



## NEWSLETTER 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2014



### Dates for your diary

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Parent's Evening 3.00 to 6.30pm (Yr 1 & 2)  
Parent's Evening 3.00 to 5.30pm (Yr R, 1 & 2)  
Non-uniform Day - please bring a bottle  
School finishes at 3.00pm for half term  
School re-opens at 8.45am  
First Art Club (for second course)  
Maths open afternoon 2.00 - 3.00pm  
School photographs  
Children In Need Day  
Inset Day  
9.00am Parent Forum  
Christmas Fayre  
Last day for Art Club (Year 2 only)  
1.30pm Xmas performance (dress rehearsal - grandparents and pre-school siblings invited)  
1.30pm Xmas performance (parents invited)  
Last Art Club (for second course)  
9.15am Xmas performance (parents invited)  
Last day for Belinda's Street Dance  
6.00pm Evening Xmas performance  
Last day for Sports Challenge - Years 1 & 2  
Last French club  
Xmas shopping day  
Xmas lunch / Xmas party  
School finishes at 3.00pm for Christmas  
Spring Term begins at 8.45am  
9.00am Parent Forum  
7.00pm - 8.00pm Curriculum Info Evening  
Inset Day  
January Disco  
8.45am Sharing Time  
Parents Evening (time TBC)  
Parents Evening (time TBC)  
Comic Relief (more info to follow)  
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 everyday
- 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](http://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>



We have nearly made it through the first half term and I know that everyone is ready for a week off! We have achieved so much and it is amazing how much progress the children have made already. It has been lovely to see so many parents in and around school and we look forward to inviting you in again next term to share your child's/children's learning. The first of these occasions is on the 5<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm when the children will share with you their

Math's learning; thank you to Mrs Jackson for organising the very successful Maths Pirate day on Monday.

We had a very successful school review last week and are waiting for the report. One of the reviewers was the Head of Beechwood Junior who was especially impressed with the displays around school and the quality of the learning. We have also had many positive comments from parents who are looking around schools for the 2015 September intake.

Harvest Festival was a huge success and I would like to thank everyone who supported us with this. Thank you also for the feedback.

Yesterday Mrs Clark organised our day to celebrate achieving the Gold Artsmark. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and enjoyed a day of art/drama/music. The Southampton Echo came in to take some photographs so please look out for this - hopefully they will let us know the date that it will be in the paper. Please also look out for the plaque that all children have contributed to that will be hung on the gates on Lordshill Road.

#### Parent Forum

We had a very successful Parent Forum - thank you to the class reps who fed back at this meeting. Overall it was very positive with parents saying that they have been able to sort out any concerns directly with teachers who have been very approachable.

The main issue that was discussed was children playing with leaves both during, before and after school and also children turning the tap on behind Squirrel class. We do have an issue with leaves at this time of year - we stop the children throwing them around at playtimes. Before and after school it is the responsibility of parents to be aware of where their children are and what they are doing. As I write this I realise that I have not asked Mr Pike to try and turn the tap off from the inside, but again, I would ask that parents stop their children from doing this. Mr Pike does try to keep on top of the leaf problem but it is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge!!

We had a discussion around Religious Education and Assemblies. At Hollybrook we follow an ethos of British Values with tolerance and respect for differences. Children come together for collective worship as a school four days a week and have Base Assemblies on a Thursday. I lead the Monday Assembly which I base around values and other issues e.g. keeping safe, behaviour, rights and responsibilities. Mrs Clark leads Tuesday's assembly as a singing assembly, Lena from St James' Church leads the assembly on a Wednesday and we have our Celebration Assesmbly on a Friday. The assembly on a Wednesday is Christian related. At all assemblies we have a reflection time. On a Wednesday children are invited to take part in a prayer if they wish to and it is made clear that this is their choice.

Some concerns were raised by parents in Year 1 about home learning and the fact this is based on making models rather than e.g. writing. The aim of home learning is to engage children in their topics so that they can "teach" the rest of the class. Children have a choice as to how they present this - we just give some ideas. If we made it all about writing this would put some children off who find writing more of a challenge. It really is about choice and if you have any other ideas about how they can present their home learning then please feel free to do this. When the children get to the Junior School they will have more set home work. We feel that it is very important that children are engaged at this age - if they are put off at this age then it will be more of a battle later on (in my experience anyway!!).

I have put a curriculum statement on the website under Key Information which hopefully explains all of this further.

The next parent forum is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November so please pass any comments to your class reps or e-mail Lisa Richardson.



### Used Uniform

If your child comes home wearing borrowed uniform for any reason, please can you ensure you return it to school as soon as possible and certainly within a week, in order that we have enough for other children to use. Our stocks are diminishing rapidly. We also welcome donations of used uniform and PE kits, including socks, tights and underwear. Thank you.

### School Nurse

Our school nurse, Claire Robinson, has taken on some additional schools in the area and will therefore no longer be looking after Hollybrook Infants. We will have another nurse, Ali Truman, to continue the role but we'd like to take this opportunity to thank Claire for all her hard work over the last 2 years, and wish her luck for the future. Ali will continue to offer drop in sessions for parents - these will still be on a Monday but will be at 2.30pm not 9.00am.



### Car Parking and Traffic



Please remember to park and drive considerately in the area when you are dropping off and collecting your child. Seagarth Close is particularly tight for turning space and we have seen local residents unable to get out in their cars this week. We continue to keep our local PCSO and the council informed of the parking and traffic issues, and the Police will be involved if necessary. This is to ensure the safety of all children, parents and local residents. We'd like to remind you that the Sports Centre car park is only a short walk away, with the lollipop man there daily to assist you in crossing the road.

### Non-Uniform Day

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, and we would like children to bring in a filled, unopened bottle as a donation. These bottles will be used as prizes on the Bottle Tombola stall at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you.



### PE Kits

PE kits will be sent home to be washed over half term. Please ensure these are returned on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and that all items are named. Kits should include a tracksuit and trainers.

### Thank you

We'd like to thank all the parents who have helped to walk the children to venues in the local area recently. Without your help and support these trips would not be possible.

### Additional Dates

Please note some additional dates have been added to the 'Dates for your diary' section, to let you know some of the key dates for the beginning of the Spring term.

**Have a lovely half term holiday.**

