

Dear Parents and Carers



We were delighted to be listed in the Top 10 primary schools in Bristol in the Bristol Post's news recently. Further information is available on the Post's website. Thank you to parents for your positive comments following this announcement.

Reception children have been thoroughly enjoying their topic on space, including a visit to the space dome. The team who provided the dome were very impressed by our children's knowledge of space and how well they behaved during the experience. Well done YR!

Class Assemblies-

Tawny Owl-

Tuesday 5th Feb- middle hall

Salamander- Tues 5th Feb- upper 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.



Governors' Corner.

We are currently holding a parent governor election. If you are interested in finding out more about what being a governor entails please come and talk to me or Mrs Buckley.



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.



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

What's Happening

January

Y6 Arnos Vale cemetery walks

Y6 Boys' football starts 10.1.19

Y2 SAT's Meeting 24.1.19 at 3.20pm

February

Number Day- whole school 1.2.19

Y6 WW2 Day 8.2.19

Y3 Times Table Parents' Meeting 7.2.19 at 3.30pm

The last day of Term 3 is Thursday 14th

February. (Friday 15th is INSET)

Term 4 starts on MONDAY 25th February.



Times Tables Rockstars. This is a times tables app for tablets or website access to support children in recalling their times tables fluently. Pupils from Y2 to Y6 should be accessing this regularly. As you are aware, learning times tables is a very important skill for children to be able to succeed in maths. Children in Year 2 to Year 6 can log in using their password, and access a range of games to upgrade their "Rock Star" status and earn points to upgrade their online avatar. You can download (FREE) Times Tables Rock Stars in the App Store for your device (iOS/Android) or visit the website trockstars.com

Y3 will be explaining more about Times Tables in their parents' meeting on 7.2.19 at 3.30pm in the middle hall.



Sweets and treats. We are a healthy eating school and we do NOT allow sweets in school. This includes for packed lunches and birthday treats as well. We prefer it if parents do not send cakes or sweets at all on children's birthdays as there are many different dietary, religious and cultural observances in school. Please keep birthday treats to have at home. If you really feel you must bring something then please send BISCUITS only that can be given out as children leave the classroom for parents to check.

Any sweets will be handed back to parents.



Concerned parents have requested that parents parking outside the school kindly switch off their engines while parked to reduce exhaust emissions round both sites. Thank you for your consideration.



Friends' Events:

The Friends' Group are organising a cake sale on the junior site on 13th Feb at 3.20pm on the theme of Valentine's Day. We are always grateful for donations of cakes to be sold. Please bring any fresh cakes after Monday 11th. Thank you.

29.3.19 Friends' Spring Sale on the junior site after school. Spot a possible Mother's Day gift!

Next Friends' Meeting is 1.3.19 after drop off on the infant site.



Parent's Evening

Parents' Evenings will take place on 28th March and 3rd April for infants (YR, Y1 and Y2) and 27th March and 4th April for juniors (Y3-Y6).

Details to follow. These meetings are not suitable for children to attend.

Please do not bring children to school for Parents' Evenings as there is no crèche and the school will not be supervising children.

Staff run clubs will not run during Parents' Evenings as teachers will obviously be in parents' meetings.



TERM DATES

Term Dates 2018- 2019

Term 1

(Mon 3rd September 2018 CLOSED -INSET)

Open Tues 4th Sept for KS1 and KS2

Wed 5th Sept 2018 for new Reception

to Fri 26th October

Term 2

Mon 5th Nov to Fri 21st Dec

Term 3

Mon 7th Jan 2019 to Thurs 14th Feb 2019 (Fri 15th closed for INSET)

Term 4

Mon 25th Feb to Fri 5th April 2019

Term 5

Wed 24th April to Fri 24th May 2019 (Tues 23rd INSET)

Term 6

Mon 3rd June to Fri 19th July 2019 (22nd, 23rd INSET)

School will close for all BANK Holidays as normal.



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 and on the school website.

Y6 SATs' Revision Workbooks:



In response to requests from parents we are once again selling Y6 SATs revision workbooks for maths and English (Reading, Grammar, Punctuation & spelling, Arithmetic and reasoning). These workbooks cover the Y6 curriculum and help children practise the skills that they have been taught over the year. They have proved very popular in the past and enable parents to support their children not only in preparing for the SATs tests, but securing the skills that children will need as they make the transition to secondary school. These workbooks are now available to purchase from the school office and cost £3.00 each or you can purchase the whole set of four books for £10.00. Thank you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 FOR A HOLIDAY 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.

PLEASE FILL IN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM IN ADVANCE OF TAKING YOUR CHILD OUT. YOU CAN STILL BE FINED IF YOU DON'T FILL OUT A FORM.

Spare Clothes- we are very short of girls' socks and tights and larger size trousers for changing children. If you have spare clothing suitable for changing children when they have accidents please send them to the office. If your child is changed in school please wash and return any borrowed clothing. Thank you.



Dinner money accounts:



Please can we remind you that the cost of **school dinners increased to £2.10 with effect from 5th November 2018.**

All dinner money accounts must be kept in credit at all times. Automatic reminders will be sent to those accounts that are in arrears. Any accounts that are more than £10.00 in arrears, school policy procedures will be adhered to and an email will be sent asking that a packed lunch be provided until such time as the arrears are cleared in FULL.

Please note that we will not accept payment for one meal (and provide a meal that day) where there are existing arrears on the account. All arrears must be cleared in full, before a school dinner will be provided.

PLEASE!! NOTE

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.



Reminder. Please note the school does not accept any liability for items brought in from home including mobile phones.

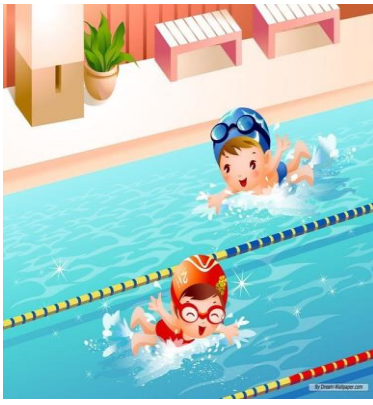
Please remind your child they are not allowed to bring any toys or games including swapping cards and clip on toys on bags. The only exception is for Y6 who are allowed to bring pencil cases. Thank you.



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.



Percy Smith Gala, Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Last night's gala was a great success. Holymead achieved their highest points total of the season. There were standout performances from Iris, Louis, Olivia and Amy, who all won races.

A special mention to Saul who participated in his first gala and represented the school at late notice.

Well done to all of our swimmers, who continue to support the school with an excellent attitude.

The next Percy Smith gala is on 13th March 2019.



Diversity Group meeting.

The Diversity group is a group of parents and carers who meet to discuss celebrating and raising awareness of cultural diversity in our school community. Our next meeting will take place on tomorrow (Friday 25th January) at 9am in the Library on the Junior Site in Wick Road. Anyone interested in joining us would be warmly welcomed with a hot drink and refreshments. If you would like further information please contact Mrs Cole through the school. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible



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.



KS2 school camps. Both the Year 4 and the Year 6 camp preparations are in full swing and parents can continue to pay for these camps using the online ParentMail facility. Payments can be made in instalments of your choice but please can we ask you to adhere to the payment plans, which were document on the original letters of interest and signed by yourselves on receipt of the deposit payments.

If you have any payment queries please do not hesitate to contact our school bursar Mrs Holland. Thank you.

Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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