

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 29th April, 2016

Volume 24; Issue 3

Politeness at Holly Trees – Year 2 and EYFS children went on school trips this week and had a great time learning. We are, again, very proud of our children for being noticed by members of the public for their politeness and good behavior. Well done children.

Unfortunately, I have also received reports this week about rudeness from parents to our neighbours which does not help the wonderful reputation that we deserve. I frequently ask parents to walk their children to school, if possible and to park considerately if driving is essential, so it saddens me to take complaints from members of the public about parents swearing at them and being disrespectful and suggesting that parents at other local schools are more polite. If you feel a neighbour or member of the public is unreasonable in their behaviour towards you, please consider how you respond for the sake of children who might overhear and our reputation.

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 – 300 have already been sold! Tickets can be bought every afternoon at the school gate or online at www.hollytreesprimaryschool.co.uk/circus If any adults would like to volunteer to help man the bar or serve pre-cooked food at the circus from 12:30-1:45pm, then we will sell them a ticket at a reduced rate of £6 (or give them a refund of £4 if they have already bought a ticket). Anyone who would like to volunteer can email us on hollytreespta@hotmail.co.uk to express their interest.

Congratulations to Anya Jeffries and Tristan Garvey for winning the circus art competition. They will be provided with circus tickets as their prize and their artwork will be used on the programme.

Internet safety – We constantly strive to keep our children safe in this technological age. There are two opportunities for parents to find out how they can help in this matter. On Wednesday, 25th May, our Years 5 and 6 children will be going to Becket Keys with five other primary schools for some e-safety training and in the evening parents are invited to an information session. Due to the number of people involved, this is only open to Years 5 and 6 parents and we ask that just one parent per family attends. Also, any Holly Trees parents are invited to a CEOP session on Tuesday, 21st June at 5:00pm in our school hall. More information about this will follow.

School shoes – When parents are buying new school shoes for their children, please consider how smart these shoes are. Many companies seem to be marketing trainers as school shoes and these are not smart enough for school. School shoes should be the sort that can be polished because they are leather (or look like leather) and should not bear any brand name or symbols often linked to sportswear. In addition to children's school shoes, all children should bring plimsolls or trainers to school during this term for outdoor PE.

Poster competition – The children have the opportunity to enter a poster competition to promote active lifestyles. The poster should be A3 and must be Portrait. Mrs Hooper has spoken to all the children in assembly and entries need to be with her by Friday, 6th May. The competition will be tough as it is open to all Essex schools. However, the winner will receive £1,000 for their school to spend on sports equipment, a free class trip to an Essex outdoors centre, their poster will be used across Essex in the Healthwatch Essex campaign and there may be an opportunity to star in a short film! Further details are available on the Healthwatch Essex website. Wouldn't it be fantastic if the winner was a Holly Trees child?

Rag Bag – We are no longer able to take charitable clothing donations. Please do not leave clothing bags by the clothing bin as we will have to dispose of these.

Year 5 author visit – Year 5 will be walking to Brentwood County High School on Tuesday morning to visit authoress Sara Grant. The children will return to school in time to have their lunch.

School Journalists – Last Friday, at the Town Hall, we were invited to the raising of the St George's flag. Other schools arrived but Achillea Tsatsa said, "It feels like we are the only primary school here", which was true. Before the event we were shown the Council Chamber and discussed the important matter of more funding for Holly Trees School. Then we were shown to our positions by Claire Mayhew, the Mayor's secretary. The flag was duly raised by the Mayor, though he required some assistance from St Martins School. After the event Millie Waters said, "I feel important and privileged to have attended". Phil Ruck, Councillor, said, "We have to remember our tradition and our past so we can learn for the future". Mike Reed, Mayor of Brentwood, said, "St George was a brave man who stood up for his faith". *By Edmund Bass*

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.

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.

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

Menu – Week Three of the new summer menu.

Letters home

22nd April – Parent/Governor elections

26th April – Y5 & Y6 Rounders Club

29th April – Musical Soiree – permission to perform

Forthcoming dates

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 & 17th June – Y6 Bikeability

15th June – Y6 Crucial Crew

15th June – Author visit

23rd June – school closed for polling

24th June – Holly Trees Got Talent

27th June – District Sports

30th June – Y1 visit to Barleylands

1st July – Y5 History Off the Page

2nd July – Summer Fete

8th July – Sports Day

14th July – Open afternoon (3:00 to 6:00pm)

22nd July – last day of term

5th Sept – children return to school

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Afzal Hussain, Theo Grut, Sonny Bridson, Skyler Collins and Grace Chege.

Silver Certificates went to Phoebe Fisher and Nathan Bone.

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

Golden Owl Badges went to Mark Botwright and Brendon Herbert.

Headteacher's Award went to Anais Abrahams.

Well done to both basketball teams for their fabulous wins last week – both matches were extremely close but our children acquitted themselves superbly.