

# March Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The Easter break is almost upon us. I am hoping that during the holiday period we will get a bit of sunshine! Over the past two terms we have been working with our governors to demonstrate how well our curriculum is working. Governors have observed lessons, looked at pupils' books and they have spoken to pupils about their learning. Our recent Peer Review demonstrated that pupils learning behaviour and general behaviour are exemplary. Presentation is a strength and the amount of progress made in lessons is excellent. It is always good to hear such positive comments from colleagues.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Birt for her two school lunch taster evenings during parents' evenings. We hope that it gives you the opportunity to sample the pupils' school meals so that you know what your children are having for lunch .

On 20th March, EYFS had Gemma's Farm come to visit the school. This was paid for with the money the PTA gives each phase for school visits and trips. It was a fantastic day and everyone, including me, thoroughly enjoyed it. The children were shown how the animals are taken care of and they all had opportunities to do this themselves by feeding and brushing etc.

Our duck has once again returned to our school library courtyard this year, so I have no doubt that, after Easter, the children will be able to keep an eye on them until 'We Care Wildlife' comes to collect them to take them to a more suitable surrounding.

I hope that you have a lovely Easter break and we will see you all on Monday 15th April.

Mrs S Bardetti  
Headteacher

## RNLI

Please see the link below for information on the RNLI's new Storm Force children's App. Children can learn about water safety and saving lives at sea. Mr Bardetti has been enjoying playing on the App, as you can see in the photo below! The App is completely free.

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/storm-force-rescue>



**RNLI Clacton Lifeboat**

8 h · 🌐

**Kids (and parents too) - have you seen our latest launch? RNLI are proud to release a new game called... See more**



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>

### **Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship, Economics (PSCHE) Provision**

As part of our PSCHE provision, pupils explore Relationships and Health in their PSCHE and Science lessons. Based on current advice and schools nationally, we have amended our Year 5 and Year 6 coverage within the original policy. All lesson-content can be found on our website under Curriculum: The Creative Curriculum: PSCHE. <http://www.hollandhavenschool.co.uk/psche-provision.html>

### **Fundraising**

One of our Year 2 pupils, Ted Wigley, will be aiming to walk 15km during the Easter holidays (over several days) to raise money for the National Autistic Society. Well done Ted, what a great thing to do!

If you would like to support him you can find the link below:

<https://waaw.autism.org.uk/fundraising/tedwigley>

### **Active Essex Holiday Clubs**

Working with locally trusted organisations across the county, Essex ActivAte runs funded face to face activity clubs during the school holidays. Clubs are free for children and young people who're eligible for benefits based free school meals. We also offer limited spaces for children who are from income-related benefits households or who experience inactivity or social isolation without access to this free support. You can find out more about Essex ActivAte at

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/holiday-club/>

This is decided on a case by case basis and we recommend speaking to the organisation running the club ahead of booking on, by using the information below.

If you need further support, information or guidance regarding your HolidayActivities voucher code, reach out to the HAF lead for your local area.

## **How do I book onto a holiday club?**

If your child/ren receives or is eligible for benefit based free school meals, you will be emailed a HolidayActivities voucher code from your school

You will receive one code, per child, each holiday – each easter, summer and winter holidays, you will be sent a new code for each child

Click the green box to log in, claim your voucher and book your child directly onto a local club

If you are still waiting for a voucher code, please contact your school who should be able to provide this for you

We offer limited spaces for young people who are not eligible for benefits based free school meals, but are from 'low-income' working families, may be vulnerable and/or experience inactivity and social isolation without access to this free support

Therefore to book your child/ren onto a local club, you will not receive a Holiday Activities voucher code, and you will need to contact the club directly by finding their contact details below

### **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 94.6% 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 takes place on 28th March.

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	93.8%
RBe	93.3%
1F	95.6%
1BP	95.2%
2CW	94.5%
<b>2HP</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
3HP	93.6%
3G	94.8%
4V	94.3%
4C	92.9%
5KH	93.3%
5AH	96.0%
6H	93.6%
6D	95.1%

**Well done 2HP!**

### **UKS2 Cross Country Competition**

Well done to all of our year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in the Cross Country Running Competition at Birch Hall, Kirby on Thursday 29th March. The children had to run 1500m through heavy rain and thick mud! Congratulations to Archie Gilchrist who came 3rd in the boys year 5 race, winning a bronze medal for Holland Haven.

### **LKS2 SEN Panathlon Competition**

We are extremely proud of our year 3 and 4 pupils who took part in a sports morning at Colchester Sports Park, as part of the Panathlon Charity Foundation. Well done to: Reggie R, Isaac W, Ava L, Kurt, Tugra, Oliver R, Kaiden and Buster!

### **Scooters and Bikes**

#### **Polite reminder**

For safety reasons, at the beginning and end of the day, scooters and bikes brought on to school grounds must be **walked** to the bike-sheds, **not ridden**. Please ensure your child follows this rule. Thank you.

### **Governors' Corner**

The Governors have had another successful term supporting subject leaders to strengthen our existing creative curriculum. Part of this improvement process has included a visit from two other schools (a 'peer

review' of our choice) to support the development of maths reasoning across the year-groups. The visiting school leaders were very complimentary about our school, specifically noting the '**fantastic learning attitudes of our very well behaved children**'. A very well deserved compliment.

**Mrs Cardy**  
**Staff Governor**

### **SEND News**

#### **North East Essex Mental Health Support Team (MHST)**

The MHST are holding an informal drop-in session for parents/carers of children who attend Holland Haven, and would like to speak to someone about their child's mental health.  
We hope to be able to offer these drop in sessions regularly.

Two Mental Health Support Team Practitioners will be in the Acorn Room on the 16th April from 3:15pm - 4:30pm.

The MHST are able to offer advice on the following:

How to respond when your child feels anxious  
Managing their worries  
Coping strategies  
Problem solving  
Building their independence

To find out more about the MHST Service, follow the link below.

<https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/set-mhst-primary-school>

### **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**

Another term is over and we have had some successful events in school in the last half term.

Thank you to all the children who attended our Mothers' Day shop, helping us raise a wonderful £740. We hope you all enjoyed your gifts.

We also run our silent Easter disco, everyone who attended seemed to have a lovely time, we are in the process of getting the totals for this and will announce via our social media page soon.

This term we have provided some Easter treats for the children in school and also purchased some new hobs and cooking equipment as well as continuing to provide additional funds to help to subsidise school trips and further enhance the children's learning experiences at school.

Our next event will be our Fathers' Day shop in June, closely followed by the summer fair which is happening on Saturday 6th July. Planning for these events has already started but we would love your help, planning, in the run up and on the day. Please come along to our next meeting at 3.30 in School on Thursday 9th May.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Friends of Holland Haven and our events and we all wish you a wonderful Easter break.

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

### **Dates for the Diary**

#### **March 2024**

28th March last day of term

#### **April 2024**

15th April First day of Summer Term