

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

Dear Parent/Carers



**Children's Shopping Day.** Thank you to the Friends for organising this event. KS2 children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas Shopping experience. (I hope you like your presents!) The Friends also organised presents from Father Christmas on the KS1 site so a big thank you to all the Friends for all their hard work in the run up to Christmas.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



### School Tours

Mr Hough and I will be running conducted tours on the infant site on 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012 AND 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions) by midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Offer letters will be sent out on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.



The Christmas Hamper Raffle draw has now taken place. Please make sure you claim your prize before the holidays. Prizes may be on the infant or junior site as all the school was involved in the draw. Thank you to everyone who took part in the raffle.



**Please note:**

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

**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. See below for further ideas for keeping safe online.



### **KS2 Christmas Carol Concert.**

What a lovely Carol Concert we had at St Cuthbert's Church. Thank you to all the parents who helped with walking the children to and from the church. Well done to all the children for their lovely singing, performing and reading. There are photos on the website for you to see.



### Christmas Concert: December 13<sup>th</sup>

Once again we were treated to an evening of beautiful music by Y4, Y5 & Y6 including the choir, recorders and instrumentalists.



### Plays and concerts

Well done to all the children who took part in Christmas plays and concerts across the school. We enjoyed your performances immensely.

### Fund raising:

KS1 raised £381.22 for Unite for Sight during their YR and KS1 performances and Bedtime Story. KS2 raised £795.59 for War Child during concerts, the Y4 plays, the Elf film night and RAG cake sale.

### Term Dates 2016-2017

Changes in red.



#### Term 1

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2016 to**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016 inclusive

#### Term 2

(Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October closed for INSET)

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> November to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

#### Term 3

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 to Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

(Friday 10<sup>th</sup> school closed for INSET)

#### Term 4

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

#### Term 5

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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

#### Term 6

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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

(Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July closed- INSET)



### 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.



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.**



### Y6 SATs' Revision Workbooks:

In response to requests from parents we are 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 available from the school office at £2.50 per book.

### Dates for Diary

**Y6 SAT's meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan at 3.30pm in Salamander Class** – parents are invited to see how they can support their child in the run up to SATs.

**Y2 SAT's meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan at 3.30pm** – parents are invited to see how they can support their child in the run up to SATs.

**Bread Week, w/b 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.** All classes will be involved in making bread of various kinds during this week.

**Y5/6 Boys' Football tournament** starts Thursdays from 19<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Y3/4 Mixed Boccia tournament, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan**

**Percy Smith swimming** at Horfield on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7pm.

Dates for  
the Diary:



Governors discussed plans for the Holymead Hub which is the Annex part of the school which we are developing for community use. They also discussed overall performance of staff and looked at the inspection dashboard which compares school results to national results. While we are in line with average in many areas we still need to close the gap for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our girls performed exceptionally well but we need to improve the results from our boys which is why we are trying to get our boys to read more frequently at home and school.



**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.



### Match Report!

**Tuesday 6th December 2016**

**Year 4 Football: West Town Lane 0-9 Holymead (Luka 3, Oliver 2, Ronnie 2, Max, Remi)**

This was our first game of the season. The team played exceptionally well and ran out comfortable winners. There were some outstanding performances and some superb goals. Most pleasing of all was the way we passed the ball and the hard work the team put in to deny our opponents time and space. Thank you to all of the boys in the team who represented our school with distinction. A special mention to our hosts who showed tremendous spirit in battling to the very end.

Team: James, Corey, George, Saul, Angus, Luka, Oliver, Ronnie, Max, Remi.

### 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.



### Reward Systems



**Praise Book** – on the infant site you may notice your child talking about the Praise Book or coming home with a Praise Book sticker. This is a system to reward good work, effort or behaviour. Children's names are read out and they receive their sticker in assembly. This record of their achievement is also put up on display in the Link the following week for everyone to see.

**Star of the Week** – on the junior site, as the children get older, we introduce a Star of the Week where children nominate and vote for a child they think deserves to be Star of the Week. Whilst the children have more say in who is chosen this system is still overseen by the teacher to ensure fairness.







**E-Safety:** Keeping up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge, especially if you feel that your children may have better technical skills than you do. However, children still need support and guidance when it comes to managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely. A simple and effective way to get involved with your children and their lives online is through discussion.

**Conversation starter ideas:**

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

- Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and [how to report](#) or block on the services they use.
- Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

Further information about these issues is available from ChildNet or Thinkuknow.co.uk



**News update from The Friends' Group.**

The Friends' have been working really hard this term with lots of activities & events in order to raise money for the school. The hamper raffle raised £730.96; the junior Christmas shopping day for the children raised £845.14; the Christmas Fayre raised £749.83 and the Christmas Cards designed by the children raised £1,495.30. That is a staggering total of £3,820.96.

Well done to all those involved in organising these events and to all of our parents and carers that support them.

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Yours sincerely  
**Ms Kate Slatcher**



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