



NEWSLETTER

Holsworthy C E Primary

January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the new school term. We hope you had a good Christmas Holiday and wish you all a Happy New Year.

We have decided to send a start of term newsletter to celebrate some of the things that went on at the end of last term, share relevant information for this term, as well as dates for the rest of the year.

Message from Mr Barnett

I have been made very welcome at school and enjoyed my first week as Headteacher. It has been lovely to get to know the children and to meet so many of you. I have joined the school from my role with the Devon Schools Leadership Service. Miss Amy Frost and I are working as Co-Headteachers and on some days you will see both of us and on others just one, due to our other commitments. We are very much looking forward to working together to ensure the best outcomes and provision for all involved in the school.

Staff news

Congratulations to Mr Chris Hurley who has been appointed to the role of Assistant Headteacher as part of the temporary leadership structure for the rest of the school year. Mr Hurley will continue in his role leading provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and is also taking on responsibility for Safeguarding.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Victoria Bath as the new leader of the after-school club. Miss Bath has lots of experience and many of ideas for developing the provision which we know the children will be excited about. Watch this space for more information.

We are also pleased to welcome Dr Hugh Browne to the teaching team as an academic mentor working with KS2. Dr Browne has vast experience in science and maths and will be working with groups and individuals to support their learning.

Ofsted Report

Just to keep you updated with the progress of our Ofsted report which was delayed because of the Christmas Holiday. We now have the draft report and expect to receive the final copy to share with you next week.

School Day

A reminder that the school day starts with classroom doors opening at 8.40am and registration at 8.45am. Anyone arriving after 8.50am will be marked as late. We appreciate it is hard to get going on these dark, dismal mornings but it is important that children are in the classroom ready to learn on time. Arriving late disrupts the classroom and can also make it challenging for the children who have missed out on initial instructions and information about the day, to fully engage in their learning.

Can I also remind you that if you arrive late and the main gate is closed you will need to come into school via the office to register your child. Going to the back doors of the classrooms means that the staff are interrupted once they have started the day with their class.

Please also remember to close the gate behind you.

Extra-Curricular Activities

You should have received information about the extra-curricular activities on offer this term via Parentmail today. Sign-up in the usual way in through the school office.

We are extremely grateful to all the staff who give up their own time to offer these opportunities for our pupils. This is not part of their contracted hours and we appreciate the time and energy they give to providing these experiences for the children in our school.

News from Autumn Term 2023

Nursery and Reception:



As part of their topics 'Helpful Heroes' and 'What Will I be?', children in Cherry, Hazel and Rowan Class enjoyed visits from a police officer, a paramedic and a local vet. They also enjoyed visiting Holsworthy Fire Station.

Year 1 & 2



Elm, Beech and Sycamore Classes enjoyed visiting RHS Rosemoor to support their Science learning about 'Living Things & Their Habitats', where they took part in a 'Who lives in my garden?' workshop. They looked high and low for the creatures in the gardens and found out more about the important role they play for the plants and soil. They learnt to encourage biodiversity through exploring different garden habitats. Children were also delighted to plant their own peas, which they took home to grow (as pictured).

Year 3 & 4



As part of their topic 'Ancient Greece' children in Willow, Maple and Ash Class enjoyed a visit from

Steve Manning storytelling in role as an Ancient Greek. Children enjoyed this interactive experience learning more about Ancient Greece using the Hoplite's gear as a stimulus for learning about city states such as Athens and Sparta. Followed by a character-led storytelling session with the legendary Odysseus the telling tales of the Trojan War and his long, and adventurous journey home to Ithaca.

Year 5 & 6



Pine, Birch and Oak Classes were finding out about the 'The Battle of Britain' last term and visited RAMM Museum in Exeter. They

learnt not only about survival, but also about how people worked together to 'do their bit' to help the war effort by taking part in the following workshops: Exeter Blitz and Home Life; Clothing and Uniform; Air Raids and the ARP Warden; Rationing, Food and Dig For Victory; A Postcard Home.

Friends of Holsworthy Primary School



Thanks to the fabulous fundraising events last term from The Friends of Holsworthy Primary School and the support given to each event (Bags 2 School, Art Exhibition, Christmas Cards, Silent Disco, Wreath Making Workshop, Christmas Fayre, Cosy Fridays, Tuck Shop at Mole Valley Farmers and a generous donation from Tamar Trading), a fantastic amount of £2925.62 has been raised. This will enable us to subsidise enrichment of your child/children's learning and therefore reduce the cost to parents of trips and visitors into school. The Friends were also able to give every child in the school a Christmas present and buy a water butt for Cherry Class.

Upcoming Fundraising Dates:

1st February: Bags 2 School Collection

1st March: Easter Bingo

17th April Coffee Morning in Holsworthy Memorial

And finally..... thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. We look forward to working with you in 2024.

Kind regards,

Amy Frost *David Barnett*

Amy Frost & David Barnett

Co-Headteachers

Dates

Please find below advanced notice of some dates for the rest of the school year. Further information will follow nearer the time about specific events.

Spring Term 2024

09.01.24 – Space Dome in Hall for Rowan & Hazel Classes
26.01.24 – Y5 to Holocaust Memorial Day Exeter Cathedral
Week Beginning 05.02.24 - Parent -Teacher consultation meetings
Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week
08.02.24 – KS2 visit to British Symphony Orchestra in Exeter
12 – 16/02.24 – Half-term
07.03.24 – World Book Day
Week Beginning 11.03.24 – Science week
15.03.24 – Comic Relief Day
25/26.03.24 – Y4 Residential
27/28.03.24 – Y3 Residential
28.03.24 – Last day of term

Summer Term 2024

16.04.24 – First day of term
06.05.24 – May Bank Holiday
13-16.05.24 – KS2 SATS
22.05.24 – Summer Music Concert
27.05.24 – 31.05.24 – Half-Term
26-28.06.24 – Y5 Residential
Sports Days 01 & 02.07.24
03.07.24 – St Peter’s Fair Day (School Closed)
08-10.07.24 – Y6 Residential
15.07.24 – Annual Reports Issued