



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 22

Friday 13th March 2020

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

An Unexpected Friendship

We had a lovely assembly led by Rebecca and Nasrin. Rebecca is a Jewish rabbi in Finchley and Nasrin is a Syrian refugee who is Muslim. The two told their story about how their lives growing up in different parts of the world with different religions were so different. Nasrin talked about the war in Syria and how she left with her children to come to England. Rebecca told of how her synagogue got involved in lobbying Richard Cornelius and Barnet Council to accept 50 Syrian refugees into the country. The ladies then told the story of how they met and how they have become friends and how in many ways they have supported and learned from each other over the last couple of years. It was a lovely story to celebrate a very unexpected friendship. The children understood that our friendships can be with people who are very different to us, who may come from other parts of the world and who may have a different religion to us. We are free to choose the friends we want. One Y6 child made a lovely comment that she has friends of all different skin colours but she isn't looking at the skin colour when she is making a friend – she looks at what is inside! Such a lovely comment from one of our children.



Rights Respecting Schools – Silver Aware Award

There has been a lot of work happening this academic year as we have been working towards the silver award. The assessment focuses on three strands: Strand A – Teaching and learning about rights. Strand B – teaching and learning through rights, looking at the school ethos and relationships. Strand C – Teaching and learning for rights, looking at children's participation so that they can feel empowered to enjoy and exercise their rights and to promote the rights of others locally and globally. The thirteen Rights Respecting Champions have been helping Maria Michael to carry out the action plan. This includes: assemblies about the rights, House Challenges linked to the rights, reference made to the articles in teachers' planning and in lessons, the articles displayed around the school and in the weekly newsletter. Children have also been active citizens by campaigning for things that are important to them such as climate change. On Valentines Day, nine children, two members of staff and one governor attended the Climate Change Strike at Parliament Hill. This then inspired the whole school House Challenge where children will make banners, posters or plaques about something that they feel strongly about. The Rights Respecting Champions have also written to our local MP, Theresa Villiers asking her to raise awareness about all children's right to an education. This all links with article 12: Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously. The assessment happened on 6th March. The assessment involved meeting myself and Miss Michael, talking to children, a learning walk around the school, talking to a range of adult stakeholders and looking at a file of evidence. We were delighted to be awarded the Silver award and were told it was a strong silver application. It was suggested we should definitely work for Gold within a year to eighteen months. The assessor will write a report. We were given some ideas to help us achieve Gold. The assessor was particularly impressed with: Class charters, pupil voice within the school, our focus on mental health, Rights within assemblies and the use of picture news and the creative ways we have taught children about the rights e.g House challenges and songs and how knowledgeable and articulate our children were. Well done to everybody involved but particularly Miss Michael who has really co-ordinated and led all stakeholders towards this award. We look forward to working towards Gold!



First Aid Lessons

It will be compulsory for primary schools to teach some sort of First Aid from September 2020. Getting ahead of the game we have bought sessions for all classes from Reception to Y6 from a company that were recommended to us called Mini First Aid. Classes meet the new 2020 UK National Curriculum Requirements. In Reception children learn about what happens to their bodies if they are hurt and how they would be treated by a grown up. In Y1-6 Children are starting to be more independent and can understand basic first aid. In the 1 hour session, children learn to deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, carry out CPR and deal with choking. There will be more photos next week when more classes do their First Aid.



Y4 Pyjama Party

The Y4 pyjama party last Friday was great fun. The children arrived at school at 6.30pm, played really exciting and fun team games in the hall with Non Stop Action and did orienteering in the dark with torches outside in the playground, ate pizza, performed a talent show, changed into their pyjamas and watched a movie in the hall. It was a wonderful and fun experience in preparation for the residential in Y5 next year. Thank you to Mrs Thomas who organised it and the staff who helped. There are lots more photos on the website.



Diary Dates

Monday 16th March	Times released for parent evening
Monday 16th march	First Aid for children sessions
Tuesday 17th March	Poplar Class assembly 9am
Tuesday 17th March	KS1 Book Look 3.45pm – 5.45pm
Wednesday 18th March	PTA Mothers' Day Sale
Thursday 19th March	KS2 Book Look 3.45pm – 5.45pm
Friday 27th March	PTA Spring Fair
Saturday 28th March	PTA car Boot Sale
Monday 30th March	Holly Park Well-being Week
Monday 30th March	Wheel to School Week
Tuesday 31st March	Elm Class assembly
Tuesday 31st March	Y5 to the National Gallery
Wednesday 1st April	KS1 Parent Evening 2.30-3.30pm
Thursday 2nd April	Easter Lunch
Thursday 2nd April	KS1 parent Evening 3.45pm – 8pm
Thursday 2nd April	KS2 Parent Evening 2.30pm – 8pm
Friday 3rd April	End of term at 1.30pm

Right's Respecting Schools

This week's right is: *Article 24: Children have the right to the best health care possible, clean water to drink, healthy food and a clean and safe environment to live in. All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.* Last week's quiz question was: *Children have a right to information that is important for their health and well-being. Yes or no?* The answer is: Yes, Article 17 This week's question is: *The UK Government must listen to the voice of a child and take the opinion of a young person seriously even if they are not old enough to vote. TRUE or FALSE?*

Barnet Dance Festival

Some of our Year 6 children took part in a huge Barnet Dance Festival at the Arts Depot this week. The festival included over 88 schools over a week - infant, junior, primary, secondary and special schools. The Holly Park routine was a lively dance to 'Bare Necessities' from Jungle Book. The children performed with energy, co-ordination and great facial expression. Many thanks to Miss Yiannaki and Miss Harrison for their hard work and choreography. The dance was a huge success and their costumes and face paints were great.



Attendance and Punctuality Winners for the Week

Winners of Punctuality parrot		Y1 Chestnut Y1 Pine Y6 Beech
Winners of Attendance Alligator		Y4 Mulberry

Housepoints

Griffin	391	points
Unicorn	381	points
Dragon	374	points
Hydra	332	points
Phoenix	328	points

Well Done **Griffin**

Music News

Ensemble sessions are complete for the term.

CHAMBER CHOIR: remaining sessions: 18th March.

YEAR 3&4 BARNABAS CHOIR: 11th March.

Infant Choir (Tuesday lunchtimes) remaining sessions:

YEAR 1 INFANT CHOIR 17th March.

Year 6 Barnabas Choir will be performing at **The Royal Albert Hall** on April 30th.

Our News Discussion Point Of The Week

Should we have a say in what we learn at school?

Joe Brindle, age 17 from Devizes School is a founder member of Teach the Future. The group are recently formed and are taking their call for environment issues to be taught in schools as part of the curriculum to Parliament! Ministers have agreed that "it is vital that pupils are taught about climate change" but the group believe that schools are failing to prepare them for a climate emergency



This Week's Related Vocabulary

Curriculum – all the different courses of study and subjects that are taught in a school.

Priority – something that is regarded as the most important.

Strategy – a plan of action to achieve something, usually over a period of time.

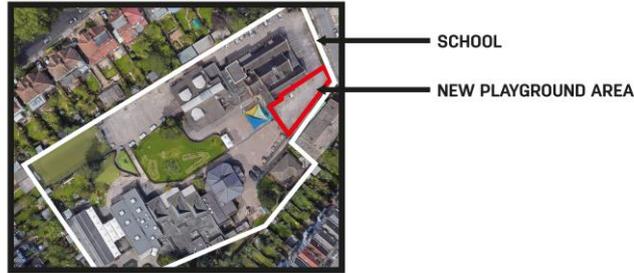
Striking – refusing to work as a form of organised protest.



The Holly Park Appeal

The Big Holly Park Appeal 2020: **playground** **crowdfunding campaign**

Can you help us transform the playground space at Holly Park?



The Holly Park Appeals Committee is raising funds for improvements to the school playground to be carried out this summer. Aimed at creating a happier, healthier and safer Holly Park, the project will create 450 square metres of new playground space by reducing the staff car park.

On Monday 16 March a three-week crowdfunding campaign is being launched to raise **£5,000** towards the cost of these crucial works.

Local estate agent Austin Chambers has very kindly agreed to match all donations made up to this target, meaning that the appeal could be worth **£10,000** to the school.

The Holly Park Children have helped us get the campaign off to a flying start by taking part in a competition to help design the new playground space.

For full details of the crowdfunding campaign including a film featuring Holly Park pupils please visit:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/hollypark>

Please do consider making a donation to the campaign online, and spreading the word by sharing the link with as many family, friends and colleagues as possible.

Holly Park Appeal Representatives will be at the school gates during the campaign period to answer any questions or to take donations. We will also be updating you regularly with progress.

Many thanks for your support, every little helps!

If you have questions about the campaign, please contact John Harte on hollyparkspecialfund@gmail.com or 07812 049209.

Coronavirus Update

We continue to be aware that the current situation with the COVID-19 virus is one that is developing and changing on a daily basis. We are committed to doing all that we can to take a professional, practical and proportionate approach for everyone concerned. It is important that as parents and as a school we do not raise anxiety amongst the children.

We continue to follow all advice and guidance provided to us, currently on a daily basis from Public Health England, and we will continue to seek advice around any particular pressing issues or concerns that arise. If there are any urgent changes or updates to this information, these will be shared with you as soon as possible.

I can confirm that at present there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 coronavirus at Holly Park.

You will be aware that the Government made an announcement yesterday and it was made very clear at this point that **there is no plan to close schools.**

There is also NO directive to cancel school trips, school sporting fixtures or music events.

Current advice remains in place: No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19 at present, especially washing hands more; and following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' strategy for those with coughs, colds and sneezes. We continue to remind all children of these simple hand hygiene messages.

Yesterday the government also made it clear that people should now self-isolate for 7 days **IF** they develop a **new** cough or a **new** temperature. Colds – sneezing and runny noses are not considered to be part of the virus. If this applies to your child at any point in the future then please follow the normal school absence reporting systems.

A government helpline for advice has been set up for staff and parents to use if there are any queries about the virus and the impact on education. The details can be found at:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

If you have any information regarding you, your child or a member of your immediate family in your household, in relation to COVID-19 please alert the school at your earliest convenience so that any relevant risk assessment can be carried out and any appropriate information shared as necessary.

We will continue to monitor and evaluate the information we receive on a daily basis and respond appropriately. We want to reassure you that we take the health and safety of our children and staff very seriously. We appreciate that this is a very worrying time for us all but we ask you to please work with us to keep the children calm and stop them from becoming over anxious by keeping your own anxiety, worry and concern to a minimum in front of your children.

As we move forward into the coming weeks the cases of Coronavirus will definitely increase and concern will grow. It is inevitable that the Holly Park community will be affected and that people within our community will get the virus or be tested for it. I would urge you to think carefully about the comments you post on social media and WHATSAPP groups in order to avoid whipping up any unnecessary hysteria and panic within the parent body. I would ask that any information you have about members of your own family and the virus is shared first with the school rather than on social media in order to allow the school to respond proactively. I would really appreciate your co-operation with managing this.