

# April Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you had a lovely Easter break and had an opportunity to spend time with your loved ones.

Over the holiday I was able to visit my family and in particular spend time each day visiting my mother. My mum is 91 and she is now in a nursing home with severe dementia. She does not know what day it is or where she is, but each day I saw her she asked me the same question, 'How are all the children?' On one of the days I asked her if she knew what job I did. To my amazement, she said to me very firmly, 'You are the teacher!'. I was really delighted that she remembered that, which is obviously why she asked me about the children each day. My parents were so proud that I became a teacher and I hope my mum still realises how much I love my job and how lucky I feel to be the head of such a wonderful school with fantastic children, staff and governors.

We are now moving into the summer term with warmer weather and lighter nights and mornings, which I really look forward to. I can't wait to start cycling to school again.

As always, the children have come back to school incredibly positive and happy. They are a credit to you all. On 16th April we found out who the new EYFS intake would be for September 2024 and as always we have filled our 60 places.

In the next few weeks our Year 6 pupils will be doing their SATs exams. They have been working incredibly hard and I would like to wish them all good luck.

Mrs S Bardetti  
Headteacher



**23rd April St George's Day Assembly led by UKS2 pupils**

## **Are you interested in being a teacher?**

If you are interested in becoming a teacher and you have a degree, why not go along to the drop-in coffee morning to find out more. This is being held between **10am-12noon** on:

**Saturday 27th April @ Tending Education Centre,**  
Jaywick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 8BE.

### **Can you help?**

The week beginning the **16th June**, Year 6 will be participating in a **Careers Week**. See our website for previous years. <http://www.hollandhavenschool.co.uk/careers-weeks.html>

If you are able to **spare any time to talk about your job**, please contact the school office by phone or email following this link on the school website - we would love to hear from you.

<http://www.hollandhavenschool.co.uk/contact-us1.html>

We would also love to invite families into school to **share with us how you practise aspects of your faith** in order for our pupils to learn, understand, and celebrate differences in our school community as part of their Religious and Citizenship Education.

### **Eco Star in the Community**

At Holland Haven, we have an active Eco Council which consists of two members of our Governing Board. Children think about global citizenship and climate awareness through their assemblies and learning themes, for example, The Seaside KS1 (ocean pollution), Minibeasts KS1 (bee conservation) Rainforests LKS2 (forest conservation) and Australia UKS2 and Around the World UKS2 (global citizenship).

We were delighted to receive a letter from a member of the community praising one of our pupils, Jackson, for his efforts in the neighbourhood to recycle! He is also passing this responsibility, and love, on to his young sibling. Well done Jackson!

### **Safeguarding**

If you have any concerns about safeguarding of our pupils at Holland Haven school please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSLs) by phone (01255 813704), in person or by email ([admin@hollandhaven.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hollandhaven.essex.sch.uk)).

DSL- Mrs S Bardetti - Headteacher

Deputy DSLs :

Mrs C Humphrey Deputy Headteacher

Miss A Wilson - Deputy Headteacher and SENCo

Mrs D Blundell - Learning Mentor and Attendance Officer

Mrs A Cardy- KS1 Phase Leader and Mental Health Lead

All safeguarding concerns will be investigated.

The following policies can be found on our School website:

Child Protection Policy

Follow: Information and Policy - policies

<http://www.hollandhavenschool.co.uk/>

### **Spelling Progress**

Well done to all pupils regularly practising their spellings at home on the online school-account Ed Shed (Spelling Shed) - login details are in your child's small red A5 Home School Book.

The government expectation is that pupils will complete Spelling Set 1 by the end of Year 2, Spelling Set 2 by the end of Year 4 and Spelling Set 3 by the end of Year 6.

At the beginning of this academic year, a significant proportion of pupils were not on track to meet these requirements and so we improved the existing system of half-termly testing of the individualised Home School Book spellings to include these words in the online Spelling Shed games. We also discontinued the word patterns lists that were previously shared as additional homework so families could just focus on these statutory words. The patterns continue to be taught and explored in school.

We are now seeing great progress where pupils are practising both the patterns and words in school, and these personalised spellings at home online.

Please let your class teacher know if you have any questions or need support accessing Ed Shed. We have attached the information letter again at the end of this newsletter. Although there is only 1 homework activity-week allocated to spellings (and times tables) in order to provide a protected opportunity for this learning, pupils are encouraged to practise little and often in between as well.

Thank you for your support.

### **Staff Car Park and Parking**

The school car park is a private car park for staff **ONLY**. Please could I ask that parents **do not** park in the school car park.

Please may we remind parents not to park on the grass verges or on double yellow lines. Also, could you please respect our neighbours and do not park over their drives. Thank you.

### **Attendance**

If you leave a voice message that your child is not feeling well and will not be attending school, the school office may follow this up with a call back to you. If there is no response to the call, we will request a home visit from the Aquinas team.

We will require as much information as possible about your child's illness. If your child has antibiotics prescribed, please can you send us a screenshot of them and if you have a doctor's appointment, please can you send a screenshot of the appointment booking.

Family holidays will **NOT** be authorised.

Overall attendance is 94.7% Ofsted expect at least 95% attendance so we are currently just below this figure. Please help us improve our attendance by making sure your child is in school every day.

### **New Attendance Raffle and Rewards**

Each week, if a pupil has been in school 100% they will receive a raffle ticket. This ticket is placed in a key stage draw. At each half term, a ticket will be drawn from the KS2 box and also from the KS1/EYFS box. The **two** pupils drawn in the raffles will each receive a **£20 Amazon voucher**. The March draw took place on 28th March and the winners were Toby Swift and Bella Birkett. Well done!

Class attendance will also be rewarded each term. The class with the highest attendance will have a 'treat afternoon' which the class will choose with the class teacher.

04.09.23-24.03.24

Class	Attendance
RBa	94.0%
RBe	93.5%
1F	95.7%
1BP	95.4%
2CW	94.6%
2HP	96.9%
3HP	93.6%
3G	94.8%
4V	94.3%
4C	93.0%
5KH	93.3%
5AH	96.0%

6H	93.8%
6D	95.0%

**Well done 2HP !**

### **Website**

Please see our new Creative Curriculum pages on our school website regarding all subject areas and termly phase-themes. <https://www.hollandhavenschool.co.uk/the-creative-curriculum.html>

**Reader, Writer, Mathematician, Scientist, Historian, Geographer, Designer, Artist, Musician, Citizen,  
Linguist, Sportsperson**

**Computing: Digital User, Programmer and E-Safety**

**Religiously Literate through Thinking through Believing, Thinking and Living**



### **Governors' Corner**

How do you get your child to school in the mornings? Chances are that you either walk, cycle or take them in the car. I would like to tell you about some interesting research which shows that parents who walk or cycle are likely to report greater levels of satisfaction and better mental health than those who use a car.

The benefits of exercise are obvious and inspired by this research, a headteacher friend of mine in Spain, brought in a points system to encourage parents who did use a car, to park some distance away and to complete the last part of the journey on foot. This is, of course, the right time of year to try this as it takes a little longer to walk and in the mornings you are always pushed for time. In Clacton there is plenty of space on the seafront so you can park easily and it is possible to walk the last part of your journey on foot.

I have to admit that I was delighted about the research.

I also asked my own child (who is now in his 40s) what he enjoyed most about his time at primary school at Chingford C of E and "I remember walking to school. That was the best bit."

was his reply.

**Andrew Dunnett**

### **SEND News**

The Community & Family Learning Team (ACL) have set up SEND support for Parents & Carers sessions commencing in April 2024. These include online sessions as well as face to face.

Look out for these posters around school and scan the QR code to sign up.

**ACL** COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING

FREE  
**'SEND Support for Parents & Carers'  
Meet Ups**

Join like minded people who understand!

Can I attend if my child hasn't got a diagnosis yet?  
**YES!**

Share your experiences, views & gain advice

SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)

Chelmsford Harlow Colchester Basildon Online Online

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP, OR CHOSE THE OPTIONS BELOW

call our friendly team on **0345 603 7635** Search 'Family Learning' at **aclessex.com** **ACL** Essex County Council

Chelmsford Harlow Colchester Basildon Online Online

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### **Essex Highways**

Essex Highways are currently recruiting for a Bikeability/Cycling Instructor. Follow the link for more information.

<https://workingforessex.com/apply/cycle-training-instructor-14375?source=workingforessex.com>

### **PTA Corner**

Here we are, the summer term! It's always amazing how quickly the time goes. But with lighter nights and the hint of warmer weather it's always a good one.

We have had a great year so far with fundraising and have been able to provide some additional funds to the school for extras for the children and we hope to continue our fundraising efforts this term.

Our shop will be back for Fathers' Day on the 6th & 7th June; full details will be sent out soon.

We are also now into full planning for the summer fair which will be happening on Saturday 6th July between 11am and 3pm. We are hoping to bring another amazing day full of fun for all the family.

We are also putting together our summer raffle and hope to make this as amazing as ever with some great prizes already secured.

If you can help in any way, please let us know, maybe you can help with planning, running a stall on the day, or maybe you can donate a prize to the raffle. Please email [ptachair@hollandhavenschool.co.uk](mailto:ptachair@hollandhavenschool.co.uk) or come along to our next meeting.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 9th May after school in the DT room. We would love to be able to run more events this term, but without your help we simply can't.

We can't wait to see you soon.

**Sam and the Friends of Holland Haven Committee.**

### **Dates for the Diary**

#### **April 2024**

#### **May 2024**

6th Bank Holiday Monday  
13-16th Year 6 SATS week  
27th- 31st Half Term

#### **June 2024**

Year 1 and 2 Phonics Screening week  
6th & 7th Fathers Day Shop  
12th Whole school photo + Class photos