

Thursday 30th November 2017 Number 3, Term 2

Dear Parents/Carers



What a warm and friendly atmosphere there was at the Christmas Shopping Night. Thank you to the Friends and everyone who helped organise the event and to all those who turned out and made it such a lovely evening.

Please note:

The last day of term is Friday 15th December and school re-opens for everyone on Wednesday 3rd January 2017.



Y3 Parents.

The Times table Parents' Meeting will be on 1st February 2018 at 3.30 pm.

Thank you.

Class Assemblies- Junior Site



Turtle Class-Tuesday 23rd 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 4th 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.

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.


Holymead
Primary
Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

What's Happening

4th Dec- Y6 Camp Meeting- 3.30pm

8th December- KS2 Children's Shopping Day

11th December- Christmas Hamper Raffle Draw

12th December- Beauty and the Beast- YR to Y4

Christmas Dinners 12th Dec-KS2 and 14th- KS1

KS2 Children's Shopping Day 8th Dec. –see below
Christmas Parties Y4 12th Dec. All other year group parties 13th Dec. Children need to wear school uniform as normal.

15th-20th January- STEAM Art exhibition of children's work at Paintworks

22nd January- Y6 SATs Parents' Meeting, 3.30pm

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.



The Scholastic Book Fayre raised £1,135.07 in total (commission). We also raised £371.26 for Children in Need. Well done!



TERM DATES

Term Dates 2017-2018

Term 1

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

Term 2

Mon 30th Oct to Fri 15th Dec

Term 3

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

Term 4

Mon 19th Feb to Fri 23rd March

Term 5

Mon 9th April to Fri 25th May

Term 6

Mon 4th Jun to Mon 23rd July 2018 (school closed Tues 24th 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!

Staff News:

Our warm congratulations go to the following staff: Mrs Triggles on the arrival of her baby boy, Carter T. Mrs Knowles on the arrival of her baby girl Elsie. Our school population is growing!



Christmas Concert:

December 12th at St Cuthbert's Church:

The following children are performing – Y4, Y5 & Y6 choir, Y4, Y5 & Y6 recorders, instrumentalists including guitar/keyboard/woodwind/violin players. Recorder players should have music and instruments in school every day from now until the concert. Other instrumentalists will be rehearsing before the concert and should come suitably prepared.

The concert starts at 7.00 pm. Children should arrive by 6.30pm to have instruments tuned. School Uniform should be worn. The concert should last about an hour.



Friends' Events:

KS2 Children's Shopping Day- 8th December.

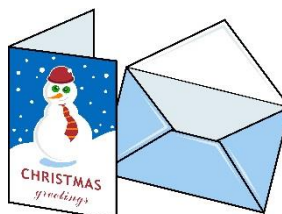
The Friends have organised an event for junior children to buy small gifts e.g. for parents, siblings and grandparents. We suggest children bring no more than £4 in pound coins or small change. Please DO NOT send a £5 note. Staff will be on hand to help with buying presents and giving change.



On the infant site the Friends organise a visit and a present for children from Father Christmas and fund the entertainer. We feel these are age appropriate activities.

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- 12th January after drop off on the infant site



Christmas Cards

As an ecologically aware school we are keen to do our bit to reduce the amount of waste produced at Christmas.

Don't forget to send your one card for the class Christmas Card Tree. We are not stopping individuals from sending cards if they really want to but this is an alternative to the mass writing of cards. Thanks.

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.



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.



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- as you know we are a very large primary school and being split over two sites means we don't have a large enough hall to ever get together in one place. Our Carol Concert at St Cuthbert's has become a bit of a Christmas tradition where we all get together and this year we are fortunate enough to have been welcomed back on 1st December. Unfortunately (if that's the right word!) we are such a large community that the church was absolutely packed last year just with children and a few adult helpers so we are unable to invite parents to come and join the service. However, if you are really keen to get involved then we do need a couple of parents from each class to help us walk down and supervise children whilst in the church and walk back. Please see your class teacher to volunteer to help out. I'm afraid it's standing room only for helpers.

Permission is covered in the general local visits sheet but if you haven't returned that yet please do so this week. If you wish to withdraw your child on religious grounds please see the Head Teacher so alternative arrangements can be made to stay in school.

Children should NOT be kept at home as alternative education is provided.



Rights Action Group

'Next week the Rights Action Group will be holding our famous film night once again. The children voted for Paddington. This was the favourite by a long way! Don't forget to get your tickets by Friday 1st Dec at £3 each. This will include popcorn and a cup drink. We are having fun whilst fundraising for Caring at Christmas this year - a Bristol charity that helps the homeless which is particularly important as the days are getting colder. Don't forget your PJs! '

Christmas Concerts

Parents/carers are invited to attend one of the following Christmas performances. Arrangements for tickets will be sent out later.



5th Dec 1.30pm YR performance (Robin, Rabbit and Red Panda)

5th Dec 2.30pm Key Stage 1 performance (Octopus, Owl, Otter, Toucan, Tiger and Tamarin)

6th Dec 9.30am YR performance (Robin, Rabbit and Red Panda)

6th Dec 10.30am Key Stage 1 performance (Octopus, Owl, Otter, Toucan, Tiger and Tamarin)

6th Dec 2pm and 6pm Year 4 performance (Flamingo, Fox, Falcon). The 6pm performance only is open to all ages.

7th Dec 9.30am Key Stage 1 performance (Octopus, Owl, Otter, Toucan, Tiger and Tamarin)

Christmas Concert- Y4-Y6 musicians at St Cuthbert's Church- 12th December, at 7pm - all ages welcome.

Please note the performances DURING SCHOOL HOURS are NOT suitable for pre-school children as the children have worked hard to learn their parts and we want them to be heard. We will run a crèche but need some parent volunteers to work with staff. If you can volunteer to help in one of the crèche sessions please come in and sign up at the office.

We do not charge entry to the school concerts but there will be a collection bucket on the way out if you wish to make a donation to charity (money will not go to the school). Thank you.

Child Safety - As in previous years anyone performing in plays/concerts may be photographed by parents during the performance and whilst we hope parents will be mindful of where they put photos of children, the school has no say in where photos end up. If you don't want your child in any photos then they cannot perform in the play and we will make arrangements for them to stay with another year group during the performances so they are safe. Please see your class teacher if you need your child to be kept from public view.



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**



Christmas Dinners 12th December -Juniors and 14th December – Infants.

Please can junior parents make sure they read the separate junior letter and book and pay for Christmas lunch by Friday 1st December. Thank you.

It is anticipated that the majority of children in KS1 will be served a Christmas dinner. It will be helpful if infant parents let us know if their children are definitely NOT having a hot Christmas Dinner.

If children really don't want a Christmas dinner they can bring a packed lunch and decorate their lunch boxes on both sites.



'News Flash' from the Friends: The Christmas Fayre was well attended on Friday, with lots of exciting stalls. Santa was extremely popular in his grotto and he kept his elves very busy entertaining all the waiting children. We can reveal that the amount raised was a fabulous £1,171.80! We are well on the way to hitting our iPad fundraiser target of £5,800. Thank you to all those that organised, helped and supported this event.

We are delighted to inform you that Mr Jones has been invited to do some work with the Department for Education in London on Monday 11th to Wednesday 13th December. This is a wonderful opportunity for Mr Jones to gain an insight into some of the work the DfE do and also promotes the good practice that takes place at our school.



Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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