Black History Month Homework

Before half term, classes from Year 1 to Year 6 set a whole school Black History Month homework. The homework also included ideas about representing all cultures from within our school. Ideas for the homework ranged across the curriculum. For example: Geography – People & Places: The UK is a very diverse place, with lots of different cultures influencing things like our food, music and language. The children chose another country and thought about how its influence has been felt in the UK. Year 3 did this homework. DT – Where Food Comes From. Children chose one recipe that they felt represents their family and culture (e.g. a cake that is a relative’s secret recipe). The children made it at home and took photos with the special dish. It may have been a specific food that represents their country or their culture or just something they enjoy to eat. Children made a simple recipe for that dish. Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 did this. Some classes focused on black heroes and did research. Year 6 did this and there were some amazing power points and even video dramas! Some classes connected their homework to something they were doing in their current curriculum. Y5 did this, they were looking at entertainment during Victorian Times. The children researched Pablo Fanque who was a famous black circus performer, known particularly for his amazing horse tricks.
Special Lunches
We have had some lovely special lunches so far this term. September was fun lunch – build a burger. October was Black History Month lunch and November was Bonfire Night Lunch. December will be Christmas lunch.
These special days are fun and enable the children to try some new things. They are a good opportunity for children who are normally packed lunches to have a school dinner to see if they like it. Below are some pictures from the special lunches so far this term.
Autumn Term House Challenge
The aim of the House Challenge was to create a Rights Respecting Mascot. The children had to think of a name for their mascot and design the mascot thinking of which rights they represented. The children worked in a house group within their year group bubble. Each house group was awarded house points for team work and creativity. Miss Michael has chosen the winning design to become our official Rights Respecting Mascot. Here are some of the designs:

Here are the results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Dragon</th>
<th>500 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Unicorn</td>
<td>400 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Hydra</td>
<td>300 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Griffin</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is the winning mascot:

Blended learning Policy
From October 2020, all schools need to have provision in place for remote learning should the need be necessary. At Holly Park we have developed a blended learning policy which is available to see on the school website. Blended learning is an approach to education that combines traditional classroom in school learning with learning from home if needed. This policy complies with the expectations and principles outlined in the DFE document “Guidance for Full Opening of Schools”. The main points of the policy that parents should be aware of are that:

Blended learning is not available to:
- Children quarantining following travel.
- Children awaiting test results or children with family members awaiting test results,
- Children whose families have chosen not to attend school due to personal perceptions of the risk whilst schools remain open.
- Children who are absent from school for any other non COVID related reason

The policy covers blended learning for homework, blended learning for individuals who may need it and blended learning for bubble or whole school closure. The policy describes what it will look like in each circumstance. Along with other local primary schools who I have been in discussion with and most primary schools nationally, Live teaching will not be made available during a period of closure. This decision has been made for several reasons which are outlined in the policy. There is NO requirement or expectation from Ofsted that there will be live teaching and national teaching union advice is that teachers should not do live lessons during any bubble closure or lockdown. Whilst home education is a requirement in certain circumstances, how it is done is not specified by government or the DFE and is up to each individual school. Schools must do what is best for them - what is practical and suits staff capacity etc.

John Harte
As he nears the end of his four year term of office as a governor we have to say goodbye and thank you to John Harte who is stepping down as a governor. John is CEO of an orchestra and in the current climate this is an all-consuming role. As governor with responsibility for income realisation, John managed to co-ordinate a group of interested parties from the various school stakeholder groups and led them through the project from design idea to completion. I can still remember when John asked me what premises ideas I had in mind for the school. Never did I imagine that my long held dream of gaining outside doors for those junior classrooms and larger playground space would ever come to fruition.
**Parent Consultations Y1 to Y6 – Booking Telephone Appointments**

We will again be operating the very efficient parent consultation booking system this year for parents with children in Y1 to Y6. Parent consultations will run across the week of 23rd November with each class having different days and times. Due to COVID and being unable to have parents on site, the consultations will take the form of phone calls.

On Monday, you will receive a text message through our normal text messaging system telling you that you can book online via a link. As normal you will be able to choose a 10 minute slot from the spaces available. Obviously parents with 2 or more children will have to book for each teacher separately. As a school we will then simply print off the bookings for each teacher. You will be able to change booking times if you need to BUT please be advised that this will only be possible if there are slots available. So please select your chosen time carefully. There will be more information about the phone calls nearer the time.

**Up to date Phone Numbers**

We will be using the number that we have on our text system to make parent consultation calls. It is really important that if you have changed your phone number that you let the school know. In the worst case scenario of a child being very ill or having a nasty accident it is vital that we have the correct number to call you on.

For parent consultations as outlined above, we will be using the phone numbers that we have on our system for you. The teachers will use these to contact you so it is important that they have the correct one.

**Breakfast Club**

A reminder that breakfast club is open and running for all children from Reception to Year 6. You do not need to book. Children can be brought to Breakfast Club between 7.45am and 8.15am. It is very good value at £3.50 and includes breakfast, play and supervision.

**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](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 have set it up on my account. It's so easy.

**Attendance**

I think we managed extremely well getting through the first half term without having to close any bubbles due to COVID. Many other schools were not so lucky. Let’s hope that this continues through the next half term.

Attendance over the last week of the half term was 97.29%. The best attendance was from: Reception palm Red Class 99%

Attendance over the whole of last half term was 96.88%. The best attendance over the whole half term was from: Y3 Hazel Class 98.33%

**Diary Dates**

- Monday 9th November Notice for parent consultations
- Monday 9th November Y3 parent curriculum meeting
- Monday 16th November Anti-Bullying Week
- Monday 16th November Y4 parent curriculum meeting
- Thursday 19th November Y5 parent Curriculum meeting
- Friday 20th November National Charity – Coram
- Children’s Charity
- Monday 23rd November Nasal Flu Immunisation

**Be Bright Be Seen Day**

Now the clocks have changed and the nights are growing darker earlier, we just wanted to raise awareness. We asked children to come to school dressed in bright clothes and talked to them about how important it is to wear bright clothes so that drivers can see them.