

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 13th November, 2015

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Fundraisers – What a fabulous night we had last Friday with Fireworks Crazy providing a great Fireworks Night. We were restricted to admitting 1600 people and, unfortunately, some people had not bought tickets in advance and turned up after we had sold out. Please make sure that you buy your tickets in advance in plenty of time next year. However, those with tickets made the event, organised superbly by Tamsin O'Hagan, Laurie Edmonds and other volunteers, a thorough success raising a profit of £5600. We would also like to thank Losing Teeth for performing, Mr & Mrs Patel who sold tickets in their Londis shop and our corporate sponsors for the night – HC Contractors, Brents Insurance, The Vanilla Rooms, Ken Chad Consulting, Verde Vintage Boutique, Peking Chef, Carmel Jane Photography and Billericay Brewing.

Magical Christmas Grotto – The Magical Christmas Grotto is coming to town! Come and see Mister B's Magic Show and visit Santa and receive a gift on Thursday, 3rd December, starting at 3:30 pm in the main hall. Tickets cost £4.50 per child and adults are free – please pay online by SIMS ~Agora. If your child is in a class above Year 1, perhaps you would consider a later time slot so that the younger children can see Santa first. The time slots can be seen on Agora.

Wonderful work – If you have the opportunity, do come and see our WOW display in the entrance hall which celebrates outstanding work produced by children in each year group. Currently, we are displaying work by Woody Sansom, Ryan Brown, Samuel Keen, Archie Silverstone, Hetty Gevaux, Neelesh Anpalahan, Rhiannan Beasley, Laila Greene, Taylor Brazier, Denhem Minors, Millie Waters and Kai Davies.

MDA vacancy – We have a vacancy for a Mid-day Assistant (Mon, Tues and Weds). If you are interested, please collect an application form from the office. Closing date 17th November.

School Photos – Please return your orders to school by Thursday, 19th November.

Telephone messages to the office – Please ensure only urgent messages are telephoned to the office. The office staff cannot keep leaving the office to tell children who is collecting them if the message could have been given to the class teacher in the morning. Any messages about home time must be called in by 2:00 pm at the latest, unless there is an extreme emergency.

Operation Christmas Child – Thank you to everyone who has sent in Christmas shoeboxes. If you would still like to donate to the shoebox appeal, please bring them to school by Monday.

Staff news – Today is Jason Pethybridge's last full day working at Holly Trees. Although he will still be working part time until the end of term, I would like to thank him at this point for everything he has done to make our school such an attractive and safe learning environment.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Jo Musson is expecting a baby before Easter and we wish her and Matt a trouble-free few months before the addition to their family arrives. When Mrs Musson goes on maternity leave during the next term, Ms Butler will be taking Acorn Class full time and Miss Eccles will take on the role of EYFS leader.

A new award – In August we learned the dreadfully sad news that Katie Anderson, who had previously attended Holly Trees, died after a long battle with illness. She chose to end her days at Little Havens Hospice and so the staff made a donation to the hospice in her name. As a result, Little Havens are coming to school on Monday to lead an assembly about the fabulous work they do in a way that primary children will understand. We will be presenting our new school award 'The Anderson Award', which will be given termly to a child presenting a positive attitude, even when life can be a challenge, which is exactly the attitude Katie always demonstrated.

German Club - Mrs Nichols and I would like to thank Mrs Ciria Roca for her support in offering German Club in the past. It has benefitted children in developing their language skills, but those who have been attending have other commitments on the days when German Club can now take place and so we are no longer offering this activity. However, after Christmas, Mrs Nichols will be working with the Year 6 children who offer the club 'Around the World' to provide cultural and language development from a range of countries.

EYFS Christmas singing – EYFS parents/carers are invited to join an informal Christmas sing-a-long with their children on 16th December from 2:30 pm. Hot drinks and mince pies will be served by Year 6 children for adults. I hope you can join us.

Flu immunisation – The NHS has only provided us with enough letters for one per child. We ask that parents who do not live together liaise to ensure that the forms represent both parents' views. Please ask the office if this causes difficulties

Attendance – 97% target - Congratulations to Beech, Elder, Elm, Hornbeam, Larch, Laurel, Maple, Mulberry, Spruce and Sycamore for having over 97% attendance since the start of the academic year (September). Because we are early in the school year, just one day's absence will mean that your child's attendance will only be 90% at the moment. Please make sure your child comes to school every day when he/she is well enough so that the most can be made of the learning on offer.

Menu - Week 2 of the menu.

Letters home –

10th – Football match

13th – Tag Rugby tournament

Forthcoming dates

20th Nov – Y2 visit to Essex Fire Museum

25th Nov – Y4 Anglo-Saxons day

3rd Dec – Santa's Grotto after school

9th Dec – Y1 dress rehearsal

9th Dec – Y6 – Christmas unwrapped

11th Dec – Y1 play

14th Dec – Y1 play

14th Dec – Secret gift shop

16th Dec – Christmas dinner

16th Dec - EYFS Christmas sing-a-long

17th Dec – flu immunisation

17th Dec – carol singing

18th Dec – last day of school – children return on Tuesday, 5th January

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Eira-Mia Higgs, Jessica Edwards, Amye Swinney, Mae Crowther-Barnes, Poppy Logan, Cain Smith, Freddie Nelson, Anya Jefferies, Ashton Harman-Day and Hannah Long.

Headteacher's Award went to Finley Vickerage.

Our Year 5/6 football team played a League match against St. Helens Junior School yesterday. The score was 3 – 1. Well done to the team.