

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 22nd April, 2016

Volume 24; Issue 2

Circus at Holly Trees – I am sure you have seen the posters advertising our circus event on 14th May. This is a professional circus company, complete with big top, which will be providing Saturday entertainment for all the family. Remember to buy your tickets before they sell out.

Educational visits – We are no longer required to ask parents for permission for their children to attend educational visits off site as they are part of the children's education. In future, parents will be notified of events and asked for voluntary contributions towards the cost of the trip, but it will be assumed that permission is granted unless we are otherwise notified.

A memorial tree – A number of staff gathered after school on Wednesday to plant a flowering cherry tree in memory of Mr Dave Garland, Holly Trees Primary School's first headteacher, who died at the end of last year. It was felt that this was completely in keeping with what Mr Garland would have wanted.

Year 3 author visit – Last month some Year 3 children went to Chelmsford to visit Julian Clary, which was a fabulous opportunity for the children to meet an author. Unfortunately there was significant disruption on the trains for our journey home. We have applied for a refund but Greater Anglia Abellio and TfL cannot agree who was responsible. As a result, we have been given a very small reimbursement – too small to redistribute to the parents. We have decided that the money will be spent on some books for the children to read in class, which they will take up to Year 4 with them.

School Journalists – I would like to introduce a young author, our very own Jasmine Leaver. Jasmine is a member of Laurel Class. This week I have decided to write a book review on one of Jasmine's short stories. The Surprise, which is the title of the story, is a Viking saga. It tells us about the life of a brave young girl, called Freia, over the period of three years. The family barn suddenly catches fire, but luckily the gallant Harald rescues Freia and the animals. Soon Freia realises she is in love and decides to marry him. Unfortunately, Freia is unaware of the fact that Harald has been tricked and soon he is called away, leaving Freia to take care of a new arrival. You know I can't give away the end, don't you? This is a very well written story, full of twists and surprises and Jasmine shows an amazing range of vocabulary. The plot is well planned, dialogue is carefully added to tell us more about the characters and to keep the reader entertained. To read the full story and find out if Freia and Harald earn their happy ending, talk to the author (Jasmine).

By Louise Clements

Polling Day – 5th May - Just to remind parents that school will be closed to children on 5th May as the school is being used as a Polling Station. I would like to reassure parents that we have no choice in the school being a Polling Station – we have tried refusing in the past but to no avail.

INSET day – 23rd 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.

Musical Soiree (19th May) – It is the time of year again when we invite the musicians in school to perform for friends and family. The event will start at 7:00 pm and more details will follow very soon. Auditions for people wishing to perform will be held on Friday morning next week.

Holly Trees honey – Our bees have produced enough honey for us to be able to offer it for sale to parents. The cost will be £4 per jar and the honey will be offered on a 'first come – first served' basis on Monday after school.

Clubs cancellations – There will be no French Club next Tuesday.

Y6 clubs – Next week will be the last morning Spelling and Arithmetic Clubs for Year 6.

Preparing for the Summer Fete - Save the date 2 July in your diary. This year, the Fundraisers are asking the parents of each class to organise a stall. We have plenty of games in the shed that you can use – or you might want to come up with fresh idea of your own! We'll be sending out more information to parents next week to explain the set up – in the meantime, you may want to think about who you will nominate to be your stall leader.

Kitchen vacancy – We have a vacancy for a kitchen assistant. The position is for 15 hours per week. If you would like more information, please contact the school office.

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.

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

Menu – Week Two of the new Summer menu.

Letters home

21st – Musical Soiree

Forthcoming dates

28th Apr – EYFS visit to Tropical Wings

5th May – school closed for polling

13th May – Y3 visit to Colchester Castle

14th May – Happy's Big Top circus

19th May – Musical Soiree

25th May – Y4 visit to Hampton Court

30th May to 3rd June – Half term

6th June – non-pupil day

10th June – Class and group photos

13th, 14th & 16th June – Y6 Bikeability

15th June – Y6 Crucial Crew

15th June – Author visit

23rd June – school closed for polling

24th June – Holly Trees Got Talent

30th June – Y1 visit to Barleylands

1st July – Y5 History Off the Page

2nd July – Summer Fete

8th July – Sports Day

22nd July – last day of term

5th Sept – children return to school

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Isobelle Gray, Caitlin O'Sullivan, Archie Silverstone, Leila Martin, Holly Mooney, Ovyia Rajamanickam and Scarlet Pallace.

Silver Certificates went to Julia Nibbs-Ramsay, Billy Coates, Hollie Freeman and Joshua Lawford.

Gold Certificates went to Isobel Fox, Anais Abrahams and Taylor Brazier.

Pen Licence went to Max Andrews.

Music for Schools Certificates went to Tilly Crook and Madeleine Enticknap.

Golden Owl Badge went to Evie Green.

Headteacher's Award went to Bobbi McGovern.