

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 12th June, 2015

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Solar Panels

Fantastic eco news – solar panels are going ahead! After in depth discussions with a number of companies and the governing body, it has been decided that, as of this summer, Holly Trees will be installing a 50kw solar power system on the roof. This means we will be able to produce up to 30% of our own electricity (depending on the sunshine) thus saving money on our utility bills and reducing our carbon footprint. The scheme will be funded through the savings we make and by taking advantage of the government's Feed In Tariff, whereby we are paid for the electricity we produce. This means that the solar panels will not cost the school anything and will help to do our bit for the environment.

Road Safety competition

Thank you to the many children who took part in the poster competition sponsored by the local Council. The standard was very high, making choosing a winner very difficult indeed. We have come up with a short list of three entries which will be discussed with our local councillor, John Newberry, this afternoon to choose the winning design. The three contenders are Sam Palmer, Matilda-Lilly Jacovou and Samuel Keen and we will let you know the final decision in next week's newsletter. As the standard was so high, all three will also receive a gold certificate with silver merits going to the next 10 runners-up and bronze merits to everybody who entered.

Jazz Night

My 6 piece Dixieland jazz band will be playing for a Jazz Night on Saturday, 27th June at 8:00 pm. The tickets cost £16 which includes a fish/chicken/sausage/veggie and chip supper. Refreshments, including Brentwood real ale, will be available to purchase. The funds from this event will go towards the Fundraisers' project of providing a new music room. This event has always been a great success in the past offering an evening of music and all-round entertainment. It is now only a fortnight away so please order your tickets in the next week. If you think jazz is not for you, please mention it to friends and family who would like to come.

A cashless school

After requests from parents, we have registered to become 'cashless'. We are now taking online payments for school dinners, trips etc., with a view to taking no cash for these services from September. Thank you to all the parents who have already signed and please make sure you register if you haven't already done so. If you have any questions about how this will affect you, please see Lucy Wicker, School Business Manager.

Changes to persistent absence criteria

As of September 2015, the Government definition of a child with persistent absence will be once their attendance drops below 90%.

Sports Day

Sports Day is next Friday, 19th June. The infant children will start their event at 9:30 am. All children will then have an early lunch so that the junior event can start at 1:00 pm. Children will be asked to wear a PE shirt in their owl team colour. Every day I have children asking to borrow spare PE kit. They will not be able to do this on Sports Day, as we do not have enough kit for all the children.

Inflatable Afternoon

Thank you all for coming along to the Inflatable Afternoon yesterday. Not only was the weather fabulous, but the money raised will help to provide our new music room. I would like to say particular thanks to the handful of parents and all the teachers who manned the activities. Without the goodwill of the teachers at a

time of year when they are also busy writing reports, the event would not have been able to go ahead. If you and your children enjoy the activities that the Fundraisers offer, please do offer help for the good of our children.

The next Fundraisers meeting is on Tuesday, 16th June at 9:00 am in school. Everyone is invited to come along.

Brentwood Station

As TfL has taken over the management of Brentwood Station, it has been discovered that, on 1st July, the station will be 175 years old. To commemorate this anniversary, TfL is offering ten to fifteen Year 4 to 6 children the chance to go to the station to learn more about its history. In order for us to choose which children will attend, we are running a competition for those in Years 4 to 6. Pupils should produce a creative piece of work (art, poem, story) about the station, trains or rail travel on one piece of A4 paper ensuring their names and class are on the back. The closing date is Friday, 26th June. Entries should be given to Mr. Hocking.

Sainsbury Vouchers

Please bring in any vouchers you have as we will be ordering soon. Many thanks.

Menu

Week 1 of the menu - please see the website for the new summer menus. The kitchen will only be providing cold lunches next Friday due to Sports Day – ham, cheese or tuna sandwiches, gingerbread men, selection of fruit and a carton of juice.

Forthcoming dates

15th, 17th & 18th June – Bikeability
16th June – Early Years visit to Tropical Wings
18th June – Able Writers Day
19th June – Sports Day (9:30 am Infants and 1:00 pm Juniors)
25th June – Yrs 3-5 District Sports am
27th June – Jazz Night
29th July – District Sports Yr 6
4th July – Summer fete
6th July – 2:45 pm Yr2 transition meeting for parents
6th July – Year 6 play – evening performance
7th July – Y5 and Y6 NSPCC workshops
7th July – Year 6 play – afternoon and evening performances
9th July – writing session with author Elen Cadecott
9th July – EYFS to Y1 transition meeting for parents
14th July – Open evening (3:00 to 6:00 pm)
16th July – Year 6 leavers theatre trip
17th July – Year 6 leavers disco
20th July – Owl team non-uniform day
22nd July – Last day of summer term
Monday, 7th September – children return to school

Letters home

8th – Improving school communications with Parentmail
11th – Year 6 Bikeability
12th – Sex & Relationships Education programme

Attendance – 97% target

Congratulations to Birch, Elder, Elm, Holly Larch, Maple and Sycamore for having over 97% attendance since the start of the academic year (September).