



# HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

[www.hollyparkschool.co.uk](http://www.hollyparkschool.co.uk)

## Welcome back to School

The school term is now well underway and we are delighted to welcome the children back to school. The children seem very happy and have settled well into their new classrooms with their new teachers. Obviously it is difficult for us to welcome parents back so easily at the moment as we cannot have parents on the site.

On the night before return to school, a parent sent me a lovely poem:

'Twas the night before school starts, when all through the house,  
Not a child was stirring, not even an ounce.  
They knew Holly Park was awaiting with safety and care,  
And hopes returned as they soon would be there.  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
Whilst visions of the new playground danced in their heads.  
Mamas and Pappas rested well through the night,  
Safe in the knowledge their children would be more than alright.  
When the morning arrived we arose with a cheer,  
For we knew it would not be long 'til we see those we hold dear.  
Away down Bethune Avenue we flew like a flash,  
On to Bellevue Road, in a great dash.  
Holly Park on the horizon, we are not far,  
No school can compare, not one is on par.  
We made it, the time has come, 5 months apart,  
To our wonderful school with its truly big heart xx

## Thank You

On behalf of myself and all of the staff I would just like to say thank you for the very generous cards, letters and emails of thanks that we received along with all of the gifts at the end of last term.

## School Lunches

It has been really lovely to be back to proper school lunches which have been delicious. A senior member of staff is in the dining hall every day and we can see the quality of the food. The food is very good. I have been in there several times since the start of term and the children are really enjoying their lunch. I have eaten a school lunch myself each day – quality control!!

## Big Holly Park Appeal

I am delighted to tell you that the work connected with the Holly Park Appeal is 99% completed. We now have a lovely big playground space for children to play in. This has been extremely useful at the moment with having different zones to be in during break times – we can spread the children out further. It has also been extremely useful with our new start and end of the school day. We also have a classroom which is newly painted and carpeted and has an outside door. Both of our Year 4 classes now have external doors which can be used to allow air into the classrooms but also allows for better access and less congestion in the lower junior building. The one item remaining is to mark up the playground with playground markings. Thank you again to the team responsible for getting this appeal going and seeing it through, to Mr Reid for overseeing the work and to all of the parents and grandparents and friends who donated to this cause. I never thought I would see the day that we would be able to accomplish this because the cost could never have come from the general school budget.





**Lone Travelling**

If you would like your Y6 or Y5 child to walk home alone, then you need to fill in and return a lone walking form. We would also ask you to speak to them about keeping safe as they walk home and stranger danger.

**Parents Wearing Masks On School Site**

If you are a reception parent settling your child or a nursery parent bring your child in at the start of the day or collecting at the end of the day, we ask that you wear a face covering on our school site especially when handing children over to staff in the outdoor areas. Thank you.

**Boxes/Bags Of Happiness**

The idea of this activity is to help the children to feel really positive as they start back at school and to think of things that make them happy in their life and put objects, or pictures or short sentences in a box or bag. They place something in the box that makes them happy and shows that things can still be positive. I shared my bag of happiness to the children in an assembly. In my box, I put in a photo of my son, a small model of Poppy, a bar of chocolate, some bubble bath, a cookery book, a flower, Minnie Mouse ears from a holiday to Florida and some perfume. I told the children why each object made me happy. The children could decorate their box or bag. Children were invited to bring their box or bag in to school one day and they had a five minute slot to talk about the contents of their bag/box. The children really loved doing this and it was a good activity for the teachers to find out a bit about each child.





### **School Uniform Reminders**

Below are some points of clarity:

Tights may only be - Red or grey

Black shoes (maximum heel height 3cm) not trainers      Black boots (max heel height 3cm)

Hair accessories may only be - Red, green, white or black

The hijab must follow the school uniform colours and be red, green, white or black. It must be no longer than shoulder length.

No other items of clothing should be visible under the red polo shirt. If a child is cold they should wear a short sleeved vest and their sweatshirt on top.

No zip up tops/jackets should be worn in class.

No hooded tops should be worn

No jewellery should be worn other than for religious purposes (this should be out of sight)

For P.E PLAIN WHITE trainers.

### **Start Of The School Day**

We are very happy with our system which is working very well. Our tweak to ensure that children go straight into their classroom where their teacher is waiting with hand sanitiser and an early morning activity to do has meant that the morning entry is very smooth indeed.

Remember that younger siblings can arrive at the earlier time with older siblings and go to their classrooms.

If the start time is difficult for you to drop off and get to work yourself, you might want to consider dropping between 7.45am and 8.15am at breakfast club.

### **End Of The School Day**

Obviously at the end of the school day we need to make sure that children are reunited with the correct adult in an organised way. The system we have set up is working very well so there will be no changes to this either. We are aware that this does mean parents need to queue. We also understand this is not ideal in inclement weather but there is very little we can do about this.

## September's Value – Fairness

We will continue with our work on values. A Value is a principle that guides our thinking and our behaviour. There are eleven values each academic year (One per month) over a two year cycle. See below:

September	Fairness
October	Acceptance
November	Loyalty
December	Kindness
January	Integrity
February	Empathy
March	Responsibility
April	Patience
May	Co-operation
June	Trust
July	Commitment

## National Writing Competition

At the beginning of lockdown Chokmah from Y6 last year wrote a poem for one of his home learning tasks called "Isolation". His mum liked the piece and sent it to the Young Writers website. At the end of July they wrote to let the family know that Chokmah's poem had been chosen for publication in a book. The book will be published on 18th September 2020 in a book called 'Write to Unite – Words Of Hope.' A copy of the book with Chokmah's poem in it will be kept in the national archives forever. Below is the poem:

### Isolation

Isolation feels like a cold world.  
 Maybe that's why I stand here alone  
 in my bitter iceberg  
 A prison for worse than,  
 I could have ever imagined.  
 A place where there is every type of lock,  
 but not a single key.  
 Isolation.

Warmth I can now never feel,  
 for it has been ripped out of me.  
 Fiery flames of fun and love,  
 I will never be.  
 Stop asking me to feel,  
 stop asking me to care,  
 because that feeling of love will never again come from me.  
 Isolation.

Isolation is a cold-hearted sickness,  
 but there is a warmth and cure.  
 The feeling of threat can be burnt.  
 The love can finally burst out.  
 Find your fire,  
 because once you melt that iceberg,  
 you find who you really are.  
 Isolation.

Chokmah John (10)

## Meet The Teacher

Thank you to those of you who attended the Meet The Teacher Zoom sessions. Apologies that you were not able to visit the classrooms this year. Obviously with so many on Zoom it is difficult to be interactive – however, the sessions are usually more information giving than question and answer. The meet the Teacher booklets are emailed out to all parents in each year group after the session even if you weren't able to attend.

## Attendance

I am delighted to say that we had a very positive return to school last week and our whole school attendance was above the national average. Attendance for the first two days back was 97.42% which is excellent.

## Diary Dates

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4 Meet the Teacher
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception children staggered start
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4 Together Apart Project
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Y4 Together Apart Project
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Meeting for Nursery & Reception parents – the curriculum
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4 Together Apart project
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Reception phonics meeting for parents
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Y6 School Journey Meeting
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	World Mental Health day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Harvest Festival
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	House Challenge

## School Money

A reminder that if your child has school lunches, attends breakfast club etc you will need to make payment via the School Money system. You will receive a reminder about payment on a Friday via text and email to pay. As soon as you pay the reminders will stop. If you don't make the payment before the next Friday, you will continue to receive reminders until the bill is paid.

## Runny Noses

A reminder that runny noses and sneezes have not been identified as symptoms of Coronavirus. If you have any concerns about whether your child should be in school or not please call the school office. Current officially recognised symptoms consistent with a possible coronavirus infection include:

- High temperature (37.8°C or more)
- New continuous cough
- Loss or change in taste or smell

