



NEWSLETTER 20TH JANUARY 2016

www.hollybrookinfant.co.uk

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Dates for your diary

Spring 1

Friday 22 nd January 2016	3.00pm - Year 1 cake sale
Monday 25 th January 2016	2.30pm - Maths day (games) Parents are invited
Wednesday 27 th January 2016	9.00am - Parent Time
Thursday 28 th January 2016	16.45-18.00 - School Disco
Friday 29 th January 2016	9.05am - Civic Award Assembly
Monday 8 th February 2016	8.45am - 9.15am - Sharing time
Monday 8 th February 2016	7.00pm - Internet safety workshop for parents
Wednesday 10 th February 2016	Parent's evening
Thursday 11 th February 2016	Parent's evening
Friday 12 th February 2016	INSET day

Spring 2

Monday 22 nd February 2016	8.45am - Spring 2 term begins
Monday 22 nd February 2016	Healthy Schools day - Teeth/Hygiene
Thursday 3 rd March 2016	9.00am - Parent Forum
Thursday 3 rd March 2016	World Book day
Monday 21 st March 2016	Arts Week
Thursday 24 th March 2016	Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 24 th March 2016	3.00pm - Break up for Easter holidays

INSET Days 2015-2016

Friday 12th February 2016

Monday 27th June 2016

Wednesday 20th July 2016

Important things to remember

- Everything your child wears or brings into school must be labelled
- Children require a waterproof jacket - with arms and hood
- All children require a water bottle in school every day - this must ONLY contain still water - no fizzy drinks or squash
- PE kits must be in school at all times and include a tracksuit and trainers for outdoors
- Lunch boxes to be labelled with your child's name and class and please do not include sweets, nuts or products containing nuts e.g. Nutella
- 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.

We are well and truly settled into the term and children have been bringing down some lovely examples of their learning to show me. Year 2 teachers have been amazed at the skills that the children have shown with sewing making their puppets and the whole of Key Stage 1 are immersed in various traditional tales. Year R children are really engaged in their topic and there has been some really high quality writing based on "Mr Gumpy's Outing." Thank you for your support with home learning - I know that the children enjoy sharing this with the rest of the class.

There is some information on attendance below. However, I do need to bring to your attention the new Government requirement that children in Year 2 will be assessed in May and Year 1 phonic screening is in June. **May and June are key months for assessing all Year groups;** if children miss school during this time period it could lead to a mis-assessment due to lack of up to date evidence. Therefore please ensure that your child / children are in school apart from unavoidable illness. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Parent Forum:

We held a parent forum last Thursday which was really positive. These are the responses to a couple of things that were raised:

- Some parents have mentioned that it can be a rush to collect siblings if they are in Year R and Year 1 or 2 particularly Badgers. Key Stage 1 teachers have been asked to put older siblings at the end of the line and Year R teachers have been asked to put younger siblings at the beginning of the line whenever possible
- There have been a couple of comments about writing in reading diaries and the monitoring of the new book reviews for Year 2. Teachers have been reminded to check that children are giving them in / getting them out when asked. Year 2 book reviews should be marked with the children on a Friday - please can you mention this to your class teacher if this is not happening
- It has been brought to our attention that many children in Year R did not get the opportunity to cook last term due to lack of volunteers. If anyone is able to support with cooking in any year group or if there are any grandparents who could help with this we would be very grateful. Cooking is a great opportunity for the children to practise maths and science skills whilst experiencing cooking which is hard to fit in to the curriculum. It would be a real shame if some year groups are unable to continue
- Hearing readers throughout the school is also invaluable - if either parents or grandparents are able to give up half an hour to hear readers in any year group then we would be very grateful

On a separate note I would like to bring your attention to a potentially serious incident that happened last week. One of our parents was driving up Seagarth Lane at drop off time in the morning. Unable to get through the traffic the vehicle reversed back up onto the pavement and parked. Two children, who are younger siblings, walking to school holding their parent's hand narrowly missed being knocked down by the vehicle as the driver did not see them. Understandably this was very distressing and is something that I have been concerned about for a long time. This incident has been reported to the police.

I appreciate that many of our parents do park safely at the Sport Centre and walk their children down to the school using the crossing patrol or the pelican lights. However, I have also been told that some parents are parking dangerously on the roads just next to the Sport Centre which is making it difficult for parents and children to safely walk along the pavements. Please ensure, therefore, that you park in the Sport Centre and not on the roads. We are doing road safety with the children in our

assemblies for the next few weeks. Please support us in this and help us to keep all of our children safe.

You will hopefully have seen from the dates that there is a Maths day next Monday 25th January. The focus for this is how games can help develop Maths skills. Parents are invited in at 2.30pm on Monday to join their children who will demonstrate some of the games.

Census - Thursday 21st January 2016

Tomorrow the school is due to file their Census for the Spring term which the Education Department use to set the funding for the next Academic year. One of the areas that helps determine the funding is how many children have a cooked school meal on the Census day.



With this in mind, we have changed our menu for Thursday to encourage as many children as possible to have a school lunch, and it is an ideal opportunity for those that usually bring a packed lunch to try a school meal instead! We have attached the menu again to this Newsletter and trust you will support the school by encouraging your child to have a cooked meal. Please note there will be **NO** jacket potatoes available.

Please note there is **NO** charge for the lunch.

Internet safety workshop for parents

As mentioned above, on Monday 8th February, we are running an internet safety workshop - full details of which will follow in the next couple of days.



Clothing

Please ensure children have suitable clothing for the weather. We are having numerous children visiting the office on a daily basis who have not come to school with a coat, hat or gloves. With temperatures reaching -5 and with the children encouraged to be outside, it is essential they are sent with the correct clothing.

Parent Time

Parent Time is our new monthly drop in for all parents with children in Hamwic Trust schools. The idea of these sessions is to get parents together to share ideas and concerns that they have. The informal drop in style will also give parents access to the Trust's Family Support Team who can offer help and advice on many issues. Once established 'Parent Time' will allow parents to come and share their own experiences of parenting, get ideas from other parents and also suggest topics for workshops to be run by the Trust.

We hope that at 'Parent Time' you will gain some ideas as well as help to make other parents feel supported.

We remind you that the first session is on Wednesday 27th January at 9.00am.

Cake Sale

A reminder that this Friday is the PTA cake sale with year 1 donating. Please could all donations be given into school first thing in the morning, The sale will take place after school in the Junior School playground - all are invited.

Parent's Evenings

You will now have all received the letter regarding the upcoming parent's evenings. We would recommend booking online early if you need particular time slots and you have more than one child at the school and need slots one after the other. As before, if you do not have access to a computer, Ms Atton and Mrs Smith in the office will be happy to book these for you. We would ask that you if you book more than one appointment by mistake, that you delete the duplicate appointment to free this up for another parent.



September Inset day

We have now received confirmation that Monday 5th September 2016 will be an inset day and the new school year will start for pupils on Tuesday 6th September 2016.

Facebook



Our Facebook pages are all now up and running and are a useful place for you to communicate with other parents in your year group and share ideas, ask questions etc.

For those of you who have already returned your signed policies, please remember you cannot be added to the groups until you have gone onto the relevant page on Facebook and requested to join. If you are unsure how to do this, please contact Mrs Smith in the office.

Clubs

A reminder that if your child is taking part in any clubs, for instance Team Spirit or Belinda's dance, the fees are payable each term and not just once. Therefore, payment is required in September, January and April if your child is taking part.



Cookery equipment

If you have any spare take away type cartons with lids that you do not need, please can you bring these into the school office as we need these to send the children's cookery home in. Thank you.

Job Vacancy - Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant

We currently have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant, to supervise the children in the dinner hall and during their lunchtime play.

This role is ideal for someone who is looking to return to work after taking time out to have children, or someone who is looking to slow down a bit but still wants to continue working. Could this be you or someone you know?

More information is available from the school office or on our website www.hollybrookinfant.co.uk

Closing date: Wednesday 27th January

Leave of Absence and Attendance

Please be reminded that in accordance with Southampton City Council's policy, there is no entitlement for any family holiday or leave of absence during term time. If you do have exceptional circumstances and need to request a Leave of Absence, please collect a form from the school office, no later than 4 weeks before the absence is to take place.

As you are aware, as a school our target for attendance is 97% for the year, and this equates to your child missing only **6 days** of school per year. Whilst we understand there may be times when absence due to illness is unavoidable, as a school we feel it is imperative to keep all absences to a minimum. We really value your support in this area.

May we also take this opportunity to remind you that any medical appointments, with the exception of hospital appointments, are to be made outside of normal school hours. If you do need to take your child out for an appointment, please provide the school office with a copy of the appointment letter for our records.

W/C	Foxes	Hedgehogs	Squirrels	Rabbits	Badgers	Owls	Overall
04/01/16	93.7%	97.9%	95.7%	97.9%	95.3%	95.7%	96.0%
11/01/16	97.3%	96.2%	96.4%	95.9%	99.0%	99.3%	97.4%