## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Number 2, Term 3

### **Dear Parents/Carers**



It was lovely to see so many families looking round the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) exhibition last week. I'm sure you will agree that the standard of work on display was amazing. I hope many of you

have been able to go to see some of our work exhibited at Paintworks on the Bath Road. It is open until Saturday. Thanks to the children and staff for their hard work and particular thanks to Miss White and Miss Elston for organising the event.

Nb did you see the YR balloon lift photos? The furthest one travelled to Radworth in Essex! See reception's blog for details.



Adverse Weather and possible School Closure In exceptional circumstances e.g. heavy snow or failure of

heating systems we may need to close the school. However, this is always the last resort so parent/ carers should always assume we will be OPEN unless we tell you otherwise. Ways we may be able to inform you of closure are through Parentmail, local radio, Bristol City Council website listing school closures, the school's own website (see address below). Any systems can be clogged up by a large amount of usage so please bear with us and remember we are trying to do our best. You can also try phoning the school if you are uncertain or coming from a long way away. In the event of partial closure we allow 30 children to attend for every teacher present.



#### **Class Assemblies-**

<u>Turtle Class-Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018- middle hall</u> <u>Tawny Owl- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb- middle hall</u> <u>Salamander- Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Feb- upper hall</u>

Please note class assemblies are NOT suitable for preschoolers 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. Thanks.



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve



Y6 SATs Parents' Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> January- 3.30pm Y3 Times Table Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February at 3.30pm Y2 SATs Parents' Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January -3.30pm

Kids' Cup football tournament 17<sup>th</sup> January Number Day 2<sup>nd</sup> February

The last day of Term 3 is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. (Friday 9<sup>th</sup> is INSET) Term 4 starts on MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Advance Notice

**Parents' Evenings** will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March for infants (YR, Y1 and Y2) and 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March for juniors (Y3-Y6). Details to



follow. These meetings are not suitable for children to attend. Please do not bring children to school for Parents' Evenings as there is no crèche and the school will not be supervising children.

Staff run clubs will not run during Parents' Evenings as teachers will obviously be in parents' meetings.



Vacancy:

We are currently looking to recruit a part time caretaker to do manual jobs and locking up in the evenings on both

sites. The position requires a DBS (police check) and physical fitness. Please contact Mrs Buckley via the office for an informal chat and application form. Thank you.



## Term Dates 2017-2018

### Term 3

Wed  $3^{rd}$  Jan 2018 to Thurs  $8^{th}$  Feb (school closed on Tues  $2^{nd}$  Jan and on Fri  $9^{th}$  Feb for INSET)

## Term 4

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb to Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> March

### Term 5

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> April to Fri 25<sup>th</sup> May

## Term 6

Mon  $4^{th}$  Jun to Mon  $23^{rd}$  July 2018 (school closed Tues  $24^{th}$  July for INSET)

# Term Dates 2018- 2019

### Term 1

(Mon and Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 CLOSED for INSET) Open Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 for KS1 and KS2 Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 for new Reception to Fri 26<sup>th</sup> October **Term 2** 

# Term 2

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Nov to Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018 (Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Dec CLOSED for INSET) School will close for all BANK Holidays as normal.



## Friends' Events:

The Friends are organising a Bingo night in March.





Cake Sale 7<sup>th</sup> Feb on junior site. Please send donations from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Thanks

**Next Friends' Meeting**- 23<sup>rd</sup> February after drop off on the infant site. New members always welcome. You can give as many or as few hours as you can spare to help.

## Y6 SATs' Revision Workbooks:



In response to requests from parents we will be once again selling Y6 SATs revision workbooks for maths and English (Reading, Grammar,

Punctuation & spelling, Arithmetic and reasoning). These workbooks cover the Y6 curriculum and help children practise the skills that they have been taught over the year. They have proved very popular in the past and enable parents to support their children not only in preparing for the SATs tests, but securing the skills that children will need as they make the transition to secondary school.

These workbooks are now available to purchase from the school office and are £4.50 each (slight reduction on cost price). Thank you.



Due to other commitments sadly we are saying farewell to Steve Johnson as a governor. Steve has been a great asset to the governors and we thank him very much, especially for his dedicated work on the finance committee. Dean Smart returns as chair of the Finance and Infrastructure committee which met last week to review the budget and look at staffing.

Sweets and treats. We are a healthy eating school and we do NOT allow sweets in school. This includes for birthday treats as well. We prefer it



birthday treats as well. We prefer it if parents do not send cakes or sweets at all on children's birthdays as there are many different dietary, religious and cultural observances in school. Please keep birthday treats to have at home. If you really feel you must bring something then please send BISCUITS only that can be given out as children leave the classroom for parents' to check. Any sweets will be handed back to parents.

### **Staff News**

After 12 years of dedicated service to the school Mrs Harrison in the school office is leaving. I'm sure parents will wish to join me in thanking Cathy for all her hard work.

Mrs H Russell will be going on maternity leave tomorrow. Mrs C Thomas is expecting her second baby in June. We wish all our leavers good luck!





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.

### What's the Buzz? The Bee is back!

Following on from the success of previous years' Spelling Bees we are holding our fifth Spelling Bee soon. You can help your child by checking they are learning their year group spellings. See your teacher or check the website for the year group spelling lists. There are year group prizes of a trophy and book vouchers to be won. It is a competition that is wide open so long as you practise the spellings.

We have noticed a huge improvement in spelling in general throughout the school but it is most noticeable in those children who take their spellings home and practise them regularly. Parents who support their children really are making a difference.

#### School Uniform.

Children need to have BLACK SCHOOL SHOES for school. NO TRAINERS! **PLEASE NOTE** JEANS AND **HOODED TOPS** ARE NOT SCHOOL



UNIFORM AND MUST NOT BE WORN IN SCHOOL.

**PE kit:** is a purple tee-shirt and black shorts in a purple dap bag. Black or white tee shirts and shorts are an acceptable alternative but no club football kits etc. **ALL UNIFORM, INCLUDING PE KITS MUST BE LABELLED CLEARLY.** 

**Back Packs** are not allowed on the infant site as space is very limited.

**Pencil Cases:** pupils are NOT allowed to bring pencils and pencil cases to school. The only exception to this is in Y6 where pupils are getting ready for using their own pencil cases and equipment in secondary school.



Can we remind parents that dinner money accounts (via ParentMail) and breakfast and afterschool club accounts (via Libarcura) must be in credit at all times. Please can we ask that you review your accounts regularily to ensure that you are not in arrears. Thank you.

With regards to the Year 4 Hillcrest PGL 2018 camp and Year 6 Red Ridge Camp 2018, please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the

Payment agreements that ensure your child's place is secure:-

Year 4 Hillcrest PGL – The first £100 must be paid by 15.12.17 and the full balance (£202.50) to be paid by 30.04.18. Year 6 Red Ridge – The first £200 must be paid by 03.01.18 and the full balance (287.50) to be paid by 09.03.18. Please can parents ensure that all these payments are paid up to date, by reviewing your ParentMail account. Thank you.



**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.



**Spare Clothes-** we are very short of girls' socks and tights and larger size trousers for changing children. If you have spare clothing suitable for changing children when they have accidents please send them to the office. If your child is changed in school please wash and return any borrowed clothing. Thank you.

