



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 26

Friday 3rd May 2019

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Meet a Governor – Fiona Vettiankal



I joined the Holly Park Governing Body in 2011 as a parent governor when my eldest son was in Year One. I currently serve as a co-opted governor and my youngest son is now in Year 5. During my time as a governor, I have been Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee and Vice-Chair of the Governing Body. I am extremely interested in pedagogy and passionate about promoting high levels of literacy for all children; this passion is shared by the teachers and teaching assistants at Holly Park and is always a key objective in our School Improvement Plan. I have worked in education for over 25 years, so I am able to bring some of my own knowledge and experience to our governing body, supporting in a strategic way and sharing best practice from other schools and educational organisations. It has been a privilege to work with the school as a governor and I have hugely valued the opportunities we are given to visit the school to monitor new initiatives, to observe effective teaching & learning and to talk to the most important people: the fantastic Holly Park children.

New Catering Company – A great start!

Our new caterers are off to a fabulous start. They have introduced new plates, bowls and cups. Not only are there water jugs on the tables but now we have jugs of fruit water also available on the tables – these are jugs of water with fresh sliced fruit inside. There is a display table of food out so that as the children queue up in the dining hall they can see what each meal looks like before they choose what they want. The food is displayed so much more attractively. There is fresh bread made on site every day – different flavours of bread will be available. The food is 95% fresh produce – peeled, chopped and fully prepared on site. The senior management team who are on duty each day have certainly had lots of positive feedback from the children about the lovely meals. Lots of packed lunch children are now wanting to change to school dinners which is also great. Sixty packed lunch children last week switched from packed lunches to school meals. School staff and governors are being given the opportunity to taste the meals and see a service in action. There will be a **taster session for parents on Tuesday 7th May from 2.45-3.30pm** in the dining hall to come and sample some of the food. If you are interested in your child changing from packed lunch to school dinners (even for a couple of days a week) please see Miss Hounslow in the school office. We have had some very positive comments from children, staff and parents: 'The potatoes are crispy, fluffy and tasty.' 'My food was served with a smile.' 'I loved making my fajitas.' 'My child said they are like proper home cooked meals.' 'My child has always been packed lunch but changed to school lunch and loves it!' 'It tastes like my mum's food at home.' 'The food is epic.' I have sampled the food every day so far and have really enjoyed what I have eaten. In the near future there will be more to look forward to - The area manager will meet the school council next half term so that they can give their feedback. Also next half term there will be a token box out where children can put their token in either the 'I did enjoy' or 'I did not enjoy' slot. This will provide feedback to the company about which meals are most popular and which are not. Each term the company will run a hands on educational session for groups of children on cooking – e.g bread making, smoothie making etc.



Appointments in School Time

Children should not really be taken out of school for any appointments during school time as they are missing learning. It is a legal requirement that children attend school. We do however recognise that there will be times when a child needs to leave school for a variety of reasons - sometimes very personal - and we would never enquire into any detail on this unless a parent wants to share or if it becomes a regular occurrence. In terms of medical appointments - Barnet encourage schools to ask that children attend doctors and dentist appointments etc outside of school hours - after 4pm, weekends and holidays. Inevitably hospital appointments cannot so easily be changed. School staff do have the right to ask why a parent is taking a child out of school. We need to know where a child is going if we haven't been informed beforehand. We also do need to see written evidence of the reason for removal - e.g an appointment letter or card, e-mail etc. The section from our policy (available on the website) states – 'Medical/Dental Appointment: Parents are advised where possible to make routine medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, pupils should attend school for part of the day. Parents should show the appointment card to school. Holly Park School recognises that there will be occasions when children need to attend clinical sessions on a regular basis, for example for counselling.' Parents wishing to take their child out for any other reason (special circumstances) should ask for permission ahead of time using the form on the website requesting leave We have children who do need to leave to attend music exams, ballet exams, interviews for secondary school etc. parents should inform us in advance. The policy states: 'Other Authorised Circumstances This relates to occasions where there is cause for absence due to exceptional circumstances, for example family bereavement, visiting a parent in prison, examinations, and interviews or because of a part-time timetable agreed as part of a reintegration package. Parents are asked to complete the Application for Special Leave of Absence Form on such occasions.'

Being On Time For School

Please can I remind parents that children should be in the line by 8.55am not coming up the path as the bell rings. A significant number of latecomers coming into school at this time, blocks the entrance path and causes congestion with those parents trying to leave the school.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 7th May

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(new catering company - Caterlink)

Friday 10th May

Monday 13th May

Mulberry Class Assembly at 9am

Food tasting for parents 2.45-3.30pm

Music Festival Cluster Rehearsal

Y6 National test Week

Infant Choir Concert

The infant choir concert was a treat. The children clearly enjoyed their singing and had lots of fun. They sounded beautiful. They sang songs from across the curriculum – Rights respecting schools, animals and the Fire of London. They also sang songs in other languages. They sang our Holly Park school song. Another lovely event by Mr Hogan and the children.



Music News

From now on we will be using the Barnet Education Arts Trust payment system for all instrumental tuition. This is called 'INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTAL TUITION' and letters have been sent out this week with the full details of how this works (payment is now made directly to B.E.A.T. instead of the school). Children in Year 2 and above in September are offered lessons on violin and 'cello. Children in Year 3 and above in September are offered woodwind and brass lessons. For those in Year 4 and above in September, we offer drum kit and tablas lessons. Children in Years 5&6 in September are offered guitar lessons. Our team of tutors will audition every child that is beginning on a new instrument to make sure it is suitable for them and will contact parents following the auditions. Do not pay for any lessons until the tutor has sent you a letter.

CHAMBER CHOIR (Years 5&6 Barnabas Choir) 14th May and 4th June. A letter went out this week informing parents of how to acquire a ticket for this concert and a permission form to sign online. Barnabas Choir (Years 3, 4 & 5) Special after-school rehearsal on Tuesday 25th June for Summer Choral Concert on Wednesday 10th July at 7 p.m. Ticket details nearer the time.

Holly Park Words OF The Week

Elude – escape from or avoid

Emerge – move out of or away from something and become visible

Endeavour – try hard to do or achieve something..

Errand – a short journey undertaken in order to deliver or collect something



THINKING OF BOOKING A HOLIDAY...?

IF SO, MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS FIRST

Holly Park Primary School will no longer be authorising any term time holidays. In **limited EXCEPTIONAL circumstances** (this does not include weddings, anniversaries etc), a written request for special leave of absence may be considered by the Headteacher during term time, only where the circumstances warrant it, namely:

1. For service personnel and other employees who are prevented from taking holidays outside term-time and only if the holiday will have minimal disruption to the pupil's education; and

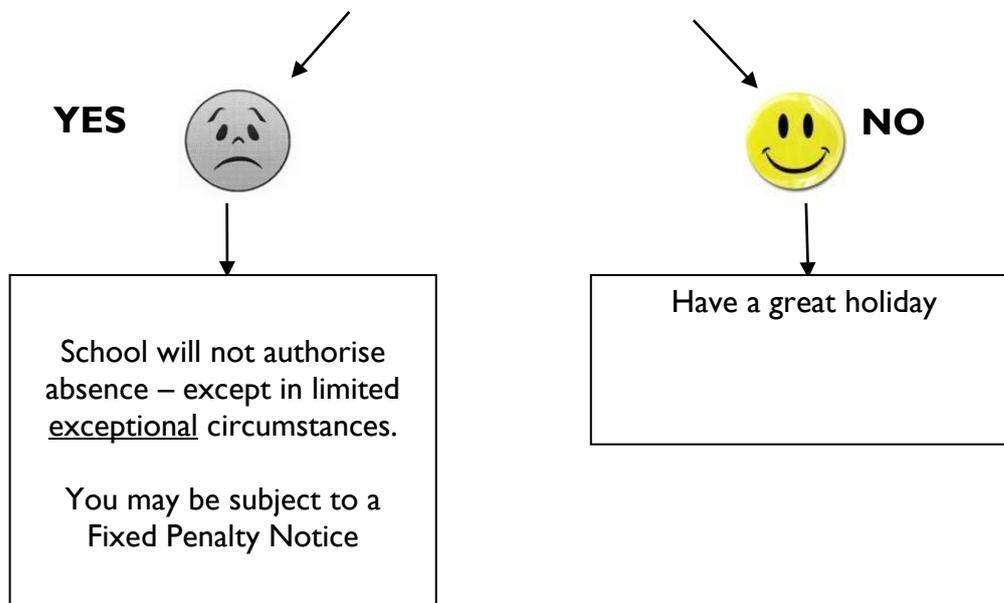
You will be asked to provide evidence that your request for leave is exceptional

The cost of a holiday is not considered an acceptable reason to take term time holidays.

If in doubt, please make an appointment to speak to Mrs Needham

BEFORE YOU BOOK A HOLIDAY:

Is it during School Term Time?



**LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET EDUCATION WELFARE TEAM AND
HOLLY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
WORKING TOGETHER.**