

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 21st April, 2017

Volume 27; Issue 11

Welcome Back – We hope that you all had an enjoyable Easter break and managed to get outside in the fresh air with your families. We have already received some requests for leave during the summer term and would like to clarify our position in this regard. Government legislation states that we are not permitted to authorise any holidays during term time. If you feel that you have exceptional circumstances that require your child to be absent from school please request the form from the office and put your reasons in writing so your application may be considered. Please note that if an absence is unauthorised it is the Education Welfare Service's decision whether to issue a penalty notice or not.

Polling Days - With the announcement of a General Election on 8th June, we have been notified by Essex County Council that Holly Trees is needed again as a polling station. As we cannot function safely and effectively for the children in our care when the doors are open to the general public on polling day, we will have to close to the children on that day. I wanted to give working parents as much notice as possible as I know this will be an inconvenience but it is beyond our control.

So to summarise, the school has to remain closed to children on polling days. This term the school is being used as a polling station on 4th May and 8th June.

A Winning Entry – Many congratulations to Millicent Gevaux for coming second in the Healthy Packed Lunch Plot Competition. She has won £250 worth of gardening equipment for the School as well as a little something for herself for her outstanding effort. Thank you very much!

St George's Day Ceremony – Today Isabella Scharvona, Zach Humphreys and Henry Nelson have represented the School at the celebration outside the Town Hall offices. They are joined by our poetry competition winner, William Clark, who will be reading his poem as part of the occasion. We are very proud to have been invited to represent our community at this event.

Staff news – You'll be pleased to hear that Mrs Masters is on the mend, however not as quickly as she would like. The doctors have insisted that she remain off work next week and we hope to see her back full time from Tuesday 2nd May.

School Uniform – A reminder to parents that sensible footwear is part of the Holly Trees uniform and that trainers are not permitted.

Y6 research – We have been instructed to undertake some research on behalf of the DfE for the format of the maths tests they want to use next May (2018). Our children have to do these tests which will require all three papers being done in one day. The results of these papers are being used purely for research and will not be used to judge our school nor the pupils. We do, however, give feedback on the papers so it is good to know we may have a "voice". We will be asking our children to do these tests in place of any practice SATs we may have asked them to do before the test week on 8/5/17 so there will be no additional testing. We are aware that the different format may prove uncomfortable for some children but they do all have to take the tests – it is down to the powers above us that make these decisions. Please do see the class teachers or Mr Hocking if you have any further questions and reassure your children that this research will help others in the future – we hope!

Menu – Week 2 of the menu. Please follow this link: <http://hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/school-lunches/>

Attendance – 97% target – Congratulations to Beech, Elm, Holly, Hornbeam, Maple, Spruce and Sycamore Classes

Letters home

19th April - Basketball Match on 24th April for Years 5 & 6

19th April – Basketball Match on 27th April for Years 3 & 4

Forthcoming dates

26th Apr – Y4 visit to Hampton Court Palace

27th Apr – EYFS trip to Barleylands

2nd May – Group photos

3rd May – Y2 visit to Colchester Zoo

4th May – school closed for Polling Day

8th May – start of SATS week

18th May – summer disco

19th May – Y6 visit to Globe Theatre

24th May – Bags for School collection

Congratulations to

Golden Owls went to Kai Davies, Sycamore Class and Kitty Forest-Hopkins, Sycamore Class

Bronze Certificates went to Aydin Malik, Ella Gadsdon, Anna Gray, Elmira Gunes, Zane Clark, Joshua King, Shivram Patel, Harley Lyons, Ashley Calder, Kerra Muleba, Harry Shorter, Morrighan Charles, Freya Carr and Layla Smith

Silver Certificates went to Millie Montgomery, Thomas Carter, Henry Nelson, Samuel Eade, Gracie Field and Georgie Franklin,

Gold Certificate went to William Clark

Pen Licence went to Theo Harvey