

Dear Parents/Carers

TOMORROW-on 7th July we are holding a Heritage Day. We are a school with a rich diversity of backgrounds, family history and cultures and this day is an opportunity to celebrate that. We are saying children don't have to wear school uniform as they can wear something that shows their heritage and background. That may be wearing the everyday clothes they wear at weekends or to special family events or items of traditional clothing. We are also asking children to bring something to share with their classmates. This may be an item that tells a story of achievement or past experience from your family heritage. Please don't send fragile or highly sentimental items that are irreplaceable as children could accidentally break things. Photos of special objects would be better in this case. The diversity group have asked for parent volunteers to contact Mrs Cole (SENCO) if they would like to cook and bring in food to sample. As children may have allergies PLEASE fill in the slip in the separate letter with your 50p (to cover ingredient costs) to school. As a Rights Respecting School we want to promote our ethos of respect for all and provide an opportunity to learn more about each other. We want this to be a celebration for ALL our pupils.



Term Dates 2016-2017

Term 6

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



Infant Disco 18th July:



There is a charge for entry (see Friends' letter). You will need your ticket to get in on the evening. Drink included. As previously, Reception staff and Friends will help change reception classes and take them to the

disco so parent/carers don't need to come to school until after the disco.

Reception - 3.15pm - 4.00pm.

Year 1 - 4.15pm - 5.00pm.

Year 2 - 5.15pm - 6.00pm.

Please drop children off at the Main Entrance and pick up afterwards in the Pencil Playground, except for **Red Panda Class, Otter Class and Tamarin Class** who need to be picked up from outside Tamarin classroom by their steps near the hall.

What's Happening

7th July Heritage Day

7th July Y3 –recorder concert in middle hall.

10th July- Shuffle Up to new classes

11th July- Open Day

11th July- Y2 moving to Y3 Parent Meeting

12th July- Y6 performance 1.30pm and 6.30pm

14th July Spanish Day

19th July- Y2- Moving Up Assembly, 9.10am

20th July- Y6- Leavers' Assembly, 9.20am

School Reports will be sent out in early July. Parents need to collect their reports in person or send a signed note naming a trusted adult to collect it on their behalf. Please can parents let the office know if a second copy needs to be sent elsewhere.



Reception Reports (Foundation Stage) - parents will receive their children's diaries which contain comprehensive details of your child's achievements over the year. A short summary report is sent home to highlight your child's strengths and areas for development.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 - parents will receive a report detailing their child's progress and achievements, with targets which parents may be able to support their child with.

There will be a **feedback sheet** enclosed with the reports which needs to be signed and sent back to class teachers so we know you have received them.

Attendance- please note that attendance is calculated in half days. So if the report shows 6 absences then your child has been off school for the equivalent of 3 days. This is because the register is called twice a day (once in the morning and once in the afternoon) so pupils get 2 possible attendance marks each day.



Tuesday 11th July 2.50pm Fox- Middle Hall

Tuesday 11th July 2.50pm Firefly- 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. If everyone who uses the crèche volunteers to help out in a different one then we have plenty of helpers.

Phonics
ee ur ow
wh y au

Congratulations Year 1 and those in Y2 who did their Phonics Check. We are very pleased with how well the children have worked to learn their phonics.

Parents will get results at the end of the year. Any children who haven't passed the check are already having interventions to help them learn the sounds they don't know and this will continue into next year. Teachers are happy to share ideas of how to practise phonics at home so please ask.



A big THANK YOU to all the Friends and staff who helped with the Summer Fayre last Saturday. We hope you enjoyed the event.

Friends' Meeting 13th July, 2pm, junior site.

Staff News

Sadly we will be saying good bye to the following staff this year:

Miss Thornton in Tawny Owl, Miss L Phillips in Tiger, Mrs Lovell SMSA and Mr Stolarczyk.

We wish them well in the future and thank them for all their hard work.

We welcome Miss Morris, Miss Norrington and Miss Powell to join our staff team.



Reminder to Parents: With two weeks to go until the end of term, please can we remind parents to ensure that all dinner money accounts are either left in credit or at zero at the start of the summer break. All camp deposits for 2018, trip money, music tuition fees, disco money and after school club money must be received before the end of the summer term, in order to allow for accounts to be reconciled and closed for the end of the academic year. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



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 2018 (school closed Tues 24th July for INSET)

School will close for all BANK Holidays as normal.



Governors' Corner: The Health and Safety governors met this week and looked at the accident and reporting books and walked round the junior site checking for health and safety issues that may need dealing with.



Friends' Activities -Coin Line

Thank to everyone who sent in contributions to the coin line. The infant site coin lines raised £259.29 and the junior site coin lines raised £276.00. That is a grand total of £535.29 raised for the school. Well done to everyone!



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**



Please note the outdoor equipment on both sites is for use during school time only and children should not be playing on it before or after school. Thank you.

Staff are preparing 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.



Open Day Tuesday 11th July - the school invites current and prospective parents to look round both sites. This will be an opportunity to meet the teachers and look at the classrooms your child will be moving to in September. The infant site will be open at 9.10-10.00am, 1.00-2.00pm and 3.20-4.20pm. Parents who have children currently in Key Stage 1 will be shown around by their children (please make sure they are registered first). I will be doing conducted tours for prospective parents. The junior site will be open at

10.00-11.00am, 2.00-2.50pm and 3.20-4.20pm. Y6 ambassadors will be showing current parents round. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will need to stay in class (as Key Stage 2 learning is more structured and less fluid than learning in Key Stage 1).

If you are concerned and wish to discuss your child's report (which you will have by then) then the OPEN EVENING session from 3.20-4.20pm is a good time to do this. (Please ring the office to make an appointment with the class teacher).



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.

Shuffle Up Day On the afternoon of 10th July all children will shuffle up to their new classes to meet their new teachers. This includes Y2 going up to the juniors and new Reception children coming into school. This is the day parent/carers are informed which class their children will be in. No changes to classes can be made once the class lists are put up on the doors so please talk to teachers NOW.

Y2 transition to Y3. As part of our transition programme to get children ready for Y3 we have been taking them to visit the junior site where they have a buddy to tell them what it is like in Key Stage 2.

We are also holding a short meeting with Y2 parents to welcome you to Y3 on the evening of 11th July at 6pm in the Upper Hall.

Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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