we as a school have to set. When we send out letters that require permission slips or payments we always have to put on a deadline. Sometimes the deadline is set by an outside provider and not the school. Other times the deadline is set by us. We would like to remind parents that a deadline is exactly that and is a cut-off date. Please make sure that you do meet these deadlines because in extreme cases, missing a deadline could mean that your child could miss out on attending a trip etc. Modelling meeting deadlines is an excellent example for your children. Again, if you have any problems meeting a deadline that you can foresee, please contact the office – we are always willing to help if we can,

Value For The Month

Loyalty is about belonging. Loyalty for our pupils is about belonging to a football team, Holly Park, family, friends etc. Loyalty is a strong feeling of support or allegiance, faithfulness, trust, commitment etc. This is very pertinent as we approach the 100 year anniversary of the end of WWI - how the soldiers in WWI and WW2 were very loyal to their country and fought for it. Over the month of November, the children will talk more about loyalty.

Book Looks For Year 1-6

Please do come along to look at your child's books with them ahead of parents evening. The book look begins at 3.45pm and parents can come to look until 5.45pm. Teachers will not be present in the classrooms. The idea of the book look is so that parents can come along and see the work in their child's books before the teacher discusses how well the child is doing (their strengths and areas for development) at parent evening. The Book Looks dates were advertised at the start of term and have been in the newsletter for a couple of weeks. They are also on the school website.

Diary Dates

Monday 5th November	Y5 School Journey meeting 9am
Tuesday 6th November	Elm Class Assembly at 9am
Tuesday 6th November	KS1 Book Look for parents
Thursday 8th November	Individual Photographs
Thursday 8th November	KS2 Book Look for parents
Monday 12th November	Anti-Bullying Week

Going Cashless

So.... we are now a cash free school. All payments will now need to be made online. Parents will be able to pay for everything – dinner money, trips, breakfast club etc via our online payment system. If you have not signed up to this yet, you might like to set this up in the next few weeks so you are ready. If you are not sure how to do this or have any questions, please speak to Miss Hounslow.

Book Look

If your child is in Y1 to Y6, then please do come along to look at your child's books with them ahead of parents evening. The book look begins at 3.45pm and parents can come to look until 5.45pm. Teachers will not be present in the classrooms. The idea of the book look is so that parents can come along and see the work in their child's books before the teacher discusses how well the child is doing (their strengths and areas for development) at parent evening. Parent consultation letters will go out at the start of next week.

Lunch Box Shelter

Our lunch box shelter for KS2 has been in operation now for a few years to very good effect. The shelter protects the packed lunches from the rain and stops them getting too hot in the summer and also prevents them being in heated buildings during the winter also getting too hot. They are easily accessible at the start and end of the school day for pupils and parents and also easily accessible for children at lunchtime. The lunch shelter helps with storage issues inside and also health and safety issues relating to children going in and out of the building unsupervised at lunchtimes. The shelter is also better for health and safety in terms of temperature storage. In extreme heat we do of course move trolleys inside, however it is deliberately located in morning shade. We also bring the trolleys inside during extreme cold weather too. We are not alone in having an outdoor shelter for packed lunches, several other Barnet schools have these shelters. Please can I remind parents that packed lunches should be in proper thermal lunchboxes (named). We are very pleased with how the shelter has worked over the past few years.



Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

Winners of Punctuality parrot		Y5 Maple Y6 Lime
Winners of Attendance Alligator		Y1 Chestnut

Housepoints for this week

Unicorn	422	points
Griffin	332	points
Phoenix	328	points
Hydra	318	points
Dragon	309	points

Well Done **Unicorn**

Music News

Spring Term Instrumental Tuition Fees Every parent should look out for a letter next week with the details of how to pay for your child's Instrumental Tuition for next term.

Barnabas Choir Remaining date: **NOVEMBER 6th - FULL** Barnabas Choir (Years 4, 5 & 6). These are our only after-school rehearsals before the Candlelight Concert; please make every effort to attend.

Infant Choir: Remaining date: **NOVEMBER 8th.**

We are sending the choir members home with copies of the lyrics for the Candlelight Concert. As you can see, there will be one more after-school rehearsal before the concert. **The children will need to bring the lyric sheets already handed out – ideally assembled into a plastic wallet file or ring-binder.**

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.

Barnabas and Infant Choirs will be performing at our annual **'Candlelight Concert'** on **Tuesday 4th December at 6:30 p.m.** Please put the date in your diaries.

Parent Evening – New Booking System

We will be operating a new much more efficient parent consultation booking system this year for parents with children in Y1 to Y6. Dates for consultations have already gone out. You will receive a text message next week through our normal text messaging system telling you that you can book online via a link. Sign up will begin at 6pm the day the text is sent. The system is a first come first served system so you will need to be prompt in booking. Many school use this system. You will be able to choose a 10 minute slot from the remaining spaces. Obviously parents with 2 or more children will have to book for each teacher separately. As a school we will then simply print off the bookings for each teacher. You will be able to change booking times if you need to BUT please be advised that will only be possible if there are slots available. So please select your chosen time carefully. There is also an accompanying letter of explanation.





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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Good news! Parents Evening just got a whole lot easier because you can now book your appointments online.

We will send a link to your mobile phone or email address which will take you to our online booking system to select a time convenient for you. Please follow these simple steps to book your slot:

1. Click the link that you receive through text and/or email to take you to the confirmation page. You will need internet access to do this.
2. Enter your child's first name to continue. If you have more than one child, any of their first names will work.
3. Next you will be taken to the booking page. This will show your children alongside all of the teachers that you can book in with.
4. Click 'Please Choose' to be shown a list of available times that you can click to book.
5. Please click 'Book this Slot' to complete your booking. When the button has turned green you know your booking has been made.
6. At any time before the Parents Evening, you can click the link on your phone or email again to check your booking time or even un-book by clicking the green booked button.

Make sure you book your parents evening ASAP to ensure you get the best time for you.

Yours sincerely

Ann Pelham
Headteacher