

# Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016

Volume 25; Issue 12

**Glad tidings we bring...** School of Rock sang beautifully at Westminster Cathedral yesterday. Although the concert is an annual event organized by Dr Barnado's, it is the first time they have performed at this prestigious venue. However, not content with this, Holly Trees somehow managed to join the separate Dr Barnado's award ceremony in the afternoon where they were asked to sing impromptu carols. The audience included the Olympic boxer Amir Khan, who was happy to share his experiences with our children. A grand day out for all concerned.

**Year 5 visit to Wat Tyler Country Park** – Last Friday, Year 5 took on scientific and team building challenges at Wat Tyler Country Park. We were blessed with a sunny day, despite a slight chill in the air and the children had a fine time exploring winter habitats and honing their co-operative skills in a series of engaging activities.

**Transport trouble** – TfL have asked all local schools to advise families that there will be no rail service between Brentwood and Shenfield from 3<sup>rd</sup> January until late May 2017 due to engineering works for the Crossrail link. TfL apologies for the inconvenience and will be operating a 'frequent rail replacement bus service'.

**Year 6 arithmetic club** – There will be no Year 6 arithmetic club this Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. However, spelling club will still place, as usual, on Wednesday morning at 8:00 am.

**Early Years singing** – On Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30 pm the children in Apple and Acorn classes will be singing some Christmas songs for their families with mince pies for our guests. This will be an informal event to set the Christmas scene.

**Christmas lunch** – Our school Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at the usual school meal price of £2.20. The lunch will comprise of traditional roast turkey or a vegetable parcel served with seasonal vegetables, stuffing and pigs in blankets followed by ice cream or a minced pie. There is no pre-ordering as dinner should be ordered on the day of the lunch, as usual. The vegetarian option is only available to those who we know to be vegetarians. On this day, we also invite children to wear their Christmas jumpers instead of their school sweatshirts. All other uniform should be worn.

**Christmas holiday homework** – We are setting the whole school the homework of having a fabulous time with their families and enjoying all of the cooking, decorating and present wrapping involved. If your child could have a go at reading and using Mathletics in the New Year before returning to school on 9<sup>th</sup> January, that would be great too.

## **Fundraisers – *Santa's Grotto and entertainment from Marko Sparko – Thursday, 8 December 2016***

The Fundraisers have been able to contact Father Christmas, who has offered to visit Holly Trees after school on Thursday, 8 December 2016 to check what gifts children are hoping for at Christmas. Tickets will go on sale at [SIMS Agora](#) from Monday, 14 November 2016 until Thursday, 1 December 2016 at £4.50 for each child aged 3 or older. Children aged 2 or younger are free. You can meet Father Christmas at either:

- 3.30-4 pm
- 4-4.30 pm, and
- 4.30-5 pm

In the Main Hall, Marko Sparko, will be providing more entertainment and magic, which is all part of the same ticket.

Drinks and sweets will also be available at additional cost.

**Fundraisers – My Art Project Christmas Cards** – Hopefully all of you will be very pleased with your children's work of festive cards, bottles, mugs, tags and wrapping paper etc. Thank you to all those children who took part. Well done! The Fundraisers would like to thank the teachers and LSAs for their support in helping it run smoothly.

**Attendance – 97% target** – Congratulations to Beech, Birch, Elm, Hornbeam, Maple, Mulberry and Spruce for having over 97% attendance since the start of the academic year.

**Menu** – Week 2 of the autumn menu. Please follow this link <http://hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/school-lunches/>

### **Letters home**

25<sup>th</sup> Nov – Final details for choir at Westminster Cathedral

1<sup>st</sup> Dec – Football match v Long Ridings

### **Forthcoming dates**

7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Football match v Long Ridings (away)

8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Fundraisers Christmas Grotto

9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Ys 3 & 4 visit to 'Through the Looking Glass'

13<sup>th</sup> Dec – Y1 Christmas play performance – a creche will be provided for pre-school children so that parents can attend this performance.

14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Y1 Christmas play performance

19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Secret gift shop

19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Acorn and Apple classes singing for parents (2:30 pm)

20<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas lunch. Christmas jumper day. Carol singing (6:00 pm)

21<sup>st</sup> Dec – last day of term

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

### **Congratulations**

**Bronze Certificates** went to Harry Stammers, Lily Chignell, Jilan Parekh, Archie Gadsdon, Varshini Ramkumar, Mahith Vemula, Alexa Stanley, Archie Brown, Dexter Jackson, Alexander Harvey, Lily-Mae Sunnucks, Jasmine River, Eira-Mia Higgs and Beatrice Connor.

**Pen Licence** went to Michaela Angeles.

Our upper school football team put up a valiant fight against the notoriously tough Brentwood Prep School team this Wednesday, managing to get two goals past their keeper. Despite losing 5-2, the Holly Trees squad displayed excellent team spirit and some strong individual performances. Well done.