



HOLMBUSH PRIMARY ACADEMY

Issue 2 15th February 2019

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed reading the last newsletter – I had some positive feedback which was lovely.

This half term has been very busy and I have been incredibly pleased with the progress that we've been making. As I'm sure you have seen on Classdojo, I have had the pleasure of seeing lots of children who have been working really hard and reaping the rewards – our Celebration Assembly on a Friday is packed with awards.

Thank you for your continued support this half term.

Miss Stickley (Acting Principal)

Staffing Update

It is with great sadness (for us) but great excitement (for her) that I must tell you that after 17 years working at Holmbush, Mrs Stepney will be leaving us. She will be a great loss to our school community as I know lots of you have known her for many years – she has seen your children and grandchildren through the school. We will miss the relationships she has built up with families and children and that is difficult to replace.

However, it isn't all sad because she is going to move to her home in Spain to live in the sun (hence the great excitement)!

Mrs Stepney's last day with us will be 5th April – watch this space for news of leaving festivities which I am sure many of you will want to be part of.

World Book Day

This year, World Book Day is on 7th March. We will be celebrating this event in school with lots of activities based around reading.

As part of the day, we would like to invite the children (and staff!) to dress up as a character from a book they love to read. It would be lovely if they had a copy of the book to bring with them to school that day too.

We are also organising a 'book swap' event which we are hoping will become a regular part of life at Holmbush. Children will be able to bring in a book from home that they have read and no longer want and swap it for a book brought in by another child. We will send out more details of this closer to the time.



Sporting News

It has been another busy half term in the world of sports! We have been involved in a range of competitions including:

- Hockey where we placed 3rd
- Girl's Cricket (this wasn't placed)
- Inclusion Indoor Athletics where we were the winners!
- Cross Country where we did the best we have ever done, with the Y6 girl's qualifying for the County Final. It's a shame the weather was so terrible on the day of the final!
- We are also playing a netball and football match against North Lancing.



Walk to School

Some of you requested to know more about the Walk to School initiative we use. The aim is to improve healthy lifestyles and get the children active. It would have a positive knock on effect of reducing the traffic in the roads around the school which can become dangerous.

Each morning, children record how they have come to school. The say if they have walked, scooted, come by car or bus or if they have done a 'park and stride'. This is the one that I think would have the biggest impact at Holmbush. I know that many parents need to bring their car so by parking a few streets away and walking the rest of the distance, the children would be able to record their journey as a 'park and stride'.

Children earn their Walk to School badge by having at least 3 active journeys to school each week for a month. If they come to school by car and are dropped off in the roads directly by school, that journey doesn't count.



Excellent Writing

A couple of weeks ago I posted a picture of Kacey – Leigh (Y6) receiving a Headteacher's Award for a poem she wrote. I was so impressed with the content that I felt it needed to be published in the Newsletter. It is based on a poem called 'The River'. The vocabulary is what I was most impressed with.

The Cloud

**The cloud of anger blows
above a sea of rough
like a firework ready to explode.**

**The cloud of happiness dances
above a world of laughter
like the best memory in your
childhood.**

**The cloud of calm sways
by a realm of silence
like a meditated mind.**

**The cloud of sadness cries
beneath a river of weeps
like the tears of god.**

**The cloud of creativity spins
by a sky of colour
like a child's imagination.**

**The cloud of relief sighs
behind a church of belief
like an angel's soul.**

**The cloud of love smiles
beside the bridge of worship
like your heart's first desire.**

Attendance

Everyday at school counts! I am about to give out individual stars to children for their attendance. Class attendance is currently as follows:

Fox Class: 95.91%

Shark Class: 95.71%

Dolphin Class: 95.35%

Koala Class: 96.57% - Current WINNERS!

Meerkat Class: 95.96%

Panda Class: 96.23%

Tiger Class 96.12%

Young Voices 2019



On 4th February we took 44 children from Year 3 – 6 to perform in a concert at the O2 Arena, London. They were amongst 8000 children all singing and dancing together. The children have been rehearsing for this since October – there are a lot of words to learn!



The actual day of the concert is very long! We left school at 10.30am and returned at approximately 11.45pm. However, the experience it provides the children with is invaluable. They learnt about the rehearsal process in a professional venue and even got to sing with Tony Hadley (even though none of them knew who he was, I – and lots of parents – were excited by this)! The children were an absolute pleasure and were impeccably behaved all day. It is really important to us to try to enrich the curriculum and provide the children with memorable experiences. Watch this space for details of Young Voices 2020!

Local Board – What do they do?

Last time I introduced you to the member of the Local Board. I thought it would be helpful for you to know a bit more about the role they play in the life of the school.

There are key roles that some of the local board members take on. These include Safeguarding link, SEND link and LAC (Looked After Children) link. Part of this role includes termly visits to discuss school procedures with key members of staff. This is then reported back to the Trust.

As well as this, another vital part of their work is to collect and provide feedback from the school and local community. The next job they will be doing is sending out a survey to staff.



Spelling Bee



Remember to practice your spellings for the Spelling Bee Competition. There are lots of stickers, certificates and medals up for grabs!

Safer Internet Week

Last week, the whole school took part in 'Safer Internet Week'. This year the theme was 'Our Internet, Our Choice' and looked at why consent is important. We discussed the importance of asking before sharing pictures, videos and comments. The children explored the different ways they use the Internet, how long they spend online and how to balance this with a healthy lifestyle. We learnt how to be SMART – Keep personal information SAFE, Don't arrange to MEET strangers you've met online, think before you ACCEPT anything online, remember that not everything online is RELIABLE, TELL an adult if anything upsets you online.

The children wrote pledges and KS2 completed a questionnaire about the way they use the internet. The results were very interesting!

How do you feel about going online?

I love it: 60% I quite like it: 36% I don't like it: 3% I hate it: 0% I'm not sure: 1%

What is your favourite thing to do online?

Watch videos: 24% Play games: 41% Chat to friends: 28% Learn new things: 6% Other: 3%

At home, do you ask before you use a device?

Yes: 28% No: 26% Sometimes: 46%

At home, do you have to ask if you want to get a new game/app?

Yes: 52% No: 10% Sometimes: 38%

How would you feel if someone posted a picture of you online without asking first?

I wouldn't mind: 4% Annoyed: 46% It depends: 44% Not sure: 6%

Have you ever accepted Terms and Conditions online?

Yes: 41% No: 36% Not sure: 23%

Have you ever shared your personal information with a website or app?

Yes: 27% No: 52% Not sure: 21%

Fox Class (Reception) also completed a survey. I was really impressed with their answers to 'why is it important to ask permission to go online?': "It might be a scary game and make us sad." Jack. "Mummy needs to know what games we are playing to check we are ok." Lucy. "Do it in the living room and then you can ask mummy for help." Destiny.

The aim of Safer Internet Day is to **inspire a national conversation** about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. You can find more information on www.saferinternetday.org.uk.

Little Learners

I have just been in Little Learners where Dylan told me "The gingerbread men ran away from the oven".

They have been using The Gingerbread Man as their key text for the last 2 weeks. There have been lots of different activities based around the story including baking gingerbread men, mark making, and learning the story. They even did some music and movement in the hall!

After half term, the Little Learners will be using 'Shark in the Park' as a stimulus for their learning.



Key Dates

- 25th Feb – INSET Day
- 26th Feb – Back to School!
- 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March – Y3 Swimming
- 7th March – World Book Day
- 18th March – Parents' Evening
- 20th March – Parents' Evening
- 21st March – Y1/2 Trip
- 26th March – Y3/4 Show – Rock Bottom - at 2pm
- 27th March – Y3/4 Show – Rock Bottom - at 9.15am and 6pm
- 29th March, 5th, 26th April 3rd, 10th 17th May – Y5 swimming
- 2nd April – Parents' Meeting for children going to France
- 4th April – PTFA Easter Disco
- 5th April – Easter Egg Raffle and last day of term
- 23rd April – Back to School!
- 8th – 10th May – Y4 Residential
- 13th – 16th May – Y6 SATs
- 20th – 24th May – Y5/6 Residential