

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 8th January, 2016

Volume 23; Issue 1

Start of the new term – I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and have had a good start to 2016. At school we have had a great start to the new term with children focussing on their learning, that this week has been all about penguins.

However, it is with sadness that I write to tell you that Mr Dave Garland, my predecessor as Headteacher at Holly Trees, died during the Christmas holiday after a short illness.

Mr Garland had been Headteacher at Holly Trees (first the infant school and then overseeing the move to primary) for many years. 7 years ago he moved to a school in Thurrock before moving to Cumbria with his family.

Many of the core values evident at Holly Trees Primary School today, I inherited when I became its Headteacher 7 years ago - those of respect, fun, honesty and a truly child-centred approach to learning to name but a few.

Those staff still at the school who worked with Dave remember him with fondness and respect. As a staff, we will be planting a tree in the school grounds in memory of Mr Garland, but should anyone else wish to make donations, his family has asked that they should be made to Macmillan Nurses.

Year 6 learning support – There has been a slight alteration to our plans to support Year 6 learning this term in that the spelling and arithmetic sessions will start on the Tuesday and Wednesday mornings respectively from 19th January. The sessions will start at 8:00 am and will take place in Sycamore room. The playground gate will be open for access until 8:15 am. All/any Year 6 children are welcome to attend every week or for any individual week this term.

Vision Statement – Thank you all so much for your contributions to our new Vision Statement. Obviously not everybody's contributions can be in the strapline but they will all be reflected in the longer Mission Statement and our marketing of the school. The new Statement is '**Where confidence grows so potential becomes reality**'.

Chinese New Year – To welcome the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Monkey, Mrs Horgan and Mrs Nichols will be organising a chopstick challenge during week commencing 25th January. The chopstick challenge is 'How many marshmallows can you pick up in 1 minute?' for KS1 and 'How many dry pasta shapes can you pick up in 1 minute?' for KS2. This fun activity will take place in school where chopsticks will be provided. These can be taken home for those who wish to practice. Ten children from each class across both KS1 and KS2 will be selected at random to take part in this exciting challenge!

Fundraisers Rag Bag – Donations are closed for the moment.

Spring term consultations – Remember to book your parent/teacher consultations on Parentmail by Wednesday.

Literacy with iPads – Please note that these workshops have been postponed.

School Health Drop-in Sessions – The Brentwood School Nursing Team can offer help and advice with continence issues (day/night wetting), hearing tests, growth/dietary concerns, sleep/behaviour issues, general health and development. Please go along to Larchwood Children's Centre, Larchwood Gardens, Pilgrims Hatch on 11th and 25th January, 8th and 22nd February and 7th and 21st March between 3:00 and 4:30 pm. No appointment necessary.

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

Menu - Week 3 of the new winter menu.

Letters home

5th – Forest School

7th – Y6 SATs

Forthcoming dates

14th Jan – parent/teacher consultations

25th Jan – parent/teacher consultations

w/b 25th Jan – sponsored French event and chopstick challenge

15th to 19th Feb – half term

5th Mar – Fundraisers Jazz Night

15th Mar – Year 4 performance of Pied Piper – evening

16th Mar – Year 4 performance of Pied Piper - afternoon

17th Mar – Fundraisers disco

24th Mar – last day of Spring term

11th Apr – children return to school

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Tommy Taylor, Amber Keen, Euan Edwards, Adam Beldi, Jack Golding, Evan Ross, Olivia Barke, Keeley O’Sullivan, Jennifer Joseph, Dilan Galapatha, Ryan Mussett, Harley Lyons, Sauda Rahman, Naomi Earle and Harry Mooney.

Silver Certificates went to Reece Roche, Dylan Harvey and Harriet Dennison.