

# Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

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**Commonwealth Day** - On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Mr Brown (chairman of the governors) took Lola Callaby, Alfie Philips, Stephanie Brown and myself to the Town Hall for the raising of the Commonwealth flag. Stephanie was reading the Queen's speech and Lola and Alfie were helping to raise the flag. The Mayor started by reading his speech by the flagpole. A number of pupils from Brentwood County High School attended this event and one of them read another speech. Afterwards, the Commonwealth flag was raised. The Mayor posed for a photograph with Stephanie and a group photo was also taken. The Commonwealth is a group of fifty-three countries and one of its aims is to make sure that elections are fair; at Commonwealth meetings environmental issues are discussed. The head of the Commonwealth is Queen Elizabeth II.

*By Louise Clements*

**Sporting success** – We are delighted to share several sporting achievements with you from this term. Our football team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in this year's league, which is a huge improvement on previous performances. On Tuesday, Mrs Hooper accompanied KS2 children who took part in a cross country event. Our Y6 girls came 3<sup>rd</sup> with Y5 boys and girls coming 6<sup>th</sup> overall. Particular mention should go to Maddie Barker (who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in her heat and will now take part in the regional cross country final), Anya Jeffries came 6<sup>th</sup>, Millie Montgomery 9<sup>th</sup>, Kai Davies 10<sup>th</sup>, Will Clark 17<sup>th</sup> and Millie Preston 21<sup>st</sup>. Well done to everyone who took part. For those interested in running, the ParkRun takes place every Saturday morning at 9:00 am at Weald Park and is a free 5km event. Yesterday we took part in the regional Tag Rugby final, having qualified last term. We did not win this event but did win some of our matches. We will notify you when we have details of our position in the final.

**Owl Team winners** – The Snowy Owl team just pipped the others at the post to win the most points this term. Members of that team are invited to come to school on Tuesday in non-uniform - please remember that clothing and footwear must still be suitable to participate in the school day.

**The Pied Piper of Hamelin** – Year 4 children performed amazingly on Tuesday and Wednesday in their school play. The acting throughout was of a very high quality as was the singing. Thank you to the children and staff for putting on such an entertaining performance.

**Julian Clary – author** – Thirty Year 3 children had the opportunity this week to go to Chelmsford to meet Julian Clary and his illustrator. It was a fabulous morning, inspiring children to write. The event could have been marred by trains being cancelled for the return trip, but having got as far as Shenfield, the children and staff walked back to school without a single complaint. It made us very proud of our children. We have sent the train tickets back to claim a refund and this will then be forwarded to parents.

**Science Museum** – Year 5 enjoyed their visit to London's Science Museum yesterday listening to Isaac Newton (in person!). The children will be putting their learning about forces into practice next week.

**School Disco Round Up** - Mr Happy did a fantastic job of entertaining the children who came along to the school disco yesterday. Thank you to Claire Moorey and Stewart Crook for organising the event and big thanks to all the parents and teaching staff who volunteered on the day.

There were some parents who tried to buy disco tickets from the school office. The Fundraisers Association is a charity separate to the school and run by parent volunteers. As a result, the office does not sell any tickets for Fundraisers' events. The Fundraisers have made every effort to advertise our events in advance, to give an online option so that parents have an easy way to pay at their convenience – and when volunteers can donate their time - to sell at the school gate. If you ever have any questions about Fundraisers events, you should direct your enquiries to a member of the PTA, email us on [hollytreespta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hollytreespta@hotmail.co.uk) or contact us through our Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/hollytreesfundraisers](http://www.facebook.com/hollytreesfundraisers) and not expect office staff to be able to change decisions taken by the Fundraisers.

**Tickets for Happy's Big Top Circus go on sale on 21<sup>st</sup> March** - We are really excited to announce that our next fundraiser will be Happy's Big Top Circus, which rolls into town on Saturday, 14 May! Tickets will be on sale from Monday, 21 March. Prices are £10 per adult, £6 per child and £30 for a family ticket (2 adults + 2 children). You can order with a credit/debit card online via [www.hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/circus](http://www.hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/circus) (please note that there is a booking fee on top of the ticket price) or with cash or cheque (made payable to Holly Trees Fundraisers). A Fundraiser will be on the playground every afternoon next week if you wish to pay via cash or cheque. **THE SCHOOL OFFICE CANNOT TAKE YOUR MONEY OR SELL YOU TICKETS.** There are only 600 seats in total inside the big top. We are releasing the first set of tickets to Holly Trees families only to ensure that our pupils are guaranteed a place :-). After 11 April, we will be publicising tickets to the general public.

**Win a free circus ticket!** - The Fundraisers are holding a competition for children to design the front and back cover of our circus programme! We will select one circus-themed drawing from **EYFS/KS1** pupils and one circus-themed drawing from **KS2** pupils. The lucky winners will receive a FREE child's ticket to attend the circus (value £6, if you have already bought your circus ticket we will give you a refund). Entries on A4 paper (portrait) to be submitted by **15 April** via your child's classroom. Be sure to include your **child's name** and **class** in pencil on the back of the drawing.

**Cleaner needed** – We are looking to appoint a cleaner to cover sickness absence. This post requires the successful candidate to work for 2 hours per day after school at £8.30 per hour during term time. We are looking to make this appointment as soon as possible. If you are interested, please see the school office for details.

**End of term** – As we finish the Spring term on Thursday next week, there will be no Newsletter until we return week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**INSET day – 23<sup>rd</sup> June** – Because our school will be used as a Polling Station on the day of the EU Referendum, there will be no school that day.

**Arithmetic Club** – There will be Year 6 Arithmetic Club again on Wednesday morning next week.

**Holly Hobbies** – Holly Hobbies will be running on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April from 1:45 to 3:15 pm in the small hall. We will be hand sewing bunting onto tape that the children have made. Please feel free to drop in.

**Easter Break Multi-Sports** - There are still places available for the Multi Sports Camp. Sports will include football, rounders, tag-rugby, netball, kwik-cricket, athletics, basketball, hockey, volleyball, dodgeball and ultimate frisbee. Please collect a booking form from the office and pay through Sims Agora if you would like your child to attend.

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

**Menu** - Week 3 of the winter menu.

#### Letters home

14<sup>th</sup> – Norfolk residential visit payment

15<sup>th</sup> – Y3 walk around Brentwood

#### Forthcoming dates

24<sup>th</sup> Mar – last day of Spring term

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

#### Congratulations

**Bronze Certificates** went to Sasha Higgs, Cadee Watson, Sienna Hayden-Brafman, George Bourne, Jeremiah Ajanlekoko, Herrick Asante, Hettie Gevaux, Jake Sainsbury, Ella Kitchener, Paige Armstrong, Henry Nelson, Rhys Gale, Tom Jones and Brendon Herbert.

**Silver Certificates** went to Emily Pinder, Eve Liddard, Sarah Phillips and Anna Gray.

**Gold Certificates** went to Oscar Wyatt, Shivam Patel, Oliver Hooper, Charlie Dines, Lee Coppin, Millie Preston, Olivia Simmons, Caitlin O'Sullivan, Kara Edwards, Chloe Golding, Casey Melpous, George Clayden, Joe Gamblin, Tomas Mason, Aman Manoj, Lacey Kershaw, Naomi Earle, Ruby Burfield, Hollie Freeman, Beatrice Bazley, Amelia Mason Brahm, Finley Le Hellidu, Bobbie Carillo, Louie Dennison, Vinnie Slattery, Luke Hawtree, Ameya Kotian, Charlie Bailey, Joshua King and Kaylan Burnett.

**Pen Licence** went to Sharnee Freeman.