

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

Dear Parent/Carers



Christmas Shopping Night. Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Shopping Night. It was very well attended and there was a busy, bustling atmosphere. Thank you to the Friends and everyone who helped organise the event and to all those who turned out and made it such an enjoyable evening.

Blogging. Most of you will have heard about our blogging project which has excited many children. As a school we will be encouraging children to blog their work to reach a wider audience of readers. Please be reassured that blogs are controlled by teachers who read messages to check they are suitable. May I take this opportunity to remind parents to impress on their children (as we are doing in school) that they must not give out personal details like surnames and addresses online. Keep safe online.



School Tours

Mr Hough and I will be running conducted tours on the infant site on 4th January 2017 at 9am. These are for prospective parents to look round if they are looking for school places and were unable to attend Open Day.

Thank you for all your donations for the Christmas Hampers. The Friends have been busy making up the hampers and selling raffle tickets. The draw will be on 12th December.



Thank you for all your donations for Children in Need. We raised £498.90 over both sites.



WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN 1st SEPTEMBER 2012 AND 31st AUGUST 2013?

If they were, you need to be putting your child's name down at the school you wish them to attend in September 2017. If you know of friends with nursery age children please check they have applied online to the local authority. Even if you have older children at this school you must still apply for a reception place using the online Bristol form at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions by midnight on 15th January 2017. Offer letters will be sent out on 18th April 2017.



Friends' Events:

KS2 Children's Shopping Day- 8th December.

The Friends have organised an event for junior children to buy small gifts e.g. for parents, siblings and grandparents. We suggest children bring no more than £4 in pound coins or small change. Please DO NOT send a £5 note. Staff will be on hand to help with buying presents and giving change.



On the infant site the Friends organise a visit and a present for children from Father Christmas and fund the entertainer. We feel these are age appropriate activities.



Please note:

The last day of term is Friday 16th December and school re-opens for everyone on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.



Christmas Carol Service

TOMORROW- Our Carol Concert at St Cuthbert's has become a bit of a Christmas tradition where we all get

together and this year we are fortunate enough to have been welcomed back on 2nd December. Unfortunately (if that's the right word!) we are such a large community that the church was absolutely packed last year just with children and a few adult helpers so we are unable to invite parents to come and join the service. However, if you are really keen to get involved then we do need a couple of parents from each class to help us walk down and supervise children whilst in the church and walk back. Please see your class teacher to volunteer to help out. I'm afraid it's standing room only for helpers.

Permission is covered in the general local visits sheet but if you haven't returned that yet please do so this week. If you wish to withdraw your child on religious grounds please see the Head Teacher so alternative arrangements can be made to stay in school. **Children should not be kept at home as alternative education is provided.**



**Term Dates
2016-2017**

Changes in red.

Term 1

Friday 2nd Sept 2016 to

Friday 21st October 2016 inclusive

Term 2

(Monday 31st October closed for INSET)

Tues 1st November to Friday 16th December

Term 3

Tues 3rd January 2017 to Thurs 9th February 2017

(Friday 10th school closed for INSET)

Term 4

Mon 20th February 2017 to Friday 7th April 2017

Term 5

Mon 24th April 2017 to Friday 26th May 2017

(Thursday 4th May is now an INSET day as the school will be closed for polling).

Term 6

Monday 5th June 2017 to Thursday 20th July 2017

(Note: Monday 5th June the school is now open NOT an INSET day)

(Friday 21st July closed- INSET)



Christmas Dinner will be on Tuesday 13th for the JUNIORS and Thursday 15th for INFANTS.

Please can junior parents make sure they read the

separate junior letter and book and pay for Christmas lunch by Friday 2nd December. Thank you. It is anticipated that the majority of children in KS1 will be served a Christmas dinner. It will be helpful if infant parents let us know if their children are definitely NOT having a hot Christmas Dinner. If children really don't want a Christmas dinner they can bring a packed lunch and decorate their lunch boxes on both sites.



Wednesday 14th December- Christmas Parties on both sites. All children wear school uniform as normal. Lists for food will be sent out later. Thank you.

9th December- Jack and the Beanstalk theatre visit- YR-Y4.

15th December- pantomime visit Y5 and Y6
See below for other Christmas activities.



Reminder- 'Holidays in term time are not normally authorised.' 'Penalty Notices (fines) may be used where absence is unauthorised,' Education Welfare Service.

Holidays should not be taken in term time so do not be surprised if your request is not authorised and you are fined. Holidays need to be taken in school holidays not during term time.

If you have an exceptional reason for needing to take your child out of school during term time you will need to fill in a leave of absence form from the office stating the exceptional reason e.g. to see a terminally ill grandparent or attend a close relative's wedding. These will be kept as evidence should a penalty notice or court case ensue.

Please note requests for taking children out of school for exceptional reasons must be made in advance of taking children out. Leave of absence cannot be authorised after you return and therefore will be marked as unauthorised. 4 days (8 half days) of unauthorised absences can mean a penalty notice (fine) is issued.



School dinner money records are now up to date on ParentMail and are showing the true dinner money balances. **Please remember to check your child's balance on a regular basis and ensure that their account remains in credit at all times.** We are a cash less school (where possible), yet we are still receiving payments in to the school office. Please ensure you pay future payments online. Thank you.



Christmas Concert: December 13th at St Cuthbert's Church:

The following children are performing – Y4, Y5 & Y6 choir, Y4, Y5 & Y6 recorders, instrumentalists including guitar/keyboard/woodwind/violin players. Recorder players should have music and instruments in school every day from now until the concert. Other instrumentalists will be rehearsing before the concert and should come suitably prepared.

The concert starts at 7.00 pm. Children should arrive by 6.30pm to have instruments tuned. School Uniform should be worn. The concert should last about an hour.



Christmas Cards

As an ecologically aware school we are keen to do our bit to reduce the amount of waste produced at Christmas.

Don't forget to send your one card for the class Christmas Card Tree. We are not stopping individuals from sending cards if they really want to but this is an alternative to the mass writing of cards. Thanks.

Situations vacant:

Holymead Primary School has a vacancy for a SMSA to supervise children at dinner time. If you are interested please ask for details and an application form from Mrs Buckley, via the school office.



Are you a lush lemon or a mushy mango?

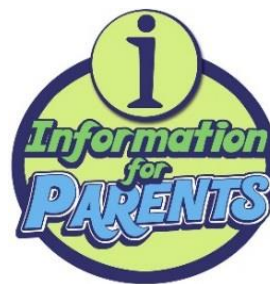
Our school target for attendance is 95%. The best class attendance on the KS2 site for the week beginning 14th November was Firefly class with 99.6% and for the week beginning 21st November it was Tree Frog Class with 99.2%. They both won themselves a large bowl of fruit for this achievement.

Please remember to arrive on time for school every day. The playground gates are open at 8:40am.

Miss School, Miss Out!



Finance and Staffing governors met to discuss policies and the budget last week. Like many schools in the country we are facing cuts in real terms as the money coming in from the government stands still and the money going out e.g. on increased pension contributions goes up. We are managing to balance the books this year but with the lack of acknowledgement of the increased financial pressures on schools in the Chancellor's autumn budget we are increasingly concerned about funding for next year.



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.

Christmas Concerts

Parents/carers are invited to attend one of the following Christmas performances. Arrangements for tickets will be sent out later.



6th Dec 9.30am YR performance (Robin, Rabbit and Red Panda)

6th Dec 10.30am Key Stage 1 performance (Octopus, Owl, Otter, Toucan, Tiger and Tamarin)

7th Dec 2pm and 6pm Year 4 performance (Flamingo, Fox, Falcon). The 6pm performance ONLY is open to all ages.

7th Dec 1.30pm YR performance (Robin, Rabbit and Red Panda)

7th Dec 2.30pm Key Stage 1 performance (Octopus, Owl, Otter, Toucan, Tiger and Tamarin)

8th Dec 9.30am Key Stage 1 performance (Octopus, Owl, Otter, Toucan, Tiger and Tamarin)

Christmas Concert- Y4-Y6 musicians at St Cuthbert's Church- 13th December, at 7pm - all ages welcome.

Please note the performances DURING SCHOOL HOURS are NOT suitable for pre-school children as the children have worked hard to learn their parts and we want them to be heard.

We will run a crèche but need some parent volunteers to work with staff. If you can volunteer to help in one of the crèche sessions please come in and sign up at the office.

We do not charge entry to the school concerts but there will be a collection bucket on the way out if you wish to make a donation to charity (money will not go to the school). Thank you.

Child Safety - As in previous years anyone performing in plays/concerts may be photographed by parents during the performance and whilst we hope parents will be mindful of where they put photos of children, the school has no say in where photos end up. If you don't want your child in any photos then they cannot perform in the play and we will make arrangements for them to stay with another year group during the performances so they are safe. Please see your class teacher if you need your child to be kept from public view.



On Wednesday 30th November The Holymead Girls' Football Squad took two teams

to a tournament at Oasis Brislington. The A Team won the tournament winning all three matches without conceding a goal. All of the outfield players (Katrine, Kaya, Maddie, Mollie, Eloise and Yasmin) all scored while Paige protected her goal well. There were several goals scored from long range that were nothing short of spectacular! The majority of players in the B team were playing in their first competitive matches. They improved throughout the tournament and worked well as a team. Well done to KT, Amy, Emily, Lucy S, Olivia, Lucy G and Maisie. We are particularly proud of the way our players supported each other and represented our school with distinction. Mr Jones was very proud.



Right Action Group Corner

This term we are raising money for War Child. Recently we have held a cake sale and we raised a whopping £107!!! We are also having a film night on 8th December where your child can come in their P.J's and watch a Christmas film, after school.

The Christmas concert will also be raising money for War Child too. Last week we raised money for Children in Need. We held a Crazy Hair Day where children could come in to school sporting crazy hair styles. In order to take part, we asked for a donation of £1 to take part. Watch out for some photos on our website!

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Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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