

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Number 4, Term 2

Dear Parents/Carers

Please note:

The last day of term is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and school re-opens for everyone on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>



January 2018. Happy Christmas everyone and see you in the New Year.



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

## What's Happening

15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January- **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths)** exhibition of children's work. Parents are invited to go along to Paintworks on the Bath Road to see the exhibition during the day or evening. There is a preview of work on display in the Middle Hall on **Wed 10<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

**Y6 SATs Parents' Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> January- 3.30pm**  
**Y3 Times Table Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February at 3.30pm**

**Y2 SATs Parents' Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January -3.30pm**

Girls' football match 12<sup>th</sup> January

Kids' Cup football tournament 17<sup>th</sup> January



## Weather

Adverse Weather and possible School Closure  
In exceptional circumstances e.g. heavy snow or failure of

heating systems we may need to close the school.

However, this is always the last resort so parent/ carers should always assume we will be OPEN unless we tell you otherwise. Ways we may be able to inform you of closure are through Parentmail, local radio, Bristol City Council website listing school closures, the school's own website (see address below). Any systems can be clogged up by a large amount of usage so please bear with us and remember we are trying to do our best. You can also try phoning the school if you are uncertain or coming from a long way away. In the event of partial closure we allow 30 children to attend for every teacher present.

## Class Assemblies- Junior Site



Turtle Class-Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018- middle hall  
Please note class assemblies are NOT suitable for pre-schoolers as we want the children performing to be heard. We do run a crèche with school staff and are always on the lookout for volunteers to help in crèche. Thanks.

## School Tours

The final conducted tour on the infant site will be on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 9am for prospective parents to look round if they are looking for school places and were unable to attend Open Day.

We look forward to welcoming you.

## School Uniform.

Children need to have BLACK SCHOOL SHOES for school.

NO TRAINERS! **PLEASE NOTE JEANS AND HOODED TOPS ARE NOT SCHOOL UNIFORM AND MUST NOT BE WORN IN SCHOOL.**



**PE kit:** is a purple tee-shirt and black shorts in a purple dap bag. Black or white tee shirts and shorts are an acceptable alternative but no club football kits etc.

**ALL UNIFORM, INCLUDING PE KITS MUST BE LABELLED CLEARLY.**

**Back Packs** are not allowed on the infant site as space is very limited.

**Pencil Cases:** pupils are NOT allowed to bring pencils and pencil cases to school. The only exception to this is in Y6 where pupils are getting ready for using their own pencil cases and equipment in secondary school.



### Term Dates 2017-2018

#### Term 1

(Sept 4<sup>th</sup> school closed for INSET)  
Tues Sept 5<sup>th</sup> school starts for KS1 and KS2  
Wed Sept 6<sup>th</sup> school starts for new reception.  
Term 1 ends Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup>  
(Friday October 20<sup>th</sup> school closed for INSET)

#### Term 2

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### Term 3

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2018 to Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb (school closed on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan and on Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb for INSET)

#### Term 4

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb to Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> March

#### Term 5

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> April to Fri 25<sup>th</sup> May

#### Term 6

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jun to Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 (school closed Tues 24<sup>th</sup> July for INSET)

School will close for all BANK Holidays as normal.

### Parking Reminder!

Please don't park on the zig-zags outside either site. They are there to try and keep children safe. Some parents are endangering lives by parking on the zig-zags. Please find a safe place to park away from the busy entrances. Thank you.



Governors met to monitor outcomes for children. They looked at different groups eg boys compared to girls to see where the school is doing well and learn about what we are doing to improve areas we are not performing so well in. We have a focus on boys' reading in school and encourage our parents to listen regularly to their boys read at home as they are still not performing as well as our girls in tests. However, it is pleasing to report that boys' results did actually go up this year so keep up the good work boys!



### Christmas Events:

#### December 12<sup>th</sup> at St Cuthbert's Church:

We were treated to a lovely evening of music by Y4, Y5 & Y6 including the choir, recorders and instrumentalists.



#### Plays and concerts

Well done to all the children who took part in Christmas plays and concerts across the school. We enjoyed your performances immensely.



### Friends' Events:

**Thank you to the Friends for organising the KS2 Children's Shopping Day and Father Christmas presents for Key Stage One.**



The Christmas Fayre raised £1,171.80. All the money raised up to Christmas will go towards a new set of 16 i-pads and recharging trolley. We are aiming to raise £5,800!

Next Friends' Meeting- 12<sup>th</sup> January after drop off on the infant site



### School Prospectus

Please note the school prospectus, which is available on our website states: 'Make-up should not be worn and hairstyles should be sensible and appropriate for school e.g. not unnatural colours or shocking styles'. Jewellery should not be worn in school (except small pierced earrings). There are some exceptions-please see the prospectus or talk to the head teacher. Thank you.



**Christmas Carol Service-** What a lovely Carol Concert we had at St Cuthbert's Church. Thank you to all the parents who helped with walking the children to and from the church. Well done to all the children for their lovely singing, performing and reading. We will be adding photos for you to view.

## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Holidays in term time. It is very unlikely holidays will be authorised as circumstances have to be really exceptional. AS A GUIDELINE PARENTS SHOULD ASSUME APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED AND YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE FINED FOR ANY UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE OVER 4 DAYS (8 SESSIONS). Fines start at £60 per child, per responsible adult. For example if you have 2 children in school and there are mum and dad sharing responsibility for the children then you will be fined £240. Fines rise if they are not paid on time. Fines are not only issued for children being taken on holiday but can be given out when children are kept off school for 4 days or more without the head teacher's authorisation. PLEASE FILL IN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM IN ADVANCE OF TAKING YOUR CHILD OUT.



### Rights Action Group

The RAG group chose to support the charity Caring at Christmas this year. We raised £1,074.77 from all the collections taken after all the concerts and

performances and for the Film Night.



Thank you for your generosity.

### CARETAKER



#### Vacancy:

We are currently looking to recruit a part time caretaker to do manual jobs and locking up in the evenings on both sites. The position requires a DBS (police check) and physical fitness. Please contact Mrs Buckley via the office for an informal chat and application form. Thank you.

### Reward Systems

**Praise Book-** on the infant site you may notice your child talking about the Praise Book or coming home with a Praise Book sticker. This is a system to reward good work, effort or behaviour. Children's names are read out and they receive their sticker in assembly. This record of their achievement is also put up on display in the Link the following week for everyone to see.



**Star of the Week-** on the junior site, as the children get older, we introduce a Star of the Week where children nominate and vote for a child they think deserves to be Star of the Week.

Whilst the children have more say in who is chosen this system is still overseen by the teacher to ensure fairness.



**Please note** the school tries to pass on information it considers may be helpful or of interest to parents in this newsletter. We do not

necessarily endorse or check the security and safety of the services on offer.

Parents need to satisfy themselves that they are happy to leave their children at any of the clubs and services advertised which are not based on the Holymead School sites. Holymead School carries out DBS checks on clubs who have hire agreements with this school.



## Don't Forget!

Can we remind parents that dinner money accounts (via ParentMail) and breakfast and afterschool club accounts (via Libarcura) must be in credit at all times. Please can we ask that you use the Christmas holiday to review your accounts to ensure that you are not in arrears. Thank you.

With regards to the Year 4 Hillcrest PGL 2018 camp and Year 6 Red Ridge Camp 2018, please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the

payment agreements that ensure your child's place is secure:-

**Year 4 Hillcrest PGL** – The first £100 must be paid by 15.12.17 and the full balance (£202.50) to be paid by 30.04.18.

**Year 6 Red Ridge** – The first £200 must be paid by 03.01.18 and the full balance (287.50) to be paid by 09.03.18.

Please can parents ensure that all these payments are paid up to date, by reviewing your ParentMail account.

Thank you.



**E-Safety:** Keeping up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge, especially if you feel that your children may have better technical skills than you do. However, children still need support and guidance when it comes to

managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely. A simple and effective way to get involved with your children and their lives online is through discussion.

**Conversation starter ideas:**

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

- Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and [how to report](#) or block on the services they use.
- Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

Further information about these issues is available from ChildNet or Thinkuknow.co.uk



We are aware that going to a standard session at PlaySpace can be a challenge for those children on the Autistic spectrum or with learning disabilities. With this in mind, our Monthly 'Peaceful Play' sessions are designed to be as much of fun as a regular session, just a little more peaceful!

**Autism friendly sessions include:**

- Plenty of space—Reduced capacity
- Music turned down—No loud announcements
- Free squash & Biscuits

**Who's it for?** Sessions are for any children on the Autistic spectrum or with learning Disabilities

**Duration:** Autism friendly sessions are 1 hour long

**When is it?** Sessions run on the first Saturday of every Month from 9am—10am

**First session starting Saturday 2nd December**

**How much?** FREE! Sessions are free for the child and their parent/carer  
Neurotypical Siblings charged a small fee of just £3.50

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE! PLACES MUST BE BOOKED!**

**TO BOOK YOUR SPACE PLEASE EMAIL**  
[sarah@playspace.co.uk](mailto:sarah@playspace.co.uk)

Yours sincerely  
Ms Kate Slatcher



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Rights Respecting Schools Article 13: Children have the right to get and to share information