

September Newsletter 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

The last newsletter I wrote was in March 2020!!! So much has happened since then, it is quite unbelievable. I think my words in that newsletter were, ' It has been a challenging month!' Little did we know what was going to happen in the coming months - the whole world turned upside down. However we are now all back together and I hope that life at Holland Haven continues in this way.

The artwork above has been donated to our school by Mrs Bradbury. Her son Jethro Wilson is an ex pupil of Holland Haven and he is now an illustrator working in Bournemouth. We will be placing the print in our school entrance. Jethro says that, ' This is our world , we are all in this together. I believe that united we can change the world.'

A great deal of preparation and planning has gone into the reorganising of the school for the Autumn Term. Despite the message given to the public that schools were closed, Holland Haven remained open throughout the lockdown and the Easter holidays so that key worker pupils could attend. From 1st June the school was open to key worker families, Year R, 1 and 6 and approximately one fifth of our school population decided to attend. We have now welcomed back all of our pupils including EYFS and it is, quite frankly, as if the children have never been away. I would like to thank all of my staff for their dedication and support during this time.

It may be the case, in the coming months, that we have to make additional changes but I will inform you in good time if we need to do this. We don't know what the future holds and the government rarely sees fit to inform us before informing the whole country about changes, so unfortunately I sometimes have to react to their guidance at a moment's notice.

There have already been some big changes in school procedures since the start of September. If a child or member of staff has COVID symptoms we no longer send a bubble home straight away. We now have to ask the parents to book a test for their child and if the test is positive, we then have to ring the DFE helpline to get instructions for our actions.

Last week, headteachers in our area met (virtually) with the Director of Education for Essex and the Director of Health for Essex. From this meeting it was established that a two metre distance for adults and the wearing of face coverings will indeed reduce the risk of transmission. If you wear a face covering, you are actually protecting those around you; if we are all wearing them we will be protecting each other. So I am, once again, asking all adults coming onto the school site to wear face coverings and stand at least 2 metres apart when collecting and dropping off pupils. Thank you so much to all of you who are already doing this . We really do appreciate it.

I will, of course, keep you all updated if we have any issues and with any additional information.

On a brighter note, this year is the school's **50th anniversary**. Teachers will be organising activities for their class to recognise it, but sadly we cannot celebrate as a whole school. We are hoping that later in the school year we will be able to celebrate together. Teachers will be placing photos of events on their webpages. This photo is a piece of artwork by UD.



S Bardetti

Headteacher

EYFS

We would like to say thank you for all your hard work this week, as the children have settled into school life really well. We are looking forward to all of the children meeting next week. Please remember to name all of your belongings. We are still waiting for some transition passports (given to you by your child's nursery)Please can you return them to your child's class teacher.

Miss Belcher and Miss Bareham

Golden Assembly Awards

On Friday we had our first Zoom Golden Assembly and it was such good fun. I was able to talk to all of our classes at once and we were able to award golden certificates to our pupils. The following pupils were awarded golden certificates.

Friday 11th September Golden Certificates were awarded to :

Florence Bowler, William Gibb, Shay Fryer, Isaac Quince, Samuel Turner, Ellie Joseph, Oscar Cane, Grayson Welham, Charlie Armstrong, Alicia Gittins, Sofia Anderson, Bonnie Kinsella, Libby Williams, Katie Sallis

Governors Update

As we begin the 50th anniversary year of Holland Haven it is my pleasure to be able to tell you that the Governing Board is continuing its role in both supporting and challenging the school. As the children have returned to school the whole community is adjusting to the new strategies that have been put in place to keep us all as safe as possible.

All the staff have been amazing since this all began back in March, they continue to work as a great team, supporting each other and all the pupils. As governors it is our responsibility to ensure the well being of everyone in school which we will endeavour to do this year by being in constant contact with the school via our meetings. You can find out about the Governing Board and its responsibilities on the school website.

Jackie Sharman

Friends of Holland Haven School

After our bumpy ride of 2019/2020 we are looking forward to raising some more money to help the school improve the opportunities for the school experience and grow the committee and its volunteers and helpers.

Our last event was meant to be the Easter Disco but this was cancelled due to the pandemic - refunds are being organised and will be returned to you as soon as possible. All the snacks and treats which were brought for the event were donated to Clacton Food Bank, which were gratefully received.

During the lockdown we ran a virtual balloon race and would like to thank everyone who took part. The event raised £292.62!

Our Annual General Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 7th October and we are looking for some new members. Details about this event will be coming soon - keep an eye on your emails!

As a "Friends of" rather than a PTA we are able to have more than just parents and teachers as part of our committee, we can have carers, grandparents, uncles, aunties all to help us grow our committee and fundraising opportunities. We have elected members every year, 4 core members (minimum 3) and no less than 5 committee members with active roles. In addition to the elected committee, it is valuable to have a list of volunteers and helpers, who are willing to support the work of the committee. Volunteers and helpers and any automatic members (these are parents/carers) are welcome to attend as many or as few of the open FOHH meetings as they wish. Details of dates will be on the FOHH webpage on the schools website. Being a volunteer can be a gentle introduction to the vital work we do, many volunteers go on to being elected committee members.

Dinner Money

Please can I remind parents that dinner money must be paid on a monday and not be allowed to go into arrears. The School Money system should now be working properly again. Any problems please contact the school office

Water Bottles

Water Bottles with a spray attachment are not permitted in school as pupils have been using them inappropriately. Thank you for your co-operation.

Dates for your diary

October 2020

7th FOHH AGM and Meeting. 6.30pm Holland Hall (next to Holland Library)

12th & 13th Year 1 Vision tests.

23rd Halloween Themed Non Uniform Day

26th - 30th October Half Term Holiday

November 2020

3rd, 4th & 5th EYFS Height and Weight tests