

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 6th May, 2016

Volume 24; Issue 4

Circus at Holly Trees – We are down to our last 60 family tickets for our circus event. I have been asked by a few people to confirm that no animals will be used at the circus and I can confirm that this is the case. Remember this is a professional touring circus company and the tickets are much cheaper than you can usually expect at £10 per adult, £6 per child or £30 for a family ticket.

At the circus there will be stalls and refreshments to buy. We ask that you send in cake donations next Friday so that these can be sold on the Saturday to raise more funds. If the cakes are homemade please include a list of ingredients.

No smoking – I would like to confirm that our No Smoking Policy includes the use of e-cigarettes anywhere within the school grounds during school time and at evening and weekend events.

Mathletics – We are delighted that so many children enjoy learning their maths' skills using Mathletics. We are really seeing an improvement in children's arithmetic. However, it has also come to our attention that some children are so keen to be top of their class leaderboard that they are using Mathletics far too much. It is not healthy for anyone, especially young children, to use IT equipment late in the evening/night or in place of playing outside some of the time. In order to get this message across, any child earning in excess of 2000 points will be listed at the top of the class leaderboard without the scores being recorded. The subsequent four highest scores will then be recorded as 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th places, also without the actual scores being noted. In the meantime, please do help your children to retain a balance between computer work, which is usually solitary, and interacting with others in the 'real world'.

Internet safety – We constantly strive to keep our children safe in this technological age. There are two opportunities for parents to find out how they can help in this matter. On Wednesday, 25th May, our Years 5 and 6 children will be going to Becket Keys with five other primary schools for some e-safety training and in the evening parents are invited to an information session. Due to the number of people involved, this is only open to Years 5 and 6 parents and we ask that just one parent per family attends. **If you plan to attend, please notify the school office by Friday, 20th May.** Also, any Holly Trees parents are invited to a CEOP session on Tuesday, 21st June at 5:00pm in our school hall. More information about this will follow.

School shoes – When parents are buying new school shoes for their children, please consider how smart these shoes are. Many companies seem to be marketing trainers as school shoes and these are not smart enough for school. School shoes should be the sort that can be polished because they are leather (or look like leather) and should not bear any brand name or symbols often linked to sportswear. In addition to children's school shoes, all children should bring plimsolls or trainers to school during this term for outdoor PE.

Rag Bag – We are no longer able to take charitable clothing donations. Please do not leave clothing bags by the clothing bin as we will have to dispose of these.

Guitar Lessons – There are no guitar lessons next Tuesday, 10th May due to SATs.

INSET day – 23rd June – Because our school will be used as a Polling Station on the day of the EU Referendum, there will be no school that day.

Musical Soiree (19th May) – It is the time of year again when we invite the musicians in school to perform for friends and family. The event will start at 7:00 pm and more details will follow very soon.

Preparing for the Summer Fete - Save the date 2 July in your diary. This year, the Fundraisers are asking the parents of each class to organise a stall. We have plenty of games in the shed that you can use – or you might want to come up with fresh idea of your own! We'll be sending out more information to parents next week to explain the set up – in the meantime, you may want to think about who you will nominate to be your stall leader.

Parent Governor Elections – Many thanks for all the nominations for the forthcoming Parent Governor vacancies. The election forms will go out to all parents next week. We urge you all to read the skills that our Governing Body will require and vote for those parents who will represent the view of all parents.

Kingfishers Pre-School is celebrating 30 years Anniversary. If you have had any connections with Kingfishers, please come along and join us at Brentwood Baptist Church, Kings Chase on Sunday 15th May from 2 to 4 pm. Party entertainment starts at 2.15pm and drinks and cakes will be served afterwards.

Attendance – 97% target - Congratulations to Beech, Elm, Hornbeam, Larch and Sycamore for having over 97% attendance since the start of the academic year (September).

Menu – Week One of the new summer menu.

Letters home

29th April – Y5 sex education

3rd May – Helpers for Circus

3rd May – Y1 visit to Barleylands

Forthcoming dates

13th May – Y3 visit to Colchester Castle

14th May – Happy's Big Top circus

19th May – Musical Soiree

25th May – Y4 visit to Hampton Court

30th May to 3rd June – Half term

6th June – non-pupil day

10th June – Class and group photos

13th, 14th, 16th & 17th June – Y6 Bikeability

15th June – Y6 Crucial Crew

15th June – Author visit

23rd June – school closed for polling

24th June – Holly Trees Talent Competition

27th June – District Sports

30th June – Y1 visit to Barleylands

1st July – Y5 History Off the Page

2nd July – Summer Fete

8th July – Sports Day

14th July – Open afternoon (3:00 to 6:00pm)

22nd July – last day of term

5th Sept – children return to school

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Luke Hawtree, Charlie Bailey, Oliver Cumming, Jay Evans, Matilda-Lily Jacovou, Jessica Scharvona, Sonny Marshall, Tilly Felton, Joe Curran and Laila Greene.

Silver Certificates went to Isabella Scharvona, Emma Wright, Lola Slattery and Poppy Logan.

Gold Certificates went to Federica Bisceglia, and Thomas Carter.

Headteacher's Award went to Connor Bashford.

Pen Licence went to Oscar Logan.

Music for Schools Bronze Award went to Robbie Muncey and Harrison Williams.