



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 14

Friday 12th January 2024

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Happy New Year

Welcome back to the new term and to 2024 at Holly Park. I would like to thank you on behalf of myself and the staff for the gifts we received at the end of term. May I wish you a happy and healthy 2024. You will have received this week a leaflet of key dates (via e-mail) for this term. Next week you will receive a year group newsletter explaining what the children will be learning this term.

New Holly Park Street Dance Clubs for Years 3,4,5 and 6

We are delighted to be starting two new dance clubs in January. Following the success of a recent Y6 dance workshop, we have asked the same company (Dance Wright) to run two new clubs for us.

Y3 and 4 on a Monday lunchtime.

Y5 and 6 after school on Monday

Sign up is completely done through the company and not through the school. I am sure that this will be very popular and that places will go quickly. Please see the flier attached at the end of the newsletter. Classes start next week.



Ballet Classes for Year 1 and Year 2

I am very pleased to tell you that we trialling ballet classes at Holly Park this term. The classes will be for Year 1 and Year 2 children every Tuesday after school. The classes are run by Little London Dance Studio and will run independently from the school. If you have any questions etc – please address these directly with the ballet school. Sign up is completely done through the company and not through the school. I am sure that this will be very popular and that places will go quickly. Please see the flier attached at the end of the newsletter. Classes start next week.



Packed Lunches

The packed lunch policy is going well. Thank you for your support. I just want to emphasise a few points:

- This is not a new policy – this has always been the school policy - with a couple of tweaks.
- Mrs Mehtar has sought advice from the Barnet Healthy School Advisor about what is recommended locally and nationally. Our packed lunch and snack policy are both in line with other schools.
- Children are not told off /reprimanded if they bring the wrong item for packed lunch and Mrs Mehtar has made this clear to the children several times. They will however be reminded that the item shouldn't be brought in.
- Food will not be removed from children if they bring the wrong thing – they will just take it home.
- Just as with the healthy snacks, we will review what is in place after a period of time and make any necessary tweaks.
- If you have any questions or queries regarding your own child and their packed lunch you are more than welcome to arrange to discuss this with Mrs Mehtar.

KS2 School Lunch - Deli Option

The deli option is a newish and very welcome addition to the lunch menu and is a popular choice for many KS2 children. The children serve themselves for this option. This option allows the children to have a filling baguette, a roll or a whole sandwich (2 rounds of bread) Alongside this the children can choose anything they want from the salad bar: there are always approx. 6 options they can choose from – and can have all if they want to. They can also ask for some chips or potatoes. For dessert the children can choose anything from the whole range of dessert options available- pieces of fruit, yoghurt, fruit pots, cooked dessert. Children choosing the deli option should feel full when they have finished their lunch. Please do speak to your child about everything they can have if they like this option. I will also remind them in assembly next week.

Healthy Food Workshop For Parents

At Holly Park, we are trying to improve the children's health with a focus on healthy eating. We would like to support parents and carers as much as possible so we have arranged a **parent workshop** run by a **nutritionist** who specialises in healthy eating for children. This is **NOT** a session to discuss our policy and practice – that has already happened. This nutritionist is coming in to support parents and give ideas for healthy options for packed lunches but also at home. The workshop will take place on **Friday 19th January at 9am** in the **hall**.

In the workshop, parents can ask questions about healthy food for their child. The nutritionist can give information about packed lunches and food eaten at home. She can also give advice to help if your child is a 'fussy eater' This workshop is to support **ALL** parents and carers (whether or not your child has a packed lunch).

Healthy eating is linked to academic performance as well as physical and mental health. Please come along to the workshop and get ideas and information to help your child eat as healthily as possible.



Letting Our School Hall

Over the past couple of years we have been letting out our school hall at weekends for all kinds of events including parties. We also hire the hall out after 6pm on weekdays for clubs and groups e.g Karate. All lettings are booked through a company called 'Sharesy'

If you would be interested in having a birthday party in the school hall you can book this through the Sharesy website. Booking can include the main hall, the dining hall, the Astro ball area or the playgrounds.

If you would be interested in hiring a part of the school for an event you can go to:

<https://www.sharesy.com/v/holly-park-primary-school>

Online Safety – Parent Session 9th February

Do you know what your child is doing on their computer or ipad?

Do you know which sites are safe?

Are you aware of all of the dangers of your child having a mobile phone?

Are your children sending messages on x box?

Is your child watching videos on Youtube?

What are the dangers of Apps?

What social media is suitable for my child?

How much screen time is acceptable?

What are the latest online dangers?

On Friday 9th February we have paid for an outside company to come in and talk about online-safety all day with classes and also to do a meeting for parents at 9am to help parents think about keeping children safe at home on computers, ipads etc when they are playing games and using the Internet. We have run these sessions for the last few years and they have been a great success. Parents found it scary, thought provoking and extremely useful. It is very important to be one step ahead of your child as technology becomes more a part of children's everyday lives. Whatever your child's age or year group, the meeting will be appropriate and useful.

I would urge as many parents as possible to come along to the school hall at 9am on Friday 9th February



Football Holiday Camp at Holly Park – February Half Term 2024

During February half term, we are letting out our school hall and grounds to a football camp. The flier about it is at the end of this newsletter.

At I TRAIN HOW I PLAY, we offer both football and multi-sport camp days for both boys and girls from the age of 5+. Our camp will take place at Holly Park Primary School throughout February school holiday of 2024.

Camp days start at 9 am and finish at 3 pm. Children are split into groups according to age. Parents will need to provide child/ren with a packed lunch and a morning snack.

Camp days are fun, engaging, and full of exciting games and activities as well as prizes. We concentrate not solely on the winning side of sports but also on ensuring the children have fun and play games competitively and respectfully.

All our members of staff are DBS checked.

Here is the sign-up link: <https://i-train-how-i-play.classforkids.io>



Parent Gym Success

Last term Mrs Puzey ran a series of Parent Gym sessions for Holly Park parents. The sessions were a huge success and gave the parents who chose to be involved a space to chat about parenting over a cup of tea/coffee and to share ideas based around the topics that Mrs Puzey introduced each week. I was pleased to award certificates in the final week.

Mrs Puzey will be running the sessions again later in the school year. Here are some comments from the parents:

'Such a wonderful experience'

'I loved that we covered real life situations'

'Mrs Puzey has been amazing keeping the sessions interactive and fun'

'I have started to see the benefits'

'I have wanted a support group like this for a long time'

'Every parent should have access to this course'

'It helped create the best bond between parent and child'

'Every session was amazing, engaging and lots of laughter'

'I would definitely recommend parent gym to other parents'

'My house is a calmer place after using the techniques I learned'

'A space to share parenting tips'

'10 out of 10 for this course'



Snow & Icy Weather

As always as we move into the New Year, there will inevitably be a higher risk of inclement weather, linked with the possibility of school closure or later opening. In the event of heavy snowfall, parents should check for closure notices on the school website, as well as looking out for emails and texts from the school. Any decision to close is not taken lightly. We make decisions that we think are for the best at the time for our school and our circumstances and at the heart of everything is the health and safety of the children in getting to and from school, the safety of staff and ensuring there is adequate supervision. Decisions are made with senior staff, the chair of governors and other local Headteachers. Every school in Barnet is different due to location and also where staff travel from.

For various legal reasons, we are not able to grit the pavements outside the school – our responsibility is for the school site only. However the council have provided a grit bin opposite the school which parents are very welcome to use to grit the paths and entrance outside the school gates in icy weather. Please do make use of this. We will also send out a text if necessary to ask for a group of volunteer parents with shovels to help Mr Reid clear paths – this has been very helpful in the past.

There is also the possibility of a late opening during snowy weather to ensure the grounds are prepared and also early closing – should more snow fall be forecast.

Please note that we do not provide online work if the school closes for a day – this is in line with our blended learning policy. Online activities (probably seasonally related to snow) will only be provided from the second day of any closure. We would hope that on the first day of snow that children go outside and enjoy the snow experience.

Please be assured that we always have the health and safety of the children uppermost on our mind. We continually

risk assess, consider and evaluate what we do in snow and icy weather.

Thank you for your support in advance with what inevitably is always a difficult and stressful time.

Attendance

Whole school attendance for the last week of term was 91% - this is well below the national expectation.

Well done to Y3 Willow Class with the best attendance at 96%.

Attendance for the Autumn Term 2023

At Holly Park we monitor attendance regularly. Our attendance is also monitored by school governors, the Local Authority and the DFE. Please make every effort to ensure that your child attends school regularly.

Attendance for each pupil should be 96% or higher. You will be receiving a letter this term for your individual children making you aware of what their attendance so far this year currently stands at.

Overall Autumn Term attendance:

Autumn 2021: 95%

Autumn 2022: 94%

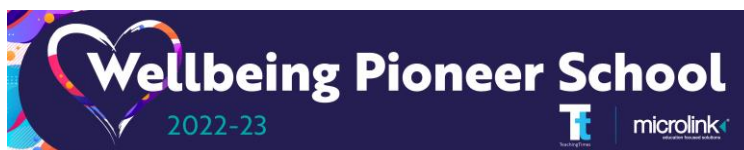
Autumn 2023: 94%

Dates

Monday 15 th January	Police Visits
Tuesday 16 th January	Police Visits
Wednesday 17 th January	Y3 spelling and phonics meeting for parents at 9am
Thursday 18 th January	KSI Road Safety workshop
Friday 19 th January	Parent healthy food workshop at 9am in the hall
Monday 22 nd January	Y6 meeting about sex and relationship education 9am
Monday 22 nd January	Y3 Geobus workshops
Monday 5 th February	Children's Mental health Week
Monday 5 th February	Annual House Challenge
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 9 th February	Online Safety Meting for parents at 9am
Friday 9 th February	HPS Online safety day
Friday 9 th February	End of Half term at 3.30pm



**WE HAVE
ACHIEVED**





HOLLY PARK SCHOOL

STREET DANCE CLUB

Yrs 3-4

**Monday Lunchtime
12.20-1pm**

Yrs 5-6

**Monday Afterschool
3.30-4.30pm**

**JOIN OUR CLASSES FROM
15TH JANUARY**

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

www.dancewright.co.uk/classes

info@dancewright.co.uk

07482693890

**ONLY
£4.50/
£5 PER
CLASS**

LIMITED SPACES





**BALLET/CONTEMPORARY
FOR YEAR 1 & 2**
Tuesdays at Holly Park Primary

**BOOSTING CONFIDENCE THROUGH
DANCE**

littlelondondancestudio@gmail.com

£9 per class

All bookings should be made directly through Little London Dance Studio

Football & indoor
games with an
outdoor playground
& Astro football
pitch
Boxing
Arts & Crafts

Now also
including
kids morning hiit
classes

ITHIP FEBRUARY CAMP

FEBRUARY 12TH - FEBRUARY 16TH

at Holly park primary school
N11 3HG
From 9am-3pm

**GIRLS AND BOYS
AGES 5-14**

**DEADLINE
FEBRUARY
9TH
SPACE IS
LIMITED**

INSTA: @ITRAINHOWIPLAY

**Coach T: 077487 577147
available via WhatsApp only**