

January Newsletter 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the January newsletter.

I would like to begin this newsletter by wishing you all a very happy new year. The children have returned to school with very positive learning attitudes and they are ready to begin their new topics.

The expansion is going well and the main build should be completed by March 19.

On 11th December a group of Year 6 pupils visited the council chambers in Chelmsford to speak to the council about the need for a school crossing. They enjoyed their morning very much. The council said that they would be reviewing the crossing situation.

We have been very fortunate that one of our grandparents has offered to support Cllr Colin Sargeant with the planned crossing patrol which will, begin on 25th February. We are still hoping that we get more volunteers, so if you can spare 25 minutes at the start or end of the school day please can you get in touch with the school office.

It is crucial that as many people as possible use the crossing, when it is up and running, to show the council that it is absolutely necessary in order to keep our children safe.

Banners will also be placed on the fencing on Frinton Rd saying ' **20 is Plenty**' to encourage drivers to slow down.

I would like to thank Cllr Colin Sargeant and Mr Alan Webb who are both supporting the running of the school crossing.

Last year we had heavy snow in February. Obviously I am hoping that this is not the case this year but if we do encounter snow this winter I will only close if it is heavy snow and the minimum number of staff required can not get into school. We will contact parents via our text message service and the school website. I will also contact the Local Authority and all closed schools will be listed on their website.

S Bardetti

December's Spelling Bee!

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Spelling Bee finals before Christmas! We are extremely proud of all of you: not only have you been working very hard to learn your spellings, but you also showed great bravery by spelling some very tricky words in front of a big audience!



Key Stage 1 Finalists



Lower Key Stage 2 Finalists



Upper Key Stage 2 Finalists

Premises Manager Post

Mr Adrian Phillips, our North East Premises Group manager (NEPG), will be retiring at the end of this school year. He currently manages 20 schools in the North East of Essex. If you would be interested in finding out more about this role please use the website below to gain more information including information on applying for the post.

<https://tsconsortium.org.uk/essex/primary/tsc/site/pages/premisesmanagement>

Breakfast Club - Change of prices reminder

As from April 2019 there will be new prices for the school's **Breakfast Club**. If your child attends 5 days per week it will cost £1.80 per day and if they attend less than 5 days it will be £2.00 per day.

School uniform

Just to remind you that all pupils **must** wear school uniform. A number of pupils are still coming to school wearing trainers (not purely black) and labelled sweatshirts. These are not part of our uniform.

Improving Reading at Holland Haven

One of our agendas this year is to improve reading attainment - recognising the increasing national standards - by motivating pupils to read. At the school's request, the Friends of Holland Haven (PTA) have decided to fund £100 for each classroom's reading area so that teachers and children can design and resource an attractive, soft-furnished area in their classrooms. The Friends have also already purchased additional books for the library to ensure each AR range is fully-resourced. Resourcing the library and classrooms with up-to-date, popular books is an never-ending project and we would really appreciate your help with this. **If your child has any books at home which you think other pupils would enjoy (popular authors, recent titles, good condition) please donate them to us! Just hand them to your child's class teacher, who will be able to give them a new home in your child's classroom.**



New Multi-Media Sound System

In addition to the new reading resources mentioned above, the Friends (PTA) will also be purchasing a new multi-media sound system for the hall and replacing the old projector and screen. This will enable the hall to be used effectively as a fully-functional purpose-built area for school assemblies and performances, benefitting all pupils and parents.

Primrose Road and parking

We have, for many many years, had an agreement with parents that Primrose Rd operates a one way system at the start and end of the school day. Please could we all keep to this system because due to parked cars, the road space is very tight and accidents could very easily happen if we have two cars going in different directions. Also we have had some concerned parents reporting inconsiderate parking in Primrose Rd. Please could you not park across our neighbours' driveways.

KS2 Play and Lunchtimes - Wellies needed

Following our Learning Council trials, we are pleased to share that the changing mat system has been successful. Pupils use a foam square changing mat to sit on, on the playground, to stay dry whilst putting on their wellies and school shoes. We have purchased an outdoor storage unit for these mats out of our sport premium funding. Due to lack of playground space during the expansion, it is necessary to use the school field even in wet weather. Please could pupils bring in wellies, in a plastic bag; these pupils will then be able to use the field and Hadley Hills at play and lunchtimes and reduce the number of pupils on the playground. These are some of the benefits of physical play on Hadley Hills:

Sportsperson key skills:

- ★ Improved fitness levels
- ★ Develop co-ordination and balance
- ★ Take part in outdoor adventure activities

Designer key skills:

- ★ Choose and use equipment and materials
- ★ Explore and use structures

Personal, Social Health Education key skills:

- ★ Manage risk and stay safe
- ★ Recognise boundaries
- ★ Respect rules and be part of a community

English, Maths and Science:

- ★ Creative Role Play (loose parts)
- ★ Practical discovery within the physical environment
- ★ Language and communication
- ★ Gross motor skills (required for the upper-arm strength and co-ordination in writing)

Collection and late collection of pupils

As from January 2019 letters will be issued to parents who regularly fail to collect their children on time at 3pm. Aquinas, our attendance provider, will then arrange meetings with parents to discuss why they are not collecting their children on time. All children should be collected at 3pm from their classroom.

If a different adult is collecting your child at the end of the day you must let the school office know as soon as possible. We will not allow your child to go with an adult we are unfamiliar with without your instruction to do so.

Governor Corner

As we begin the new calendar year we welcome two new governors to the Governing Board.

At our December meeting both Mr Ti Chase and Mr Andrew Dunnnett were appointed to the Board. The children know Ti very well as will many of you. He regularly visits school, leads assembly and has joined the Board as our Local Authority Governor. Andy Dunnnett joins as a Partnership Governor. We look forward to working together to continue to provide your children with the best possible education and experiences.

This term we have two in-house training sessions for governors and the extremely important task of setting our budget for the financial year 2019-2020, as well as our usual round of committee and Full Board meetings.

Jackie Sharman
(Chair of Governors)

Dates for your diary

January

29th Young Voices Concert at O2

February

7th & 8th School Nurses in for EYFS Heights and Weights

(Class Teas are now called Class Visits)

11th 2:30pm Lower School Class Visits

12th 2:30pm Middle School Class Visits

13th 2:30 Upper School Class Visits

14th 2:30 EYFS Class Visits

18th - 25th Half-term

28th SATs meeting for parents 2.15pm