



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18

Friday 8th February 2019

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

School Improvement News - Presentation

Continuing with my idea of giving you updates about some of our work towards our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Ofsted Action Plan, we have been working very hard this half term at improving presentation in exercise books. This half term we have focused on presentation in maths books. Presentation is important because it is an indication of learning behaviour. Neat presentation is indicative of good learning behaviour. In assemblies we have looked at examples of good presentation and not so good presentation so that children know how to improve. The star of the week certificates for the last three weeks have been awarded for good presentation also. Each week we use the bingo machine in assembly and the child who is the winning number on the register brings their maths books to my office on a Friday afternoon so we can discuss their presentation. We have had some special presentation certificates made to reward good OR improved presentation each week. You might like to remind your child about good presentation and the qualities of good presentation – a sharp pencil, no doodling, underlining with a ruler, neat crossing out of errors, no scribbling, work well spaced out, numbers and letters of a good size – not too large and not squashed up. When you come and look at the books in march – talk to your child about the presentation in their books.



Lone Walking

This is a reminder to all parents and carers of children in Y6 who walk home alone to ensure that children travel to and from school safely. Please don't forget to remind your children of the 'stranger danger' rules and that they should use their mobile phone to contact a trusted adult if they do not feel safe.

Snow

Thank you all for your support last week in the snowy weather we had on Friday. Mr Reid did an excellent job of clearing the school site and making safe paths for children and parents to walk on to access the buildings. Several groups of children had fun out in the snow with Poppy - who couldn't get enough of chasing after snowballs and running around in it. I think we were all glad to see the snow disappear over the weekend.



Picture News- Extending vocabulary and Communication Skills

Running alongside our work on improving vocabulary and communication skills that I shared with you last week, we will be using a new resource called 'Picture News' each week in assembly and in circle times. Picture news chooses a current news story each week and turns it into a vibrant poster with a thought provoking question and provides an assembly plan with British Values included and some interesting discussion points. To support this there is a section for home discussion. Each week I will attach the home learning as an addition to the newsletter. We will begin next week, but so that you have an example of how it works, I have attached this week's discussion point to this newsletter. Do try to use the attachment as a conversation and discussion point at home. I also attach a child friendly newspaper – do print it off for your child to read at home. It is up to date and again provides an excellent source of conversation for the family.

Safer Internet Day 2019

Tuesday 5th February was Safer Internet Day. Mr French did an assembly about using the Internet and keeping safe. Mr Turner sent out materials for the teachers to use in class. Please do take the opportunity this weekend to have a conversation with your children about how to be safe online – for example – not sharing passwords, not giving out personal information and how to have appropriate online etiquette when messaging friends or playing online games. You could go to this website and there are lots of activities and ideas on how to start these conversations!

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs/activities-parents-and-carers>

Diary Dates

Monday 11 th February	Infant Show Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 12 th February	Infant show 6.30pm
Wednesday 13 th February	Infant Show 2.30pm
Thursday 14 th February	Infant Show 6.30 pm
Friday 15 th February	End of Half term at 3.30pm
HALF TERM	
Tuesday 26 th February	Instrumental Concert rehearsal
Wednesday 27 th February	Holly Park Maths Day
Thursday 28 th February	Holly Park Maths Club for parents at 9.00am
Thursday 28 th February	Enabling Enterprise trip
Friday 1 st March	Y5 to the National Gallery
Tuesday 5 th March	Juniper Class Assembly at 9am
Tuesday 5 th March	Instrumental Concert at 6.30pm
Wednesday 6 th March	The Holly Park Book Swap

Featuring a School Governor - Fiona Quinton



I have been a governor for nearly seven years since my children were at Holly Park. I always wanted to give something back to the school after they had such a good grounding here. As chair of the Premises Committee I was instrumental in creating a lockdown policy which I felt was important. I am also on Eco Council which I really enjoy especially enthusing the children about gardening and the environment. As a governor, I enjoy coming into school to learn more about how the staff are improving standards and providing a quality, well balanced education for our children. I think that being a governor is important to give external support to the school and to add accountability.

Technology news

Older children in the school often have a mobile phone at home. They often use their mobile phones to form social network groups such as Whatsapp. These groups can be great fun and can be informative but just like adult whatsapp groups they can also have problems. I have been made aware however that some children have very little supervision when using their phones and some are making calls and are active on their phones until midnight. Some of the groups that have been set up have content which is offensive – children making rude comments about other children and swearing. I have spoken to Y6 children about this, however I would ask that parents take responsibility to check and access what their child is doing on social media, make sure that what they are posting is appropriate and remove phones from bedrooms so that they are not being used late at night.

Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

Winners of Punctuality parrot		Year 5 maple Year 4 Sycamore Year 3 Willow Year 2 Elm
Winners of Attendance Alligator		Year 2 Rowan

Housepoints for this week

Phoenix	432	points
Hydra	429	points
Griffin	385	points
Unicorn	363	points
Dragon	331	points

Well Done **Phoenix**

Music News

Spring Term Instrumental Tuition and Ensembles: Year 2 pupils will be excused their usual 'cello lessons during the afternoon of Weds. 13th February, as they will be involved in the Infant Show. Their tutor, Helen Cooper, will make up the lessons on Weds. 27th March (usual times).

Our Instrumental Tuition Concert: Tuesday 5th March, 6:30 – 8:30 (approximate finish time). **HOLLY PARK MUSIC BLOG**

This contains many of the songs we are learning in our choirs and in the Infant Show. It may be accessed via the school website (Music and Choirs: Holly Park Music Blog).

CHOIR LYRIC SHEETS: Please remember to put the lyric sheets we give the children into **plastic wallet folders or files**.

Remaining dates for the Spring term

INFANT CHOIR YEAR 1: 28th February; 21st March.

INFANT CHOIR Year 2: 14th March.

Years 3&4 BARNABAS CHOIR: 12th March.

CHAMBER CHOIR (Years 5&6 Barnabas Choir): 26th February; 19th March; 26th March.

Value of the Month

The value of the month is 'Empathy.' Emotion researchers generally define empathy as the ability to sense other people's emotions, coupled with the ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling. It is the ability to understand another person's perspective or circumstance whether you agree with this person or not. Empathy is a useful skill to develop in children.

Holly Park Words OF The Week

Acquainted - make someone aware of or familiar with.

Adhere - believe in and follow the practices of.

Affable - friendly, good-natured, or easy to talk to

Apprehensive - anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen.

