



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 11

Thursday 26th November 2020

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Giving Christmas Cards

I need to write to you about Christmas Cards before the season for giving them gets underway. Unfortunately due to COVID, we are not able to allow the children to bring in Christmas cards to exchange with each other. We have to limit what children can bring in from home. We have to make sure that we don't have items that are going to be touched by multiple people. With school equipment, we either ensure individual equipment is used, equipment is cleaned between each use or equipment is quarantined between use. The Christmas cards present a problem because:

- They are brought in from home.
- They are sorted by older children in the school
- They are then delivered by these children to classrooms (they can't do that this year due to bubble crossing)
- In the classroom they are touched again with children giving them out to each other

We are very sorry to have to say no to Christmas Cards. We therefore won't be having a post box or allowing children to give them to each other in class or in playgrounds. It is such a shame but we hope that you understand the reasons given the current climate.

Instrumental Music Tuition

Do you want your child to start learning a musical Instrument at school?

If you would like your child to learn a musical instrument next term you may wish to apply for Instrumental Tuition for next term through BARNET EDUCATION ARTS TRUST

Parents are now able to enrol for individual instrumental lessons for the spring term should they wish to by going to www.beatrust.org.uk. **The deadline to enrol is the 7th December.**

Does your child already learn a musical instrument at school?

Those who are already having lessons at school will have been emailed their invoice for next term.

If you would like to continue with lessons you just need to log into your account, go to the invoices tab and pay, you don't need to enrol again.

If parents have any queries they should contact B.E.A.T. by email: admin@beatrust.org.uk

Upcoming PTA Festive Events

The PTA have not let the lockdown or the virus deter them from the fantastic work they do. There are a number of Christmas events coming up that you should be aware of:

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 4th December. Please make a £1 donation on school money.

Santa Zoom Calls To Classrooms: Friday 4th December. Santa will visit each class from nursery to Year 4 via zoom

Y4 Cake Sale: Friday 4th December. This will be in front gardens close to the school.

Winter Fair: "together apart" the weekend of the 11th December. More news on this – but again this will be held in local streets around the school.

Attendance – Great news

I hope that you have noticed that across this term, the HPS attendance has been amazing at this difficult term:

Week 1	97%	Week 2	95%	Week 3	94%
Week 4	97%	Week 5	98%	Week 6	98%
Week 7	98%	Week 8	97%	Week 9	99%
Week 10	98%	Week 11	97%		

As a school so far - we have hardly been affected by the virus - staff or children. Of course this could very easily change at any time.

We have had relatively few children off isolating or awaiting test results. Obviously things on the attendance front could change hugely in the coming months depending on the virus. We appreciate that in order to keep yourselves and everyone else safe, days are having to be taken off for Covid tests when children display symptoms and then waiting for results to return. Thank you to those families following the guidelines when necessary and for keeping the school office informed and for providing the necessary paperwork as evidence.



Supporting The PTA – Amazon Smile

The PTA have registered on Amazon Smile and for every purchase a small % is donated to our PTA. It's so easy to set up and all one needs to remember is to shop on smile.amazon.co.uk instead of the usual Amazon web address. This is the link to choose our PTA ("Holly Park Parent Teacher Association" is the full name) as your charity of choice:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1101344-0>.

Hopefully with Xmas shopping coming up we can raise some effortless funds! Please sign up – it costs you nothing. I will be using it. It's so easy.



If you use the Amazon App on your phone, you can also set up Amazon Smile on that too.

First you need to go to:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1101344-0> as mentioned

before to select the Holly Park PTA as your Amazon Smile charity. Then follow these instructions to set up the app to make Smile contributions.

Download or update to the latest version of the **Amazon Shopping app** on your phone. You can find it in the **App Store** for iOS or **Google Play** for Android. Open the **app** and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on '**AmazonSmile**' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on **AmazonSmile** on your phone.

You should be able to see that you have successfully set it up on your phone

Last weekend I made quite a large Amazon order for Christmas presents and I was able to use Amazon smile quite easily with money going to the PTA. It didn't cost me anything.



Attendance

Attendance over the last week was 97.00%.

The best attendance last week was from: Y2 Rowan 99.31%

Attendance - Appointments in School Time

If your child has a routine appointment for a doctor (online) or dentist, please try to make the appointment out of school hours so as to avoid disrupting their learning. If an appointment in school time is unavoidable, then you do need to produce an appointment card or letter. Many thanks

Diary Dates

Friday 27th November	INSET DAY
Monday 30th November	Decorations day
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 11th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Friday 11th December	Y5 and Y6 parties
Week of 14th December	Y3 Nativity
Tuesday 15th December	EYFS
Wednesday 16th December	Y3 and Y4 parties
Wednesday 16th December	KSI parties
Friday 18th December	Term ends at 1.30pm

Spring term begins on Tuesday 5th January

Nursery children will be returning to school on Thursday 7th January

School Christmas Lunch

We will be having Christmas lunch at school on **Wednesday 9th December**.

The children always love the Christmas lunch.

The lunch will be a traditional Christmas lunch and there will be a vegetarian option with all the trimmings.

There will be no pork served.

If you would like your child to have a school Christmas lunch and they normally have a packed lunch – please call the school office by **Thursday 3rd December** to let them know.

