

# Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 18th December, 2015

Volume 22; Issue 14

**Brentwood's most improved school** – Do take a moment to have a look at the DfE performance tables for 2015. Holly Trees is the most improved school in Brentwood and there is no similar school within a 75 mile radius that is doing better than we are to support our children's learning. Well done everybody.

**Christmas celebrations** – The Year 1 children put on the most fantastic Nativity play in the last week with words spoken clearly and songs learned brilliantly. It really set us up for a great start to the festive season. On Wednesday, EYFS sang some Christmas carols for their parents and yesterday evening we had a fantastic time carol singing with many of you and your families. May I take this opportunity to wish you all an exciting/relaxing (choose whichever applies to you) Christmas and a healthy start to 2016. Remember that the children return to school on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Christmas dinner** – This year we tried a new system of ordering Christmas dinners to reduce waste and to make it easier for parents to order meals. Despite the system looking good on paper, it was not a success for some people and for that we apologise. I would like to reassure you that we have gone back to the drawing board and will be reviewing the system before next Christmas.

**Year 6 learning support** – In the new year, we are offering arithmetic and spelling weekly workshops for Year 6 children. These will start on 11<sup>th</sup> January with spelling on Mondays and arithmetic on Wednesdays. Both sessions will start at 8:00 am and take place in Sycamore Class. Any Year 6s may attend every week or for any one week but must arrive no later than 8:15 am.

**Christmas holiday homework** – We feel that the best thing children can do this holiday is to relax and enjoy time with their families and so we are setting no homework. However, our focus for the first week back will be all about penguins, so if your child wishes to bring in a toy penguin or a book about penguins when we return to school, this will link with our learning.

**School Journalists** – This term has been brilliant. Highlights include Y4 swimming, Y1 play, Y6 trip to Norfolk and visit to the Imperial War Museum. This week has been extra brilliant with Secret Santa gift shop, Christmas Jumper day and the whole school Christmas Dinner. On Tuesday we had our Christmas production for the elderly involving Y6, School of Rock and Recorder Club. Yesterday the carol singing took place and everyone who took part was also brilliant. We'd like to thank the staff and parents for making all of it possible. Merry Christmas and looking forward to an even more brilliant New Year.

*By Edmund Bass*

On Tuesday, Year 6 and School of Rock performed to some elderly people who came to visit the school. Year 6 showed off their WW2 knowledge while School of Rock sang Christmas songs. Everybody watching and listening to the performance enjoyed it and it was a great success. School of Rock were word perfect and the Year 6 pupils brought back memories of the war. The experience was amazing and Mrs Brocklebank was superb. She organised it, trained School of Rock and made the magnificent event possible. It was wonderful and we all hope that Holly Trees will produce more amazing events like this. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*By Louise Clements*

**Fundraisers Secret Gift shop** – Many thanks to all the elves (parents) who helped at this event on Monday. The children had a great time choosing their gifts.

**Fundraisers Rag Bag** – Donations are closed for the moment but will reopen in the New Year.

**Spring term consultations** – Following feedback from parents in the recent survey, we have changed how we will carry out consultations with parents in the spring term. We will be offering parents the opportunity to

make an appointment to see their child's class teacher on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January between 5:00 and 7:00 pm or on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January between 3:30 and 5:30 pm. The appointments will be made online (details to follow). The time slots will be available to book from 5<sup>th</sup> January mid-day. If you have not yet registered for Parentmail, please do so as soon as possible. We will not be sending appointments to anyone who does not book online.

**PE kit** – Please check that your child's PE kit still fits as many children appear to have had a growth spurt and their PE clothes are uncomfortable for them.

**Literacy with iPads** – Holly Hobbies are running a two week course on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January at 1:15 to 3:15 pm. The aim of the course is to find and use the most suitable apps to support your child's learning in phonics and literacy. The course is free and welcome to all. Please let Hilda Mehmet know if you are interested or just turn up on the day.

**Charity fundraising** – Thank you all very much for supporting our charity work. This term we have sent £316.16 to the British Legion (poppy appeal), the Owl captains have raised between £15 and £42 each for their chosen charities and we will be sending £182 from the Year 1 play, to Jeans for Genes in memory of Philippa Deamer.

**Attendance – 97% target** - Congratulations to Beech, Birch, Elm, Holly, Hornbeam, Larch, Mulberry 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** - none

#### **Forthcoming dates**

18<sup>th</sup> Dec – last day of school – children return on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January

14<sup>th</sup> Jan – Parent/teacher consultations

5<sup>th</sup> Mar – Fundraisers Jazz Night

17<sup>th</sup> Mar – Fundraisers disco

25<sup>th</sup> Mar – school finishes for Spring break

9<sup>th</sup> Apr – children return to school

#### **Congratulations**

**Bronze Certificates** went to Jude Mason Gates.

**Gold Certificates** went to Amy Maher, Charler Harding, Mina Reeves, Ewan Hobbs, Lee Coppin, Samuel Eade, Thomas O'Hagan, Matilda Gamble, Sophie Paull, Ben Waddington, Berta Ciria Roca and Preya Patel.

**Headteacher's Award** went to Achillea Tsatsa.