



NEWSLETTER 26TH NOVEMBER 2014

www.hollybrookinfant.co.uk

02380 771528



Dates for your diary

Friday 28 th November	Christmas Fayre
Monday 8 th December	Last Day for Art Club (Year 2 only)
Monday 8 th December	1.30pm Xmas performance (dress rehearsal - grandparents and pre-school siblings invited)
Tuesday 9 th December	1.30pm Xmas performance (parents invited)
Tuesday 9 th December	Last Art Club (for second course)
Wednesday 10 th December	9.15am Xmas performance (parents invited)
Wednesday 10 th December	Last day for Belinda's Street Dance
Thursday 11 th December	6.00pm Evening Xmas performance
Thursday 11 th December	Last day for Sports Challenge - Years 1 & 2
Friday 12 th December	Last French Club
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Shopping Day
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch / Christmas Party
Friday 19 th December	School finishes at 3.00pm for Christmas
Monday 5 th January	Spring Term begins at 8.45am
Thursday 15 th January	9.00am Parent Forum
Wednesday 21 st January	7.00pm-8.00pm Curriculum Info Evening
Friday 23 rd January	Inset Day
Friday 30 th January	January Disco
Monday 9 th February	8.45am Sharing Time
Tuesday 10 th February	Parents Evening (time TBC)
Wednesday 11 th February	Parents Evening (time TBC)
Friday 13 th February	Comic Relief (more info to follow)
Friday 13 th February	School finishes at 3.00pm for half term

Important things to remember

- Everything your child wears or brings into school must be labelled
- All children require a water bottle in school every day
- PE kits must be in school at all times and include a tracksuit and trainers for outdoors
- Children must be registered with Cool Milk (www.coolmilk.com) in order to receive milk in school, even if they are entitled to it free of charge. This includes children who are entitled to free milk until the term before they turn 5.
- Could you qualify for Pupil Premium? Apply online at <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/learning/schools/schoolmeals/fschm.aspx>



Christmas now seems to be creeping up - or should I say rushing up!! We are looking forward to next week when some of our Year 2 children will be performing at the Guildhall. All of the children are busy learning songs for the Christmas performances - if any parents would like copies of the words then we have uploaded them onto the website today in Pupils > Curriculum Information. If you would still like tickets for the Tuesday or Wednesday performances then please come and see the office. At the time this letter went to print/email there were very few tickets left for the Thursday evening performance so they may well be gone by now! We also look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas Fayre

this Friday. If any parents are able to help out for a short time on any of the stalls please can they give their names to Kat Jeffery or any other member of the PTA Committee.

Last week we had our latest Parent Forum which was led by Mrs Clifford.

Year 2

There were no specific issues to report from Year 2 parents.

Year 1

There was a question from Year 1 parents over the waiting time for school dinners. We are very pleased that so many children are having hot school dinners every day. This means that more children are needing to line up. In order to minimise waiting times we have staggered lunch times so that Year R come down earlier so that they all have their lunch before the older children come down. Year 2 go out into the court yard for a short play and then come and line up after Year 1 have all got their lunches.



Parents raised the issue that children were going home hungry after having a school dinner. We discussed how the portions were a good size for children and how Pupil Council are going to be collecting in children's views on the menu etc. We are trying to get the right balance between ensuring that children are eating enough but not upsetting them by pushing them to eat all of the food on their plate or food that they do not like. I have spoken to Mrs Bateman about this and she, in turn has spoken to the Lunchtime Supervisors. If we are concerned that children are regularly not eating enough then we will speak to parents individually. I am also monitoring the situation and the School Council are going to feed back to me later this week; these views will be sent back to Chartwells. The kitchen staff are also advising me of the meals where there is a lot of wastage.

We will organise some dates in the new year to invite parents in to have a lunch with their child and will let you know as soon as we have the dates.

Year R



One parent had commented how happy their child had settled into Year r and how she was impressed with all our systems as a school. She also praised the way the children had been expected to enter Year R at the start without any parents and how this had settled the children very quickly.

Parents had raised the concern that lunchtime supervisors were being too hard on children and putting them off lunchtimes. One child had accidentally made a mess with some food and now was too worried to bring that food back into school. We do understand that the children are young and will only address food on the floor if they have done it deliberately. Again, we have spoken to Mrs Bateman about this and she has spoken to the Lunchtime Supervisors. We now have two new Lunchtime Supervisors, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Murdoch which should make it easier to support the children.

Whole school

- Parents asked if possible to have a copy of Christmas song words to help their children learn them. We talked about putting them on the website rather than paper copies
- Parents asked when costume letters were going out and asked for as much notice as possible - parents / carers of children who need a costume should now have received letters
- Ingredients for cooking not been there when parents have been in to cook and some scales etc are not working- Lisa to speak to Kat re issues
- Parent has students from Solent University who would like to come in and hear readers - Mrs Clifford has given out her email address so they can contact directly

- Parking and issues around school. Parents suggested a walk to school week/day. We have had walk to school weeks in the past which have been supported but do not address the everyday problem. We really need to ask parents to leave that little bit earlier in the morning so that they can park at the Sport Centre and walk from there. The police now have the power to issue fines for parents who park illegally and we will be asking them to do spot checks.
- One parent had overheard Mrs Clarke's singing assembly on Tuesday and had said how amazing it was.



Thank you for bringing these issues to our attention. If any parent / carer feels that they need to bring up an issue urgently then please e-mail me at head@hi.jetrust.org or contact the school via the link on the website or via the Chair of Governors, Jenny Jones, whose e-mail link is also on the school website.



Christmas Fayre - THIS FRIDAY!

Don't forget our Christmas Fayre in school this Friday 3.00pm-5.30pm. We would still like cake donations for our cake stall; please deliver bought or home baked cakes to the office on Friday morning.

The fantastic posters that the children coloured and decorated are now up around the school. The winners of the colouring competition are:

Year R - Madison and Lara (both from Hedgehogs)

Year 1 - Dylan and Jacob (both from Squirrels)

Year 2 - Manav and Olivia (both from Badgers)



Well done to these children who will all receive a small prize, and thank you all the children that returned posters.

Year 1 Dental Survey

Letters have gone out to all Year 1 parents regarding a dental survey on Thursday 4th December. There should have been a reply slip to return to us, but we are aware some letters may have been missing that slip. As there has been a very low response we will be resending the form out to all children that have not yet returned it today.



Children in Need

Thank you for all your donations for Children in Need. The children worked hard to build their Pudsey Bear coin collage, and photos are available on our website. Your donations raised **£178.83**.

Skipathon

The recent Skipathon that all children took part in, in aid of The British Heart Foundation raised £75.40. Thank you for your kind donations.



Milk Bottle Tops

We are still collecting milk bottle tops of all colours in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Christmas Shopping Day

Don't forget about the Christmas Shopping Day in school on Wednesday 17th December. A letter with the full details was sent out on Friday 14th November. To summarise, each



child needs to bring in gifts to donate to the shopping experience, these should only be small token gifts, 50p to £1 value maximum. They will need to bring in a gift for each member of their family excluding themselves, for example if there are 5 members in the family, they bring in 4 gifts. Please come and talk to us if you are unclear.

Donations are required in school by Friday 5th December.

Weather



We are already experiencing a sharp turn in temperatures, and the weatherman says there is more cold weather on its way. May we remind all parents/carers that children should now have a coat with them in school every day, along with hat and gloves if necessary.

In the event of snow, we will endeavour to make a decision on whether to open or close the school as early as possible, and this decision will be made in consultation with the Junior school. We will update the announcement on the home page of our website (www.hollybrookinfant.co.uk), as well as communicating to parents/carers via our text and email service. We will also inform Wave 105 who regularly announce school closures in the area, and advise Southampton City Council.

Website Gallery

The photo gallery on our website is now live. Please take a moment to have a look at what the children have been up to. This will be updated as and when key events take place in school. We will continue to add photos of the children on the WOW Board and Top Table weekly, when permitted.



Scholastic Book Orders

Thank you to everyone who ordered books through the Scholastic Book Club. These orders have raised over £50 commission for the school, which will be used to purchase new reading books or books for our library.

Police Advice for the Christmas Period

The Festive season poses many opportunities for criminals. Below the Police have suggested a few easy points you can follow to ensure your homes are not easy targets over this period.



At Home:

- Don't leave Christmas presents in view of a window
- If you are buying or receiving valuable gifts such as bikes, mobiles or electrical items register them for free at www.immobilise.com. In doing so you will assist the police in returning your property should it be lost or stolen
- Dispose of present packaging carefully as empty boxes left outside can advertise that you have goods inside
- Refrain from keeping large amounts of cash at home
- A secure home will reduce the chance of a burglary. Make sure windows and doors are locked every time you leave the house. Avoid leaving tools and ladders lying around that could assist someone to get into your home.
- When you go out at night make it appear that someone is home. Draw the curtains and leave a light on. You could always put a lamp or radio on a timer switch.
- Never allow people into your home unless you are expecting them or have made arrangements with the company beforehand
- Never buy goods and services at the door or give away personal information.

If you are going away:

- Check you have locked all doors, windows and sky-lights. If you have an alarm, ensure it is activated
- Inform trusted neighbours and ask if they will keep an eye on your property for you and collect your post
- Use timer switches on lamps and radios so it looks as though you are home. Signs of occupation help deter intruders
- Remember to cancel deliveries such as milk and newspapers

Christmas Events - Churches Together in Shirley and District

Churches Together in Shirley and District (CTiS) would like to invite your family to join in four great festive events this Christmas. They are holding:



A Sheep Hunt - 8th-20th December, up and down Shirley High Street, knitted sheep will be hiding in shops. Complete the Sheep Hunt form to be entered into a prize draw.
Christmas Colouring Competition - download a colouring sheet to enter, winners will be selected from 3 age categories (under 5's, 5-7 years and 8-11 years). Deadline for entries is Friday 19th December.

Free Festive Family Fun - Saturday 20th December from 3.30pm at Shirley Baptist Church, with lots of festive crafts and games.

The Lantern Parade - gathering in the car park of Shirley Baptist Church from 4.30pm, walking up Shirley High Street to meet the Salvation Army band in the precinct for traditional carol singing.

More information is on the poster on the school office door.

Attendance

W/C	Foxes	Hedgehogs	Squirrels	Rabbits	Badgers	Owls	Overall
10/11/14	94.3%	98.3%	100%	98.3%	100%	98.7%	98.3%
17/11/14	90.0%	97.1%	98.2%	98.3%	97.1%	100.0%	96.8%