



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12

Friday 3rd December 2021

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Decorations Day

On Monday, every child in school made a Christmas decoration to hang in the dining hall. This is a Holly Park tradition and helps to make the school look festive. On Wednesday, the children were SO excited to come into the dining hall and see all of the decorations hanging there.



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

Giving Christmas Cards

There will be a post box in the foyer for children to put in Christmas cards for their friends. These will be delivered to classrooms by the Holly Park elves! We don't allow children to give out the cards in class as this can take up valuable learning time. If your child wants to bring in cards – please remind them to put them in the post box.



An alternative to 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.



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.

PTA Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday 10th December**, the PTA would like the children to come to school in their Christmas Jumper and donate £1 on school money to the PTA. The children should wear school uniform on the bottom half and their Christmas Jumper on the top half. Thank you.



The Holly Park Appeal 2021-22

Why have we chosen IT for the appeal?

Our IT infrastructure is 15 years old which means that classroom teacher desk tops that run the Interactive White boards are old, outdated, slow and failing, the wifi is slow, not all parts of the school have connection. We have made many repairs – but the equipment is now at the stage that it is passed repair. The school server which holds all of the data is also very old

and past repair. More and more schools rely on IT and teachers use it as part of their everyday teaching.

What exactly would the money raised buy?

A new server, a huge WIFI upgrade, new classroom desk tops to run the Interactive white boards.

What is the total cost of this project?

The total cost to improve the system will be approximately £25k and this is not something that we can afford out of a very tight school budget.

How will the money be raised?

We are raising the money in several ways. We are making bids to charities and writing to local businesses. Our PTA are also supporting this appeal with donations from their events and activities. We have today launched a crowd funding appeal.

How can Holly Park parents help?

We are today launching a crowd funding appeal and asking for parent help and support with this We hope that parents will also share it amongst friends and family. You can donate to this on the front page of our Holly Park website.

Who is leading this appeal and driving it forward?

As with our last appeal, this appeal is driven by a committee of people – staff, PTA and governors – all working together for a great cause for the children. The team is led by Anna Sherrington who is the governor with responsibility for Income Realisation. Other governors on the committee include Tim Graveney and Fiona Quinton. The PTA is represented by Nathalie Hughes, Marilena Skavara, Otto Balsinger, Amanda Glaser and Daniel Bobroff. Staff members include myself, Mr Turner & Mr Carini who are our IT leads in school and Gerard Davies our IT technician.

Who will benefit from this appeal?

All Holly Park children from nursery to Year 6 will benefit from this appeal. It will mean that children who go to teaching rooms outside the classroom will be able to access WIFI. Every classroom will be able to run the interactive whiteboards more efficiently to show the children videos, clips etc and children working on laptops and ipads in classrooms will also be able to connect with the internet more easily and speedily.

What is the next step in terms of the appeal?

We hope that everyone in our Holly Park community will engage with this appeal and see how it will be able to improve the education on offer at the school and support all of our Holly Park children.

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>



Governor News

Tim Graveney



Tim Graveney (our chair of governors) has come to the end of his term of office as a governor at Holly Park. Tim has been associated with the school for far longer than his four years as a governor because his three children attended the school. Tim has been a great chair. He has developed a cohesive group of governors and has done much work behind the scenes to keep our governors motivated and engaged. He has developed a clear structure so that each governor has a role suitable to the school. Tim has been extremely supportive to me as Headteacher and to the staff of the school. He has always been very appreciative of everything they do. He is approachable, thorough and has been extremely committed to the role of chair. Tim has always been mindful of all stakeholders and has been calm, open minded and objective. As chair, he has been good at problem solving, asking questions and offering alternative ideas and suggestions. He has been a much valued governor and I will miss him and our weekly chats.

New Acting Chair Of Governors



Clare Hegarty

Clare Hegarty is our new Acting Chair of Governors. Clare joined the governing body at Holly Park in 2017. Her first involvement with the school was through her work, leading the Year 5 school journey. Clare brings experience and knowledge from her work in education as a teaching assistant, IT teacher and 12 years as a School Business Manager in primary and secondary schools, as well as from the private sector working as an IT Project Manager and currently as the Business Manager of Non Stop Action. Previous to being Acting Chair, Clare was Vice Chair, and Chair of Finance and Premises.

Rhonda is our new Vice Chair. Rhonda is a mother to two girls who both attend Holly Park. Her background is in Managing Consulting where she spent 11 years working across the public and private sector, supporting companies and government departments design organisations and deliver change. As a qualified HR practitioner, she advises senior stakeholders on people related matters.

New Vice Chair Of Governors



Rhonda James

Meet Our New Governors

Andrea Messios



Andrea's eldest child joined the nursery in January 2017, so her family has been a part of Holly Park School for almost five years; her children are now in Y3 and Y1, and have had a wonderful school experience so far. Andrea has enjoyed being a Class Rep for the last few years, acting as a bridge between the PTA and the Y3 parents/carers. Her professional background has been in the art world for the last 20 years, working for organisations like Sotheby's and Tate. Her current role is as Senior Philanthropy Manager at the Southbank Centre, the UK's largest arts centre, leading a team to maximise major gifts from individuals. Andrea is keen to contribute to Holly Park School as a governor, and she sees this as an opportunity to volunteer her skills at the same time as learning more about the school and the challenges it faces

Claire Powell



Claire is a mother to two children in Holly Park School one in Year 4 and the other in Year 1 and her third child is due to start the school nursery in September 2022. Claire has been employed by the Metropolitan Police Service for over 17 years and she works within Forensic Services as a Forensic Practitioner. Her job involves working at crimes scenes and within a fingerprint enhancement laboratory, which is regulated and accredited by the Forensic Regulator and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service. Claire hopes to bring her experience of working in line with accredited technical standards and developing coherent supporting policies to this role. Claire looks forward to having a deeper understanding of the school and the way in which it encourages children to thrive in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Gemma Morgan



Both of Gemma's children now attend Holly Park. Her daughter is in Year 2 and her son has just recently started at the nursery. Gemma's niece also attended the school. Watching her achieve so much was Gemma's reason for choosing Holly Park. Gemma's working background is firmly rooted in education. After graduating she worked as a teaching assistant in the local community and went on to complete my PGCE in Primary Education, specialising in EYFS and Key Stage 1. Prior to having her first child Gemma was a full-time Year 1 Teacher. Gemma has first-hand experience of the education system, from the perspective of teacher, support staff and most recently as a parent. Becoming a governor is another way in which she feels that she can contribute to the education of children at Holly Park, helping them to have the best possible school experience.

Lorean Lynch



Lorean is a mother to three children, Francesco in Year 1, Jessica in Nursey and a baby. Lorean has been part of the Holly Park family for nearly three years, and has enjoyed every moment, she feels it is such a special school; personal, friendly and informative. Lorean has witnessed first-hand her children growing daily with knowledge and confidence. They love Holly Park, as does she. From day one, Lorean considered herself to be invested in the school's community. She naturally enjoys supporting the values in any way she can; rallying support for the PTA events, baking, putting forward suggestions and recommendations, whole heartedly supporting any events and she often shares knowledge with other parents on local activities, after school clubs. Lorean is passionate about her children's education, wellbeing and extra curriculum development and nationally Holly Park is linked to this. Lorean feels that this role is a wonderful opportunity to give back and she believes that her previous professional background in Human Resources and her personal and current circumstances will stand her in good stead.

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.

The Backpack Appeal

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

Supporting this project will be very helpful to those children in Malawi who need all of this equipment to go to school as it is not provided free and many families cannot afford it.

It would be marvellous if each Holly Park family could fill a rucksack. It will show the children at Holly Park that we all value the right to an education.

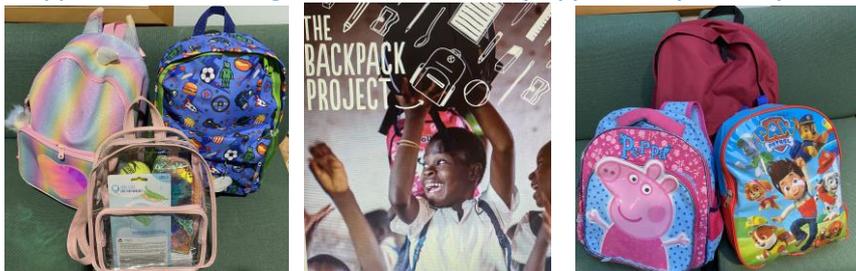
Recycling never felt this good!

The Backpack Project helps children receiving Mary's Meals in Malawi get the most out of their learning – and it's a great way to recycle old bags and P.E. kits. Don't buy new, recycle where you can! Please don't send drawstring gym bags. Please don't be tempted to put in toys or sweets. This can cause problems during delivery.

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

The project also links well with the idea of kindness, generosity to others and the spirit of giving which many celebrate at this time of year.

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



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.



Attendance

Attendance for the last week was 93%

Well done to Y3 willow Class with the best attendance at 99%

Dates

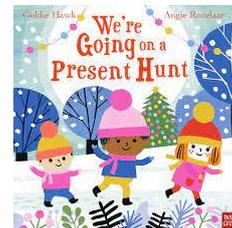
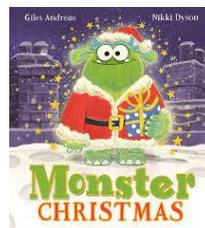
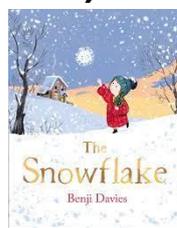
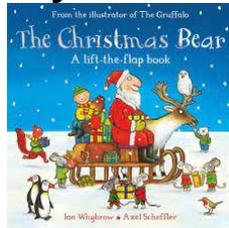
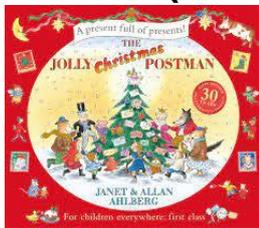
Wednesday 8 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 10 th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Friday 10 th December	PTA Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 10 th December	Y5 and Y6 parties
Sunday 12 th December	PTA Winter Fair
Monday 13 th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Tuesday 14 th December	EYFS parties
Tuesday 14 th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Wednesday 15 th December	Year 1 and 2 parties
Wednesday 15 th December	Y3 and Y4 parties
Friday 17 th December	Term ends at 1.30pm



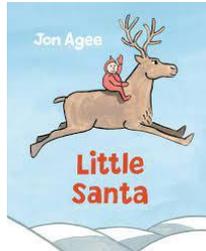
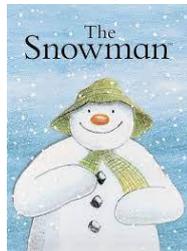
Winter Warmers!

Some Of Our Christmas and Winter Recommended Reads!

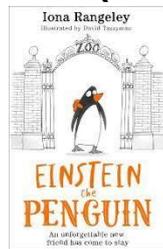
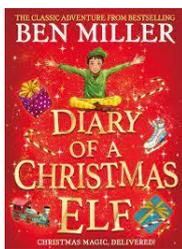
EYFS (Nursery & Reception)



KS1 (Year 1 & 2)



LOWER KS2 (Years 3 & 4)



UPPER KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

