



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

Friday 10th December 2021

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Reading Deep Dive

Twice a year, Barnet Network Inspectors make monitoring visits to every school. In November our network inspector came to look closely at reading and phonics – this is called a Deep Dive. I am delighted to tell you that the Deep Dive went extremely well. The visit involved - observations of reading and phonics lessons, meetings with pupils, meeting with leaders including the leader for reading (Miss Sampson) and phonics (Mrs Walton) and a reading walk. The report was exceeding positive. It commented that Leadership of phonics is strong and that the reading leader is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about reading. She is committed to ensuring pupils have engaging and relevant texts to read. Leaders have ensured books are chosen carefully. It commented that teachers have strong subject knowledge, there are excellent attitudes to reading exhibited by pupils and teachers are skilled in their questioning. The report was clear that - **There is a strong reading offer at Holly Park School.**

PTA Winter Fair

The PTA fair is **ALL** outside on Sunday and the weather is looking good!

The PTA is looking forward to seeing you at the Winter Fair/Market this Sunday 12 December 12-3pm. Please find details on how to book for the Santa Grotto and Disco, our Christmas shop and the Winter Fair raffle in the flyers emailed to you this week. If you could help at the fair please let the PTA know. Please support the PTA. Thank you!
Your PTA

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday this week we had our Christmas lunch. The children enjoyed their lunch in the dining room and the staff enjoyed lunch in the hall. Even Poppy enjoyed a Christmas lunch too!



The Holly Park Appeal

We've raised £2,710 so far! We're so touched to have received so many donations and messages of support. Thanks to everyone who has donated and/or shared the appeal film – we're so grateful to you for your help in what we know is a challenging time for everyone. With rising costs and reducing pupil numbers, schools in England are £2 billion poorer than they were in 2015. This year the school's annual budget has further reduced significantly. Whilst ICT upgrade is a requirement, unfortunately we can not afford to fund it from the existing budget. We are very mindful of the many calls on people's time and resources just now, but if you're in a position to donate to help us reach our target, we'd love to give the children at Holly Park a better learning experience by upgrading our outdated ICT equipment. If you are able to make a donation we would be very grateful. The best link for donations is the Holly Park School appeal page on the school website. <https://www.hollyparkschool.co.uk/the-big-holly-park-appeal/>
Here is the direct crowd funder link <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/hollypark>



If Your Child Tests Positive For COVID On A PCR

Guidance for general absence is that schools should not give work to sick children. The vast majority of children who are off due to COVID are only off because they have tested positive. Children should not stay off school to isolate because of another family member. As a school we don't want to be sending work home to children who are too

unwell to do it. Therefore when you report your child's absence from school to the school office – please tell us if your positive child is well or not and if you require work to do. Of course this may change either way during the 10 days. Please just need to notify the school office that you do or do not want work to do at home. Teachers as per the policy will need a day to get the work together. Every child is different – we have had children who have been off and have not had any symptoms and others who have been quite unwell. We need parents to guide us about how their child is.

An Alternative To Christmas Cards

Another really lovely (possibly more Eco friendly idea suggested by a parent) is that instead of spending money on cards this year – you could buy a Christmas/wintery book and donate it to the class from your child. You can wrap the book up as a present and write a label to the class on the parcel. Inside the book you could write a message inside the front cover saying it is to the whole class from your child at Christmas 2021. You could even design your own bookplate from your child and stick that inside the book. A list of possible book titles will be emailed out from the Holly Park Reading Champions in their newsletter entitled 'Winter Warmer' suggestions. Some ideas are attached to the back of this newsletter. Children get an enormous sense of pride seeing the teacher unwrap a gift to the class from them.

The Backpack Appeal – Last chance to donate

We all want our children to be kind and to be good adults and citizens of the future who will think of others less fortunate than themselves. Children learn what we model for them – and what better way to show them about giving to others than to get them involved in a charitable project. The backpack project is an excellent project that children can be involved with.

The idea is that each Holly Park family gets a rucksack and fills it with the items below.

The items can be second hand but need to be in good condition. They can be items from your own home that are now too small. Families tend to fill the rucksacks with second hand clothing etc and put in new stationary.

First you need to decide if you are filling the rucksack for a girl or a boy and roughly what age they are (between 4 and 12years).

Then please fill the rucksack with all of the following:

A notepad Pencils Crayons Sharpeners Ruler Eraser Pencil case
Shorts or skirt (can be PE shorts) T shirt Flip flops or sandals Small ball (e.g tennis ball)
Soap Toothbrush Toothpaste Towel Spoon

Recycling never felt this good!

Please bring filled rucksacks into school by Monday 13th December.

Thank you for your support. The Learning Council would really appreciate your help with this.



Infant Christmas Singing

On **Thursday 16th December**, some of our Year 1 and Year 2 children will be singing Christmas songs in our story garden after school. Please come and stand outside the fence of the story garden and listen to them sing. The PTA will have a Christmas table where you can buy a Christmas snack and a drink.

Amazon Smile

With the festive period upon us, many families will be ordering gifts from Amazon. I would urge you to do your shopping through Amazon Smile. It is so easy and costs you absolutely nothing. By doing this – Amazon will make a donation to the Holly park parent teacher association if you select them as your charity.

I have made several shops on Amazon in the last few weeks and have remembered to do it through Amazon Smile – it is great to think that what you are ordering is adding to the PTA fund raising.

If you shop on Amazon regularly – then you can do this all year round. I would really ask that you consider doing this – it really is so easy! Thank you.



Christmas Parties

For the annual Christmas parties we always ask parents to provide food for a party tea. We usually ask for food that can be shared with others. However, this year (as last year) due to COVID, there can be no sharing of food. Children should bring in a small party pack on the day of their party SEPARATE to any packed lunch. This will be their own party

pack for their party day. The party pack must not contain nuts. No fizzy drinks can be brought in. Children will need named water bottles. Children will take home their rubbish and any uneaten food. Children should come to school on the day of their party wearing party clothes (sensible shoes) for the whole day. Make sure the party clothes are warm clothes

Y5 Coding Club

We have two Year 5 Coding Clubs running each week. This half term the girls have become game makers. They've used Microsoft Makecode Arcade application to create a space and dino game. The fun part about using this application is that their game can be downloaded onto a handheld console and shared with their friends. There is an enormous amount of problem solving involved in coding so the girls have been developing strategies such as trial and improvement and using feedback systems to test and evaluate outcomes. Here are a few of the key computing skills and concepts they are developing: sequencing, algorithmic thinking, decomposing and generalising (identifying and using patterns) and conditionals. Next term, the girls will become App makers!



Attendance

Attendance for the last week was 94%

Well done to Y6 Beech Class with the best attendance at 98%

Dates

Sunday 12th December	PTA Winter Fair
Monday 13th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Tuesday 14th December	EYFS parties
Tuesday 14 th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Wednesday 15th December	Year 1 and 2 parties
Wednesday 15 th December	Y3 and Y4 parties
Friday 17th December	Term ends at 1.30pm

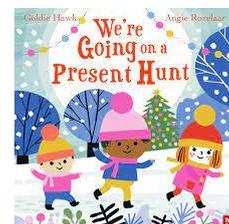
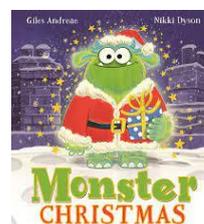
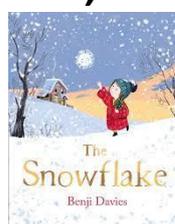
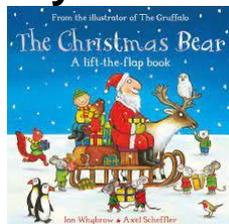
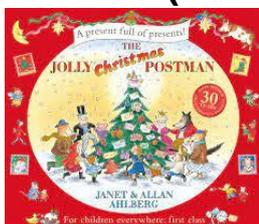
The Spring Term begins for children on **Wednesday 5th January**



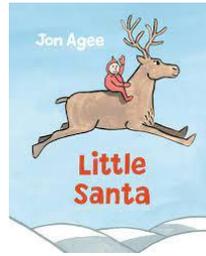
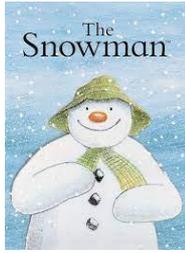
Winter Warmers!

Some Of Our Christmas and Winter Recommended Reads!

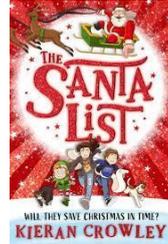
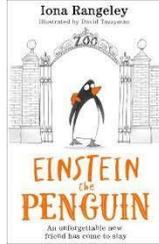
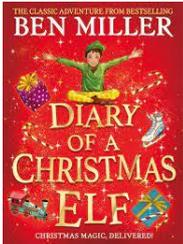
EYFS (Nursery & Reception)



KS1 (Year 1 & 2)



LOWER KS2 (Years 3 & 4)



UPPER KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

