

Holmwood School and Nursery
Newsletter - Spring 1, January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

I do hope you all had an enjoyable break. The children have quickly got back into routines at school. This half term can be really tiring for little ones (and big ones too!), as the dark mornings and nights take their toll. We know that routines and bedtimes change over the Christmas holidays, but do please support your children in making sure that they go back to getting to bed in good time, as we see how much this affects their ability to learn.

As always we have lots of lovely activities planned in, so we anticipate another successful half term. I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2018.

Kind regards,

Mrs Claire Sharples,

Executive Headteacher

Behaviour update

There have been many examples of children demonstrating excellent standards of behaviour in school. It is a real delight and privilege to see children feeling pride in their own conduct, and in the achievements of others. Most pupils show keen interest in others and offer help or support when necessary, and know who to ask for help if they cannot resolve small matters themselves. We have all noted that children respond really well to our high expectations, and actually look happier in themselves for having these boundaries. Thank you to all family members who support us with these behaviour expectations, as together we are ensuring our children flourish.

Progress and Spoken Language

Each half term all teachers meet with Mrs Sharples and Mrs Waters to discuss progress and attainment of every child. Staff have raised concerns about the falling standards of spoken language and vocabulary. This fits with the national picture, and may be due to children spending much more time on electronic gadgets or watching television, rather than actively playing and talking. From now on curriculum newsletters will contain information about the vocabulary related to each topic, so that you can support with this at home. In Nursery this information will be within your weekly home learning leaflet. We have some children who obviously have very language rich homes, whether English or another language, and this helps them enormously in all areas of their learning, understanding and communication. Some simple things you can do is to make sure you expect your child to speak to you in full sentences as much as possible, talk lots even on the walk to and from school, describe things to them, use new words that they may not have heard before and read to them as much as possible- poems can be good for this, as they are language rich, contain lots of pattern, and can be quick! And keep speaking in your family language- don't switch to only speaking English if it is not your first language, as in the long term this will give your child a real advantage.

Volunteers

Do you have half an hour a week spare? Or more?! Do you park outside early and sit waiting for the end of the school day?

Children benefit from reading regularly, and we have some children who would love to have more reading opportunities. You could make a big difference by coming in and supporting children in their learning. Even if listening to readers does not interest you, we have a variety of other things you could do. Full training will be given. If you think you could help out please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Waters.

School Value – Caring

This half term we are focusing on the value Caring. Children will be asked to put a jewel in the 'Caring' jar, each time an adult sees them being caring to others. All adults in school will be looking for opportunities to reward the children. Please can you talk to your child/ ren at home about how they can be caring?

Our school value links with the British Values, which the children are learning about regularly in assemblies and in class.

Up and coming events:

(Please see the events calendar on the school website for further info)

January 11th & 12th	Zumba Afternoons
Week commencing January 15th	Art Week – Rousseau
January 15th	Read Write Inc Development Day
Week commencing January 22nd	Writing Week
January 22nd	Year 1 Victorian Day
Week commencing January 29th	Read Write Inc Assessment week
January 30th	DT Day
February 6th	Super Internet Day
February 12th-16th	Half Term
February 21st	Multi Skills Festival
February 22nd	World Thinking Day
February 28th	Parent Consultations 2-5pm
March 1st	Parent Consultations 4.30-6.50pm
March 1st	World Book Day
March 8th	Year 2 Safety Centre Trip
Week commencing March 12th	Science Week & Read Write Inc Assessment Week
March 15th	Out of Schools Assembly
March 20th	Football Day
March 21st	World Poetry Day
March 23rd	Easter Hat Parade