



HOLMBUSH PRIMARY ACADEMY

Issue 1 11th January 2019

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Happy New Year and welcome to the first issue of the revived newsletter!

After listening to your views, I decided that this might be a welcome addition to our communication with you. I hope it will give you lots of information and help you to feel involved in the work we do. I'll also share some of the great things that have been going on across the school.

To ensure the safeguarding of the children, places of trips and sporting events will only be named after the event.

Miss Stickley (Acting Principal)

CHRISTMAS FAIR

An enormous THANK YOU to everyone for supporting the Christmas Fair. We couldn't do this if it wasn't for the amazing work of the PTFA. The money raised helps us to provide additional resources for the children to make use of in school.



EXCITING NEWS!

As I am sure you are aware, the government have been charging 'sugar tax' on items such as fizzy drinks in a bid to improve health. As a result of this, our children will benefit in more than one way!

All schools in the University of Brighton Academies Trust were offered the opportunity to apply for a grant from the money the government have made from the sugar tax. There were strict guidelines on what the money could be used for. Mrs Simons and I worked together to put forward an application and I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded £16,000 to complete the following work:

- Resurfacing of the playground
- New playground markings
- 2 outdoor table tennis tables
- Replacing the old water fountains

ATTENDANCE

It is really important that children attend school regularly. Here are some scary facts for you:

- A child who is late by 15 minutes a day misses 2 weeks of learning across a year.
- For every day of school missed, attendance drops by 0.5%
- A persistently absent child (less than 90%) will miss nearly 6 weeks of school.
- 97.5% is classed as good attendance.

Being regularly late for/missing school means that children miss out on a calm welcome into school as well as vital time to practice basic skills such as phonics and number work.

Children don't just miss out academically from poor attendance. Their social development also suffers as they miss vital opportunities to play and interact with their peers.

Holmbush Attendance Awards

Because we realise that children do have genuine illnesses, we are not solely focused on rewarding 100% attendance. We reward children who have achieved over 95% during a half term. They are put into a raffle for the chance to win a £10 book token. Erin and Ella were our first winners.



We give out a trophy weekly to the class who have the best attendance. Our Autumn Term Winners were:

KOALA CLASS – 97.33%

SPORTING NEWS

Each year we monitor the school's achievements in PE and Sport. This is then assessed externally and schools are awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. These awards are given based on the hours of PE provided in school, after school clubs, numbers of children participating in competitive sport, opportunities for intra school sport competition, encouraging children to be sport leaders and the range of sports offered. This is amongst a multitude of other criteria!

I am really pleased to say that we have been awarded GOLD for the second year in a row.



We are always looking to develop our work so our next project is to look at how playtimes run. We want to encourage the children to be as active as possible. Therefore, we are spending a proportion of our Sports Premium money on auditing playtimes and getting advice on how we can improve the experience of our children. Watch this space for more information!

Spring Term Topics

Fox Class –
Shark Class – A Street Through Time
Dolphin Class – A Street Through Time
Koala Class – Night of the Gargoyles
Meerkat Class – Night of the Gargoyles
Panda Class – Into the Unknown
Tiger Class - Into the Unknown

Hey Ewe!



EYFS and Key Stage 1 put on a really successful Christmas Production. We had singing angels, shepherds and even sheep! The children and staff worked incredibly hard for this event - Mrs Hunt felt like a West End Director! It was lovely to see so many family members supporting the children.



At Holmbush we believe that giving opportunities like this is vital in developing children's confidence and self-esteem. It also supports their speaking and listening skills. As they progress through the school, there are other opportunities to perform in Easter and End of Year productions. As part of this, children start to learn about the different roles needed when putting on a performance. Watch out for the next extravaganza!

Book Fair

Another thank you for supporting the school Book Fair. The school gets a percentage of the money we take. You spent a grand total of £550 at the last one which meant that we could have a whole new set of books for Key Stage 2 as well as some new picture books for Key Stage 1.



Meet the Local Board

Formally known as 'The Governors', I'd like to introduce you to the Local Board. The group is made up of a range of people including parents, staff and members of the community (when we are able to appoint such members). We meet at least once a term, discussing different areas of the school such as attendance, safeguarding and behaviour.



Michele Fairhall
Chair



Mandy Southwell



Lynsey Baker



James Hedgecock



Malcolm Garton



Sarah Kidd



Ian Robinson

Little Learners

Meet our youngest children! The first term was busy settling all 19 children into their first experience of school life at Holmbush. They have been involved in lots of exciting activities including singing at the Christmas Performance.

We have some morning and afternoon sessions available. Please speak to Mrs Simons in the office for more information on current sessions available or pop by for a chat with Mrs Matthews.



For those of you who already have children in Little Learners, please be aware that we are now offering the opportunity to borrow books from the selection Mrs Matthews provides. You could even buy a book bag!

Key Dates

7th Jan – Back to School!

11th, 18th, 25th Jan, 1st, 8th, 15th Feb, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

March – Y3 Swimming

21st, 28th Jan, 4th, 11th Feb – Y6 Forest Schools

14th Jan – Reception Class Screening

16th Jan – Y5/6 Cross Country

23rd Jan – Y1 Parent Reading Meeting at 8.50am

23rd Jan – Y3/4/5 Parent Reading Meeting at 2.30pm

4th Feb – Young Voices

14th Feb – PTFA Valentines Disco

15th Feb – Last Day of Term

25th Feb – INSET Day

26th Feb – Back to School!

21st March – Y1/2 Trip

26th March – Y3/4 Show at 2pm

27th March – Y3/4 Show at 9.15am and 6pm

29th March – Y5 start swimming

4th April – PTFA Easter Disco

5th April – Easter Egg Raffle and last day of term

23rd April – Back to School!