

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 12th February, 2016

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Word lists – all children were recently given a word list to take home of the common exception words identified in the new National Curriculum for each Key Stage. These words will not particularly be taught in lesson time where spelling patterns are focused on, but children are expected to learn them at home. We recommend choosing six words at a time and helping children to spot them in newspapers and books and spell them correctly in their own writing.

School Journalists – On 11th February Stephanie Brown, Barn Owls captain, held an art competition for the teachers in the school hall with different categories. They were bowl of fruit, favourite animal, favourite Disney character, clown and a self portrait (some teachers have a very odd idea of what they look like!) The competitors were Mr Hocking, Mrs Nichols, Mrs Barnwell, Mrs Dennehy and Mrs Bryan. Everyone had to draw a picture for each category in front of the whole school. The winner was Mr Hocking. It was a fundraiser for Barrow Farm and a £1 bought 5 votes. £40 has been raised so far. *By Edmund Bass*

Since after the Christmas holidays, Mrs Brocklebank has been preparing School of Rock for the Barnado's concert at the Barbican. She has been teaching School of Rock new songs; all from musicals such as Matilda and Oliver. Mrs Brocklebank has been training the children to sing these songs to perfection. Mrs Masters also offered to help out, volunteering to do an optional extra practice after school on Wednesdays to help out with any difficulties, which has been extremely useful and much appreciated. Now all School of Rock need to do is a bit of practise, brush up on the lyrics and everyone who is at the Barbican on Monday 22nd February will be astounded! *By Louise Clements*

What is love? – Please take a moment to have a look at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=sWLbrKOjJZw> for an idea of what children think love is.

Anderson Award – Congratulations to Joshua Chege who demonstrates a committed attitude to schoolwork. He always does his homework, tries his best and is making wonderful progress in his learning. Joshua is oldest of a large family and I am sure he and his mum have to work hard to ensure that he has space and the right conditions to enable him to focus on his learning at home and yet he manages it admirably.

Forest School – Please can parents ensure that children's Forest School footwear is clean before sending it to school each week so that dried mud is not dropped onto the carpet.

Staff news – We wish Miss Eccles a fabulous wedding day and married life which will start at half term. Her married name will be Mrs Hooper.

Jazz Night – On 5th March we are holding our next Dixieland Jazz Night from 8:00 to 11:00 pm with tickets selling for £16, which includes a fish and chip supper. Order forms are available from the school office or you can book online at hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/jazz, but please be aware that this will incur a booking fee. The band is my own, Paula Jackman's Jazzmen, and we offer an evening of music and entertainment.

Fun with French Sponsored Learning Activity – The children have all taken part in their sponsored French event and a lot of the money is already coming in to school. So far over £1,000 has been collected. Please send in any outstanding sponsorship money straight after half term. Well done everyone.

Mathletics – As you know we have been using Mathletics since September. The teachers have been keeping track of the 'Mathletes' and we thought it was a shame to keep the children's hard work a secret. So you may notice each week the class leaderboard (positioned on the class window) will be updated with

the top 5 children and their participation points (this means the children who have been on Athletics and gained the most points from answering questions correctly). Well done to everyone for encouraging a love of maths and using your learning powers to keep improving! Keep up the hard work. Who knows, it could be you on the leaderboard!

Holiday homework – This half term, during the holiday, we are asking the children to find out the country of origin of their breakfast foods. If any of these foods are from a Fair Trade country, that is even better. The children can then present their work in any way they think is attractive, either using a map, researching the country or the food or producing some artwork. This will help us with celebrating Fair Trade fortnight which commences on 29th February and help us to renew our Fair Trade status as the only Fair Trade primary school in Brentwood.

Football and basketball kits – Please make sure that all football and basketball kits are returned to Miss Eccles. We have a shortage!

SNAP – Please check the Parents' Noticeboard in the lobby for the latest SNPA information and workshop.

Fundraiser news - We are pleased to report that over £1,000 has been raised through very generous donations from Holly Trees families and friends! Thank you so much to all the pupils and staff for their support of the project and a massive thanks to everyone who has sponsored the students. When we Gift Aid the sponsorships, we will add another 25% on top of the amount already donated. We are now getting very close to having the required funds to install the Music Practice Room!

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent Fundraisers online survey. Your feedback is very much appreciated, as it will help shape our fundraising programme for 2016/17. There were many fantastic suggestions for new events, and we will do our best to incorporate some of them into our calendar for next academic year! Congratulations goes to survey respondent Claire Bone, who won the prize draw for 2 x Inflatables Day wristbands.

St Patrick's Day Disco - We've just opened the box office for the St Patrick's Day School Disco on 17 March. To make buying tickets more convenient, we are using SIMS Agora so that you can order online. NEW for 2016 is a tuck shop for the KS2 disco! The ticket price includes a drink and a small snack, but children can bring extra pocket money if they would like to buy extra goodies which will all be priced at 50p.

Music Room fundraising – The Fundraisers Association is nearing its target to provide our Music Room so that the library, small hall and mentoring area can be available for supporting all children's learning whilst music lessons are also taking place. They are, however, still a couple of thousand pounds short of the figure needed and I am desperate that we raise the money before the costs for providing the room increase. If you know any individual or business that would like to sponsor the Music Room, please notify me or Laurie Edmonds, chairperson of the Fundraising Association, with details (or a cheque!).

Breakfast Club – There are limited spaces available every day at Breakfast Club. If your child attends Breakfast Club, you will receive notification on Fridays about your credit or debit for the club. Please ensure any debt is settled the following Monday. Thank you.

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

Menu - Week 2 of the new winter menu.

Letters home

8th Feb – Y6 Bikeability

8th Feb – Rock School Barnados concert

10th Feb – Y3/4 basketball match

10th Feb – Y5/6 basketball match

11th Feb – Y4 Spring Term swimming

11th Feb – KS2 Tag Rugby (by Parentmail)

11th Feb – Easter Break Multisports (by Parentmail)

Forthcoming dates

- 22nd Feb – Children return to school after half term
- 22nd Feb – School of Rock Barnados concert – arrive at school by **8:00 am**
- 25th Feb – Athletics Club starts (invitation only)
- 25th Feb – Elder Class visit to Pizza Express
- 3rd Mar – Y3 fire safety talk
- 4th Mar – Elm Class visit to Pizza Express
- 5th Mar – Fundraisers Jazz Night
- 11th Mar – Able Maths Day
- 15th Mar – Years 3 & 4 cross country am and Years 5 & 6 pm
- 15th Mar – Y4 performance of Pied Piper – evening
- 16th Mar – Y4 performance of Pied Piper – afternoon
- 16th Mar – Y6 visit to church for Easter Cracked
- 17th Mar – Y5 visit to Science Museum
- 17th Mar – Regional rugby final
- 17th Mar – Fundraisers disco
- 24th Mar – last day of Spring term
- 11th Apr – children return to school

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Benjamin Tomlinson-Marks, Luca Sweeney-Spurin, Auberon Charles, Madeleine Tinworth, Ashley Calder, Louis King, Emily Ward, Teddy Hewitt, Samuel Cumming, Jack Simpson-Hatton, Sonny Marshall, Yuan Yu and Randolph de Vera.

Silver Certificates went to Sarah Phillips, Federica Bisceglia and Rhiannan Beasley.

Gold Certificates went to Charley Fletcher and Lola Callaby.

Pen Licences went to Callum Bendelow, Julia Nibbs-Ramsay and Ovyra Rajamanickam.

Headteacher's Award went to Mackenzie Clark.

Well done to the football team for winning their match against St Peters 5-3.