



# December Newsletter 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Another Christmas is upon us. I really do enjoy Christmas time in school, except for the freezing cold weather and bugs! This is my 12th Christmas at Holland Haven and I have no idea where all those years have gone! Each year I feel so proud to watch the children perform in their concerts and I feel very lucky to be the headteacher of Holland Haven Primary school. Thank you to everyone who attended the children's carol concerts this year; seeing you in the audience means the world to them. I was so impressed with the wonderful singing and acting this year, especially with the children who had the courage to stand up and sing by themselves or in a small group.

I cannot believe how far the children in EYFS have come since September. Their Nativity performances were fantastic.

I would like to say a special thank you to all of my staff and governors for all of their hard work and support over the past term. The autumn term is always a very long term and so I hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Merry Christmas

Mrs S Bardetti  
Headteacher

## **Staff Car Park and Parking**

The school car park is a private car park for staff **ONLY**. Please could I ask that parents do not park in the school car park.

Please may we remind parents not to park on the grass verges. Also, could you please respect our neighbours and do not park over their drives. Thank you.

## **Attendance**

If you leave a voice message that your child is not feeling well and will not be attending school, the school office may follow this up with a call back to you. If there is no response to the call, we will request a home visit from the Aquinas team.

We will require as much information as possible about your child's illness. If your child has antibiotics prescribed, please can you send us a screenshot of them and if you have a doctor's appointment, please can you send a screenshot of the appointment booking.

Family holidays will **NOT** be authorised.

Overall attendance is 94.5% Ofsted expect at least 95% attendance so we are currently just below this figure. Please help us improve our attendance by making sure your child is in school every day.

## **Resilience Team**

As we enter the colder months, please be advised that CVST run a Winter Coat Rail at both of their sites.

A selection of pre-loved Coats & Jackets are available for anyone that needs one.

Collection Points: Imperial House, 20-22 Rosemary Road, Clacton CO15 1NZ

Harwich & Dovercourt Hubc276 High St, CO12 3PD

Open every weekday between 9am - 4pm

No Forms, No Questions, No Charge

### **New Attendance Raffle and Rewards**

This term we have started a new reward for good attendance. Each week, if a pupil has been in school 100% they will receive a raffle ticket. This ticket is placed in a key stage draw. At each half term, a ticket will be drawn from the KS2 box and also from the KS1/EYFS box. The two pupils drawn in the raffles will each receive a **£20 Amazon voucher**.

Class attendance will also be rewarded each term. The class with the highest attendance will have a 'treat afternoon' which the class will choose with the class teacher.

Class	Attendance
RBa	94.6%
RBe	93.8%
1F	95.3%
1BP	95.0%
2CW	94.4%
2HP	97.2%
3HP	93.1%
3G	94.9%
4V	93.9%
4C	92.7%
5KH	92.4%
5AH	96.5%
6H	93.7%
6D	94.2%

### **KS2 Mud Run**

A big well-done and congratulations to our year 6 pupils, who took part in the Adventure Mud Run on Thursday 7th December at Birch Hall in Kirby. Our children fully embraced the mud and challenged themselves, having plenty of fun along the way!

Dulcie Westbrook, Jack Westbrook, Ellie Joseph, Darcey Chandler, Maisie Harrop, Ollie Cottage, Carter Tidmarsh and Harry Downey. Congratulations to Jack and Dulcie who ran an excellent time of 00:19:09 and made it through to the Finals on Saturday 9th December.

### **Boys' Football**

Our UKS2 boys' football team played a fantastic game on Wednesday 13th December against Great Clacton Primary School with a score of 1 : 1.

### **Girls' Football**

Our UKS2 girls' football team also played a fantastic game on Tuesday 5th December against St Clare's Primary School with a score of 1 : 1. If your child is in year 5 or 6 and is interested in playing football there are still many places in our after-school club. This runs every Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm and is coached by EPC (Essex Professional Coaching). Please see or email Miss Day if your child would like to go.

### **Multi Schools' Council**

Our year 6 Multi Schools Councillors, Tyler, Josie, Harry and Poppy attended the Tendring Primary MSC meeting on Friday 8th December at Chase Lane Primary School in Harwich. They represented our school and expressed their thoughts and opinions in discussing the following important topics: anxiety, outdoor learning, physical activity and the new MSC mascot 'Banjo'.

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### **Governors' Corner**

We are almost at the end of the Autumn term, the longest of the academic year, and as always it has been a very busy time.

As Governors, we regularly come into school to observe lessons to get an overview of how children are being taught. We have all been very impressed with both the commitment of the staff in how they prepare and deliver these lessons and how the children are fully engaged with their learning.

It is good to see the attendance percentage is sitting at the national 95% target for the whole school and we thank you for your support in achieving this. Please continue to ensure your children attend regularly, as missing just a day or two school can have a very big impact on your children's learning.

I hope you have been able to come into school to enjoy your children's seasonal productions. I was very fortunate to be able to come into school to watch and thoroughly enjoy their EYFS Twinkly Nativity production. The children have worked so hard to learn their lines and the words to the songs and the singing was excellent. Well done to all of the children across the school and a very big thank you to all of the staff who have worked so hard to put these productions together.

On behalf of all of the Governors, I wish you and your children a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all in the Spring term.

Seasons greetings

Carolyn Terry

Governor

### **School Meals**

Just to remind you, following the Governors' letter that was emailed to you on the 14th July, the cost of pupil's school meals are increasing to £2.20 per day with effect from the 1st January 2024. Please log onto the School Money Website and pay for your child's dinners in advance. Many thanks.

## Home School Projects - Castles and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory



### Essex Highways

Essex Highways are currently recruiting for a Bikeability/Cycling Instructor. Follow the link for more information.

<https://workingforessex.com/apply/cycle-training-instructor-14375?source=workingforessex.com>

### SEND News

Here are the dates and locations of the Essex Local Offer Roadshows for the Spring term. Parents who have attended in the past, have found these helpful.

- Monday 4 March – South Essex - The Holiday Inn - Basildon
- Thursday 7 March – Mid Essex – The Hamptons – Chelmsford
- Wednesday 13 March – NE Essex – Colchester Football Stadium
- Tuesday 19 March – West Essex – The Harlow Hotel

The link to the Essex Local Offer, will have more details about the roadshows as they become available, including which services will be attending.

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>

There will be a marketplace during the morning and parent/carer workshops which will take place during the morning and afternoon. These are being organised with SENDIASS. Parents will be able to drop into the marketplace but will need to sign up for the workshops,

### PTA Corner

As we come to the end of the first term of this school year we would like to say thank you to everyone for your support of our events.

We have raised an absolutely amazing £4489.43 through our different events this term including our halloween disco, elfridges, cauliflower cards and our Christmas fair. Keep an eye on our social media page for the full breakdown of how we achieved this total.

We have also been incredibly lucky and have secured a match funding grant of £5000 from the Benefact Trust against the summer fair in July meaning a grand total of £9489.43 so far for 2023/2024.

We have lots of plans for next year and hope to bring more fun events for the children and continue to provide those little extras to the school to enhance the children's learning experience.

We still need your help though. Please come along to our meetings on the second Thursday of each month in the DT room after school. The first of 2024 will be Thursday 11th January.

All that's left to say is Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from everyone at the Friends of Holland Haven.

Sam Cook and the Friends of Holland Haven Primary School.

### **General notices**

Clacton Leisure Centre will be organising a lovely Christmas party, and children in the local area will have the opportunity to play fun games and win amazing prizes like panto tickets, free pool entries, etc. Please use the links below to book places.

#### **Clacton Leisure Centre Christmas Party**

Vista Rd, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 6DB (free parking)

Friday 22nd December 11:30am-12:30pm and 1:00pm-2:00pm

Entry £5.00 per child

Play fun games and win panto tickets, soft play entry, family entry to the swimming pool, 50% off your preferred birthday party and many more prizes

To book the party, simply click the link

11:30am party:

<https://tendringcouncil.legendonlineservices.co.uk/enterprise/bookingscentre/membertimetable?fbclid=IwAR05xk8CJsYd26nuw-jyGyOvfqpgDGbyLeZfdFWhfhMOwWcFhhKlwAKnWsQ#Details?LocationIds=2006&SearchDate=2023-12-22&ResourceScheduleId=522939>

1pm party:

[https://tendringcouncil.legendonlineservices.co.uk/enterprise/bookingscentre/membertimetable?fbclid=IwAR2ir2uUVFjtZOu-fv6U68OTbAOrkrWnoQUA\\_tMEvNV1EzzMVLf\\_ydF--Rs#Details?LocationIds=2006&SearchDate=2023-12-22&ResourceScheduleId=522941](https://tendringcouncil.legendonlineservices.co.uk/enterprise/bookingscentre/membertimetable?fbclid=IwAR2ir2uUVFjtZOu-fv6U68OTbAOrkrWnoQUA_tMEvNV1EzzMVLf_ydF--Rs#Details?LocationIds=2006&SearchDate=2023-12-22&ResourceScheduleId=522941)

### **Clacton-on-sea and Holland-on-sea Library**

## **The Winter Reading Challenge is back!**



Our plucky penguin is back once again! But this year, she's setting off on an even bigger journey...

Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for your child to choose from. Once they complete six of the challenges they will be rewarded with a certificate and a prize (while stocks last).

## Dates for the Diary

### December

20th Last day of Autumn Term

### January 2024

8th First day back at school for pupils - Winter Menu, Week 1



**THE  
BIG  
AMBITION**

**The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.**

**We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.**

**This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.**

Scan the QR code to take part

