



# HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 5

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

## Just One Tree

Today we have joined many schools across Barnet in celebrating and raising money for 'Just One Tree Day' Just £1 plants one tree. The charity help to Combat Climate Change through reforestation. JUST ONE Tree, make it simple to plant trees! They are a non-profit initiative making an impact in the fight against climate change through global reforestation. They plant their trees in areas severely affected by mass deforestation, maximising the effect.

As part of a borough wide project on the environment, Barnet asked all Barnet schools to participate in this initiative.

Well done to the children who wore brown or green today. Thank you for the donations of £1 on School Money. If every Barnet child brings in £1 for the non-uniform day, that is a lot of trees being planted by the charity.

This project helps to make children aware of the global community we live in and the need for climate change.

You can find out more about the initiative at <https://www.justonetree.life/schools-sustainability.html>



## HARVEST



Thank you to all of the families who brought donations for our Harvest collection this week – this was very much appreciated. We couldn't fit all of it onto the display tables! Mr Reid took all of the food to the Local Food bank centre in North Finchley. We had to borrow a minibus from another local school to get it to the centre. The donations were extremely generous and the Food bank organisers were delighted by the generosity.



## Parental Contributions

Thank you so much to those parents who have already made a contribution following my letter to all parents this week. This is very much appreciated. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

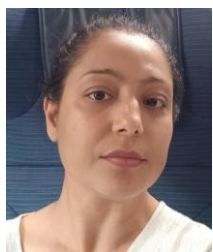
We are asking parents across the school to make a contribution towards the cost of resources to support the learning of the children. School budgets are tighter than ever. Falling pupil numbers in Barnet, seriously affects all school budgets. The teacher pay rises are NOT fully funded by the government and this has to come out of existing budgets – budgets that were already set in March last year. This means that money has to be taken from areas that would have been spent on resources for the children. High energy bills and rising costs generally affect schools too. We have cut back as much as we can and we have been ruthless on spending. Parent contributions last year were very generous and an enormous help which meant that we were still able to buy resources for art, DT etc so that curriculum provision in the classrooms was not affected. We know that we are not alone as a school in asking parents to make a voluntary contribution each year. Most schools both primary and secondary now ask for contributions from parents annually. All of our local schools do this. We are asking parents across the school to help us again with this so that we can continue to buy resources. We want to be able to continue to offer as broad and balanced a curriculum as we possibly can. Resources inevitably get broken or worn out with such a lot of use. We are therefore asking all of our parents to

make a **contribution of £25 per child** for the period between now and April 2023. We really appreciate your support with this. If you would like to offer more than £25 then please call Miss Hounslow and she can alter your payment on school money to accommodate this. Several parents have already done this – which is amazing. We really do appreciate your support with this at this exceedingly difficult time and we are very sorry that we have to ask.

## PTA

After a very successful fundraising year last year, we have to say a massive thank you to some of the committee who are now stepping down. Thank you to two of our co-chairs Marilena and Alison, to the treasurer Mayank and to one of our co-secretaries Helen – who will all be standing down from the committee after putting in such an amazing effort for the PTA. A special thank you has to go to Marilena who has been a co-chair for many years including through the very difficult Covid years when despite the challenges – the PTA continued to raise money and thrive in very creative ways.

The PTA AGM was held last week and new committee members were elected:



**Bhavini**

**Co-Chairs**



**Laura**



**Julie**  
**Secretary**



**Alison**

**Co-Treasurers**



**Amy**

## Water Bottles

Children have been bringing in water bottles to school for many years very successfully and have been very well hydrated. Water bottles have not been a problem in school until recently.

Teachers were concerned in the summer term about the unnecessary accessories attached to water bottles such as fans and sprays. These were causing problems in classrooms and distracting from learning. This new craze of bottles with flavour pods are becoming another problem as the handles are detachable and these are being taken from these bottles and this is causing disruption to learning time and unnecessary worry for children.

Children have lots of opportunity for drinking at different times of the day. The water bottles are only for the classroom. There is water at lunchtimes on the tables that children can drink. There are water fountains in the playgrounds too. There are lots of opportunity for drinking water across the school day in all areas of the school. Children just need a simple named water bottle- a simple water bottle without smells, tastes, fans and water sprays. Sprays, fans etc are a distraction from learning and are not necessary. There is no requirement to spend money on anything fancy. Some of the bottles being brought in are in the region of £30-£40. Any items of value should not be brought into school where there may be a risk of loss or damage. We don't want children to be competitive about water bottles or worry that they haven't got the latest style or kind that their friends have. A simple water bottle is all that is needed. Thank you for your support with this.

## Keyrings on Book Bags

When children bring in their book bag, we understand that they may want to put on one keyring so that their bag is easily distinguishable and identifiable from all of the other red book bags – one key ring is not a problem – and we know that children like this.

However, some children have huge collections of key rings on their bags which is not necessary. These collections have become a problem for storage as lots of keyrings make the bags bulky and difficult to store during the day. There is also a health and safety problem - If a child accidentally raises the book bag in the air and it hits another child – we don't really want lots of metal chains on the bags. Just one keyring is enough.

## Attendance

Attendance for the last week was 97%

Well done to Year 3 Willow Class and Y5 Juniper Class with the best attendance at 99%

## Dates

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Walk to school week
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Y3 to Neasden Temple
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Be Bright Be Seen Day

### **HALF TERM**

Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Individual Photograph Day
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Y3 Geobus workshops
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Y4 to British Museum
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Y6 to Imperial War Museum
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents in Class to Read Together 8.45-9.15am
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Notice for parent consultations Y1-6

Wednesday 8th November	Y3 Maths workshop for parents & children 9am
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Curriculum Meeting For Parents (all year groups) 9am
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Holly Park Curriculum Day
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Meeting about bullying (all year groups) 9am
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	KS2 Book Look 3.30-5.30pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	KS1 Book Look 3.30-5.30pm

