



Holt Community Primary School

Newsletter Spring 1

8th January 2013

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to everyone. We have some excellent new topics starting this half term. The Reception and Key Stage One will be learning about Australia. Year 3 and 4 start a topic on India and Years 5 and 6 will be finding out about Mali.

Holt Happi Project

You may remember that the school joined other local services in a project aimed at finding ways of helping children achieve their best and improve their future. During the last parents' evening members of the project undertook a survey to find out about parents' views on the matter. The main suggestions were as follows:

- More out of school activities for younger children.
- A greater emphasis on getting children to read before they start school.
- Improved transition from pre-school and to high school. A buddy system was suggested.
- Revamp of Peacock playing fields.

The full list of all the responses is available on the notice board outside the office.

As a result the project team have decided to encourage reading in pre-school children through community book sharing and reading buddies. We are asking parents to donate any unwanted children's books to make a library of pre-school books that the community can borrow. A box will be placed in the entrance hall to collect any books donated.

The school has decided to provide every new child starting next year with a book-bag full of books when they come to the first 'stay and play' session. The school will also be looking to develop Reading Buddies with the pre-school settings.

Dates for your diary

Tue 15th January - Year 5 and 6 African dancing.
 Thur 24th January - Year 2 and 4 visit to the Library.
 Wed 30th January - Year 3 and 4 Indian dancing.
 Wed 11th - 13th Jan - Year 6 cycling proficiency test.
 16th February - 24th February half term holiday
 Wed 6th March - World Maths Day
 Fri 15th March - Red Nose Day
 Tue 19th March - Year 6 speed camera street survey
 Thurs 28th March - Professional Development Day
 Thur 28th March - 14th April Easter Holiday
 Mon 15th April - 1st day of Summer Term
 13th May - 17th May - Year 6 Sats week.

We will shortly be announcing a list of afterschool clubs for the spring term. A few parents have asked if they can become involved or have offered their expertise to run a club. This would be an excellent way for us to provide a wider range of clubs or help us to broaden out existing clubs and teams. If any parents would like to offer any particular talents or skills or would like to offer to help out then please let me know. We would only ask parents to commit for a few weeks.

Parents and children in Year 1 and 2 are invited to make a pop up museum on 1-3pm Wednesday 15th January. This is an initiative run by Cromer Museum to bring museums into schools. If you are interested then please return the slip as soon as possible. If there is enough interest this could run for several weeks.

We had a slight success with attendance last term as both absence and persistent absence were reduced by approximately 20%. However, we still feel disappointed as our attendance rate was 94.1 % which was well below our target of 95%. Persistent absentees remain a major concern for the school as we still have three times the national average number of children whose attendance was less than 85%.

To help encourage attendance this term we are introducing a lottery where each child will get a ticket for each full week they attend. The draw will be made just before Easter and the winner will win a very large chocolate prize!

The behaviour panel worked well last term and the behaviour in the playgrounds continues to improve. Overall the children judged playtimes last term as:

Good/ Excellent 73%
 OK/ Fine 24%
 Poor/ Unhappy 3%

Congratulations to Year 3 for winning Clyde the attendance owl on the last week of term.

Behaviour Panel	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Infant playground	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Junior playground	😊	😊	😊	😊	