

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 16th January, 2015

Volume 20; Issue 2

Parking – AGAIN!

I am still addressing problems voiced by neighbours about parking around the school. I ask you to park so that you do not block any residents' access to their properties and that you park legally. To excuse illegal parking because 'everyone else does it' is never going to keep our children safe and teach them that you follow rules. If you are parked legally and face unreasonable challenge about parking from a neighbour, you are at liberty to phone the police as they are if you park illegally.

PE kits

Children have PE lessons in school every week. They must have indoor and outdoor kit and footwear in school every day. Thank you.

Monitoring reading

Children are at school for less waking time than they are at home. Therefore, we remind you that we expect reading practice to be done at home on most days. Next week we will start vigilant monitoring of children's reading diaries and Year 6 planners. If no adult has signed the diaries over the week at home, you will be contacted. If your child reads independently, you can still sign the diary having discussed their reading with them rather than actually hearing them read. Thank you to all the parents who already support their children's learning in this way.

Census Day school lunches

I am disappointed that, despite our plea, a number of you chose not to book your child in for a school dinner on Thursday. As a result, we did not meet the target required and Essex County Council will claw-back some school funding which benefits all children in providing resources. It is a particular shame since the lunch was delicious and enjoyed by all the children whose parents helped us by sending in for lunch.

Thank you Calcott Hall Farm

I omitted, before Christmas, to thank Calcott Hall Farm for the fabulous Christmas tree that they provided for us. Christmas trees are not cheap and all those of you who saw our tree, I am sure will be surprised that we were charged the huge fee of £16.00! I suspect this barely covered the cost of delivery.

Lego homework

The children's homework was amazing. We have thoroughly enjoyed sharing it with them and using it in our learning, using Lego, last week.

Cleaner cover

We are looking for people who would be available at short notice to cover absence for our cleaning staff, including the possibility of a 6 to 8 week period in the future. This would be for after school, 3:30 to 6:30 pm. If you would like more information, please contact the school office.

Fancy making a cushion?

Is your New Year's resolution to try new skills? Why not come along to Holly Hobbies on Tuesday afternoon (2:00 to 3:15 pm). This half term we will be making cushion covers using different crafting methods (e.g. applique, embroidery, embellishments). We can provide the materials, but feel free to bring any yourself if you have a particular colour scheme or idea in mind. Just come along and join us for a cup of tea and a chat.

Menu

Week 1 menu - please see the website for our menus. Please have a look at our exciting new Winter menus.

Letters home

- 9th – PASS football forms
- 13th – enrichment day at Ingatestone Juniors (selected children)
- 13th – Y6 – making Mayan flutes
- 13th – Y5 – Norfolk trip in Y6
- 15th – Y4 visit to Hampton Court Palace

Forthcoming dates

- 23rd Jan – Y3 visit to Colchester Castle
- 28th Jan – Fundraisers 2nd hand uniform sale pm
- 6th Feb – Fundraisers Quiz Night
- w/b 16th Feb – Half Term
- 5th Mar – World Book Day
- 16th Mar – Dance competition at BCHS
- w/b 23rd Mar – Y4 play (dates to be confirmed)
- 7th May – School closed for Polling Day (INSET for staff)

Attendance – 97% target

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

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Tom Jeffries, Isobel Fox, Finlay Bendelow, Millie McFarlane and Abdulkayam Hasnath.

Silver Certificates went to Lara King, Oliver Philips, Taylor Brazier, Millie Waters, Emily Ward, Matilda Gamble and Ashton Harman-Day.

Gold Certificate Went to Joshua Lawford.

Music for Schools Bronze Awards went to Tilly Crook, Amelia Bendall and Isabella Silverstone.

Headteacher's Award went to Brendon Herbert.

We had two basketball matches this week. Years 3 and 4 played against Brightside and won 36 – 6. Years 5 and 6 lost to Quilters 24 – 21. Daniel Jerome and Kai Davies were chosen as Most Valued Players of the matches.