

Thursday 8th June 2017 Number 1, Term 6

Dear Parents/Carers



Staff are starting to prepare new class lists for next year as ALL the classes will be mixed up. We try to put children with a friend and split up those who don't work well together. This is a complex task as classes also need to remain balanced with even numbers of girls and boys of different abilities. Staff ask the children to name a couple of friends that they try to put them with **BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE THAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE WITH THEIR FRIENDS.** If you want to speak to teachers it is best to approach them now rather than later. I realise this can be an anxious time, usually more so for parents than children! We find the children are actually very adaptable and make new friends quickly in September so please don't worry. Making new friends is an important life skill and we find moving the children round can balance friendship groups better.

Term Dates 2016-2017

Term 6

Monday 5th June 2017 to Thursday 20th July 2017
INSET day – Friday 21st July 2017.



School Dinners

Please note that the cost of a school dinner will increase to £2.05 with effect from 1st June 2017.



INFANT SPORTS' DAY 10th July:

We are looking for volunteers to help on **Infant Sports' Day**. Please let your class teacher know if you are able to help. Children will need to have their PE kit in school on that day. Parents are invited to watch their children in the main playground at the following times:

9.15-10.15 Year 2 (Toucan, Tiger, Tamarin)
10.30-11.30 Year 1 (Octopus, Otter, Owl)
1.30-2.30 Reception (Robin, Rabbit, Red Panda)

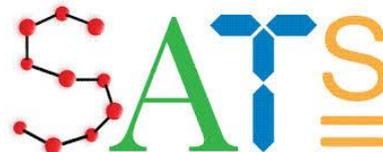
As space is limited please leave the playground quickly when your class finishes so other year groups may come and watch. Arrangements are weather dependent!



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

What's Happening

KS2 Sports' Day 16th June- see separate letter
KS1 Sports' Day 9th June- see below for details
12th June- 1.45-2.45pm Reception Grandparents' visit.
15.6.17 Friends' Coin Line
19th June Science Week
20th June- Y4-6 Summer Concert, 6.30pm Upper Hall
20th June- Kwik Cricket Competition
23th June Y5 NSPCC workshop
30th June- Friends' infant site face painting
1st July Friends' Summer Fayre on junior site
7th July Heritage Day
7th July Y3 –recorder concert in middle hall.
11th July- Open Day
12th July- Y6 performance
14th July Spanish Day
19th July- Y2- Moving Up Assembly, 9.10am
20th July- Y6- Leavers' Assembly, 9.20am



KS1 and KS2 SATs Well done to our Y2s and Y6s. I am very proud of the calm and sensible way in which the children worked during the SATs. There were some very hard questions but your children were incredibly good at keeping focussed and doing their very best. We are extremely proud of their efforts regardless of the outcomes. The results of tests and teacher assessments will be sent out at the end of term.

The Year 1 Phonics Check and Y2 re-check will be administered in the week beginning 12th June.



Class Assemblies:

Thursday 22nd June 9.10am Red Panda-Infant Hall

Thursday 29th June 9.10am Robin-Infant Hall

Thursday 6th July 9.10am Rabbit-Infant 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. If everyone who uses the crèche volunteers to help out in a different one then we have plenty of helpers. Please put your name forward at either office if you can help.



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 6th Jun to Mon 23rd July (school closed Tues 24th July for INSET)
School will close for all BANK Holidays as normal.



Normally at this time of year we send out a parent/carer questionnaire. This year we are asking parent/carers to fill in the OFSTED online questionnaire instead as the questions are very similar to what we would ask you anyway. You can find the survey on the OFSTED website. Thanks for your help.



Governors' Corner: The finance and staffing governors met last week to discuss next year's budget. You will no doubt have heard in the national press about how cuts are really starting to affect schools. Whilst we are able to set a budget for next year we are planning cuts so we are not in deficit budget the following year. For more details see the separate letter from governors and raise your concerns with local MPs.



The Friends are organising the Summer Fayre on 1st July and will need volunteers to organise stalls, the raffle, food and setting up and clearing away afterwards. Please see Jonty, the chair of the Friends, or leave a message in the Friends box in the infant Link if you can help.

English for Speakers of Other Languages.



Come and join our friendly classes to help improve your English for life in Bristol. Learn to speak with confidence to your doctor, school, employer and other people. The course is being run at Holymead Primary School (junior site) and will run every Thursday from 27th April until 20th July, from 1pm to 3pm. To book a place call the office on 0117 9030377.



Summer Concert

Our musicians and choir invite you to their Summer Concert in the Upper Hall on 20th June at 6.30pm. Entry will be by ticket only. Tickets will be available shortly! Please make sure your child comes back to school in school uniform for the evening concert. Thank you.

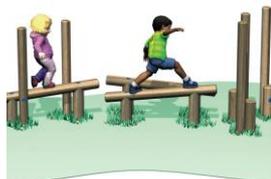
School Trousers. Do you have any small sized school trousers in good condition, hanging around at home, that are no longer required? If so, the school office on the infant site would love to have them. We are running very short at present on our supply of spare school trousers (black or grey please). Subsequently, if you have borrowed some school trousers and you still have them at home, please can we ask that you wash and return them as soon as possible. Thank you.



Summer Uniform- summer dresses are purple or blue check. NO pink, yellow or any other colour. Pupils may wear **black or grey** school shorts. Casual/sports shorts are **not** suitable for school. Sensible sandals that hold a child's feet securely may be worn in fine weather. Sandals should be black, navy, dark purple or white- again **no** pink or other colours. Please remember hair styles and accessories should be sensible and conducive to learning. Small bows are acceptable, large ones get in the way. Pupils should NOT wear trainers or jewellery (except in agreed circumstances).

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.

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**



We are very pleased to announce that over the holidays there was some new playground equipment installed in the junior site playground. The money was part funded by the school and part by the Friends' Group. **Please note the equipment is for use during school time only and children should not be playing on it before or after school. Thank you.**



Friends' Activities -Coin Line 15.6.17

This year we are asking parents to help raise money for school funds by organising a Coin line. This is in response to suggestions following our previous copper and silver lines. We are, therefore, requesting that children collect silver and/or copper coins. The children will then lay out the coins and measure their lines. The class with the longest line wins the trophy. We will carry out the activity in June so recommend children start saving their coins now! All legal tender coins welcome! Thanks.



Choosing Secondary Schools

Choosing the right secondary education for your child can be a difficult process and of course you want what is right for your child. I thought parents may be interested to see the final destinations of our current Year Sixes. Our pupils are going off to 14 different destinations at the time of writing. What I'd like parents to take from this information is that you have an extremely wide choice of schools to choose from if your child attends Holymead Primary School.

Here are the schools and numbers of children anticipating going there: Hayesfield Girls' School, Bath (3), Broadlands (19), St Mary Redcliffe and Temple CE (3), Oasis John Williams (1), Bristol Cathedral Choir School (12), Oasis Brislington (23), John Cabot Academy (1), Oldfield, Bath (9), St Bernadette's Catholic Secondary (4), Ashton Park School (1), Wellsway (2), Henbury (1), Chew Valley (1) and Orchard School (1).

We wish our pupils good luck wherever they are going to secondary school!



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.

Staff moving classes. For those of you who know the school you will know that teachers and LSAs are employed to work throughout the whole age range and regularly move about through different year groups. Staff are expected to move around the age ranges to become competent at teaching all ages. I am keen to dispel the myth that staff who move from Reception to Y6 are getting promoted and those who move from Y6 to reception are getting demoted!! As staff will be moving around (in September) I think they would be dismayed to think parents considered a change of age range as a promotion or demotion. It is not. This is simply part of the cycle of moving around and keeping staff up to date with ways of teaching in all the age ranges.



Percy Smith Galas

This year the Percy Smith Galas have been so close with only a few points separating the five teams.



The final gala will be on 14th June. This is just before our trip to Sheffield to participate in the 23rd ESSA Primary Schools Team Championships. We will be taking our year 6 boys and girls relay teams to race. Good Luck to all those participating at Sheffield.

By Adam and Nia.



Holymead Diversity Group.

A group has been set up to represent different cultures within the school. The group meets to discuss ways in which diversity can be celebrated throughout the school. It also gives parents and children opportunities to learn about the different cultures within our community. Parents and carers can become involved by volunteering or attending meetings. Our next meeting is on 12th June at 9.10 am on the infant site. If you would like to join the group, please contact the school office and a member of the group will contact you.



Reminder. Please can we respectfully remind Parents/Carers that with school budget reductions occurring, we have to scrutinise our school expenditure more than ever. We would really appreciate if you could manage your child's school dinner money account more vigilantly and ensure that it is always in credit, rather than arrears.

With regards to trips, camps, cooking and music payments, we are not in a position to subsidise these payments any further. If your child has been booked into receive music tuition for example, you will be required to make these payments even if your child chooses not to attend.

Your continued support is much appreciated. Should you wish to discuss this further please speak to either Mrs Buckley, the School Business Manager or Mrs Holland, the School Bursar. Thank you.

Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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