

# Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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**Parking** – At the risk of repeating myself, please consider whether you need to drive to bring your children to and from school but if you do, please park away from other people’s driveways and with respect for our neighbours. We had a near miss this week when a parent who had parked on the pavement, then reversed whilst still on the pavement and endangered a parent and toddler. Cars should never park on the pavement as it is designed for pedestrians so have respect for the safety of others when parking please. If your child attends breakfast club, avoid parking in the area of the car park that is to your right as you drive in as teachers are arriving at work at this time and have sometimes found there is nowhere to park for the day. It is best to park in the area to the left or along the driveway, avoiding being too near the gates. Thank you.

**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.

**Traditional Dolls** – The Early Years Team would like you to donate any dolls that are in good condition that your children no longer need. They are looking for the sort that have hard bodies but not Barbie, Action Man, etc

**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. **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.**

**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.

**Thank you** - Thank you to those who gave their time to run the disco. A great (noisy) time was had by all. Over £1000 was raised which will go towards upgrading further interactive flat panels in the classroom so that all classes can have a reliable board in their own classroom. The *Count the Easter Egg* competition raised a further £82 which will help buy new reading books for Years 4 & 5. **Dates for the Diary - Tuesday, 27 June 2017:** as Wimbledon fortnight gets going, a non-uniform day themed White, Purple and Green. Pay whatever you are able to wear any clothing you have in any (or all!) of the three

colours. Strawberries and cream will be on sale in the playground at school pick-up so bring a picnic blanket and hope for good weather! **Friday, 7 July 2017:** the Fundraisers will be serving hot drinks at Sports Day so no need to stop off in the High Street - your Holly Trees barrista will be there to serve you (instant coffee) instead! **Summer Fete Volunteers** – We are still hoping to have enough volunteers for our summer fete to go ahead on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Please sign up after school today to offer your help. I hope you all have a good half-term break. Thank you for all your help and support this half-term. Claire, on behalf of Holly Trees Fundraisers

**Head Lice** - We have several cases of head lice reported, please can you check your child's hair and treat appropriately. You can find more information about head lice by following the link <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx> .

**NEW MENU – Week 1 of the New Summer Menu.** Please follow this link:  
<http://hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/school-lunches/>

**Attendance – 97% target** – Elder Class, Elm Class, Holly Class, Larch Class, Laurel Class, Mulberry Class, Spruce Class and Sycamore Class

#### **Letters home**

22<sup>nd</sup> May – Bikeability  
24<sup>th</sup> May – Able Writers Day on 23.6.17  
24<sup>th</sup> May – Kwik Cricket Tournament  
25<sup>th</sup> May – Forest School for Year 2

#### **Forthcoming dates (Please be aware there have been some changes to dates)**

**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**  
9<sup>th</sup> June – Penny Mile Fundraisers Event  
12<sup>th</sup> June - Bikeability starts  
15<sup>th</sup> June – Greek Day, Year 5  
19<sup>th</sup> June – Wild Forest Gym, 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  
26<sup>th</sup> June – Celebration of Music for Schools at Chelmsford Cathedral  
27<sup>th</sup> June – Non Uniform Day – Wimbledon Theme (white, purple, green)  
29<sup>th</sup> June – District Sports at Brentwood School  
30<sup>th</sup> June – Authors’ Day at BCHS, Year 5  
30<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Forest School Day  
3<sup>rd</sup> July – Colchester Caster, Year 3  
4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Play, afternoon performance, no toddlers allowed but creche available (exact time to be confirmed)  
4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 play, 7 pm (no toddlers)  
5<sup>th</sup> July – Holly Trees X Factor Talent Show  
6<sup>th</sup> July - Skipathon  
7<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day (KS2 9.20am, KS1 1.30pm)  
8<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Fair 12pm – 2pm  
11<sup>th</sup> July – Laurel Class visit to the Buddhist Centre  
12<sup>th</sup> July – Larch Class visit to the Buddhist Centre  
17<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 to Oliver in the Park, pm  
20<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 1.45 pm  
21<sup>st</sup> July – Last Day of Term, children can be collected from 2pm

#### **Congratulations to**

**Bronze Certificates** went to Adisa Richards, George Bourne, Thomas Mills, Joshua Kale and Logan Webber

**Silver Certificates** went to Nano Marfo, Daniel Warren, Sinead Francis Banfield, Freddie Moore, Nathan Donovan, Kitty Cripps, Alyssa-Louise Stay, Amy Clayden, Missy Tiller, Harriet Leary and Nathan Bone

**Golden Owls** went to Casper Jeffries, Freddie Nelson and Isla Montgomery

**Music for Schools Foundation Gold Awards** went to Madeleine Enticknap and Tilly Crook

**Head Teachers Award** went to Poppy Knowles

