

# Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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**Staff News** – Congratulations to Emma Palmer on the birth of her son, Charlie, who was born on Monday morning. We would also like to wish John Izatt, one of our cleaning team, who retires today for a well earned rest.

**New attainment expectations** – As you may well be aware the expectations of children under the latest version of the National Curriculum have increased significantly in all subjects. In broad terms this means children at the end Reception are now supposed to have the knowledge and skills that would previously have been expected at the end of Year 1, with a similar effect in each of the subsequent year groups, leading to Year 6 studies now encompassing content that was the preserve of Secondary schools, particularly in mathematics. This has had inevitable consequences on children's assessments as the work has become much more challenging, with many pupils who were considered above average under the previous system now being assessed as appropriate for their age. Be assured that learning at Holly Trees is more rigorous and sharply focussed than ever. The judgement of being above expected standards is adjusted every year depending on how well all other children do nationally. As a result we feel that to tell parents that their child is working above expectations could lead to disappointment at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 if the national picture is high. In this year's reports you will be given the most important information about how well your child has progressed in each subject and whether he/she is working below the expected standard or at least in line with the expected standard. Please do take the opportunity to speak to the teachers or senior leaders if you would like to discuss how your child is progressing with their learning.

**Polling Days** - With the announcement of a General Election on 8th June, we have been notified by Essex County Council that Holly Trees is needed again as a polling station. As we cannot function safely and effectively for the children in our care when the doors are open to the general public on polling day, we will have to close to the children on that day. I wanted to give working parents as much notice as possible as I know this will be an inconvenience but it is beyond our control.

**So to summarise, the school has to remain closed to children on polling days, therefore school is being used as a polling station on 8th June.**

**Fundraisers' meeting Monday, 22 May at 7.30 pm – EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** Free hot drinks and biscuits in the School staff room as we plan out the activities for the rest of the school year and look forward to the next .. Have your say on what events are run.

**Dogs** – Because dogs are not allowed on the school premises some people are tying their dogs up to the school gate whilst delivering their children to school. Some parents have expressed concern that their children are nervous of walking past unsupervised dogs who are on long enough leads to block the gateway and reach out to children as they pass. Please bear this in mind if you leave your dog tied up.

**Fidget Spinners** – We have been taking a relaxed approach towards the latest craze amongst the children on the basis that it has not interfered with learning. However, there have been a couple of instances this week of children swapping fidget spinners which can lead to issues. The children have been told that fidget spinners will be banned if they cause any further disruption to the smooth running of the school.

**NEW MENU – Week 3 of the New Summer Menu.** Please follow this link:

<http://hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/school-lunches/>

**Attendance – 97% target** – Congratulations to Beech Class, Birch Class, Elder Class, Elm Class, Hornbeam Class, Larch Class, Maple Class, Spruce Class and Sycamore Class.

### **Letters home**

17<sup>th</sup> May – Rounder's Tournament

### **Forthcoming dates**

23<sup>rd</sup> May – Essex Fire Service, Cyberbullying Year 6

24<sup>th</sup> May – Bags for School collection

25<sup>th</sup> May – Brentwood School Community Workers Trust, It's Your Move – Year 6

**29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June Half Term**

**5<sup>th</sup> June – Children Back To School**

**8<sup>th</sup> June - School Closed Polling Day**

12<sup>th</sup> June - Bikeability starts

15<sup>th</sup> June – Greek Day, Year 5

20<sup>th</sup> June – Inflatables Afternoon

21<sup>st</sup> June – Wat Tyler Country Park Trip, Year 1

23<sup>rd</sup> June – Able Writers Day, Year 5

23<sup>rd</sup> June – 'Penny Mile'- Fundraisers Event

26<sup>th</sup> June – Celebration of Music for Schools at Chelmsford Cathedral

29<sup>th</sup> June – District Sports at Brentwood School

30<sup>th</sup> June – Authors' Day at BCHS, Year 5

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Colchester Caster, Year 3

4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Play, afternoon performance, toddlers allowed (exact time to be confirmed)

6<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 play, 7 pm (no toddlers)

7<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day

8<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Fair 12pm – 2pm

17<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 to Oliver in the Park, pm

21<sup>st</sup> July – Last Day of Term

### **Congratulations to**

**Bronze Certificates** went to Jake Sainsbury, Kaylan Burnett, Ollie Cumming, Aman Manoj, Oliver Bauers, Grace Chege and Lola Russell

**Silver Certificates** went to Ella Kitchener, Kylesh Anpalahan, Gracie Dines, Casper Jeffries and Jasmine Callaby

**Gold Certificate** went to Kaylan Burnett