

February Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoyed the half term break. At last, spring is on its way and we are waking up in daylight!

Over the past 1.5 terms we have been working with the LA to ensure our safeguarding/attendance/behaviour procedures are exactly as we want them. The outcomes are very good and our safeguarding procedures are effective.

This half term we have parents' evenings once again, so I hope you will be able to attend. We are also planning on having a 'school meal tasting table' event at each of the evenings. Parents will get the opportunity to try some of the meals we provide in school. We look forward to seeing all of you.

Since September, Mr Fletcher has been working on the refurbishment of the school library to encourage the reading culture in the whole of our school. We are so proud of the changes that have been made and our pupils are thoroughly enjoying their visits to the library and Author's Cabin.

Here are some photos of our new library and Author's Cabin.



Mrs S Bardetti
Headteacher

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about safeguarding of our pupils at Holland Haven school please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSLs) by phone (01255 813704), in person or by email (admin@hollandhaven.essex.sch.uk).

DSL- Mrs S Bardetti - Headteacher

Deputy DSLs :

Mrs C Humphrey Deputy Headteacher

Miss A Wilson - Deputy Headteacher and SenCo

Mrs D Blundell - Learning Mentor and Attendance Officer

Mrs A Cardy- KS1 Phase Leader and Mental Health Lead

All safeguarding concerns will be investigated.

The following policies can be found on our School website:

Child Protection Policy

Follow: Information and Policy - policies

<http://www.hollandhavenschool.co.uk/>

Spelling Progress

Well done to all pupils regularly practising their spellings at home on the online school-account Ed Shed (Spelling Shed) - login details are in your child's small red A5 Home School Book.

The government expectation is that pupils will complete Spelling Set 1 by the end of Year 2, Spelling Set 2 by the end of Year 4 and Spelling Set 3 by the end of Year 6.

At the beginning of this academic year, a significant proportion of pupils were not on track to meet these requirements and so we improved the existing system of half-termly testing of the individualised Home School Book spellings to include these words in the online Spelling Shed games. We also discontinued the word patterns lists that were previously shared as additional homework so families could just focus on these statutory words. The patterns continue to be taught and explored in school.

We are now seeing great progress where pupils are practising both the patterns and words in school, and these personalised spellings at home online.

Please let your class teacher know if you have any questions or need support accessing Ed Shed. We have attached the information letter again at the end of this newsletter. Although there is only 1 homework activity-week allocated to spellings (and times tables) in order to provide a protected opportunity for this learning, pupils are encouraged to practise little and often in between as well.

Thank you for your support.

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 or on double yellow lines. 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.

New Attendance Raffle and Rewards

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**. In the February draw, **Yvette Anderson and Riley Reynolds** won the attendance rewards. Well done!

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	93.7%
RBe	93.0%

1F	95.7%
1BP	95.0%
2CW	94.5%
2HP	96.7%
3HP	93.2%
3G	94.7%
4V	94.2%
4C	92.3%
5KH	93.1%
5AH	95.9%
6H	93.7%
6D	94.7%

Well done 2HP!

Scooters and Bikes

Polite reminder

For safety reasons, at the beginning and end of the day, scooters and bikes brought on to school grounds must be **walked** to the bike-sheds, **not ridden**. Please ensure your child follows this rule. Thank you.

Governors' Corner

Welcome back to a very short term before we break up for Easter. Hopefully over the next few weeks the weather will improve and the days get longer and the children can play on the field without the dreaded mud all over the school uniform and classrooms. This short term will fly by so please continue with making every day count, working towards the attendance prizes. All of the Governors can see a great improvement in attendance so keep it up.

Katie Williams
Vice Chair of Governors



Designer

Just a few of our fantastic 'Home School Projects' from this term

KS1 - Dinosaurs



LKS2 - Pirate Ships



UKS2 - Rockets



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.

North East Essex Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

The MHST are holding an informal drop in session for parents/carers of children who attend Holland Haven and who would like to speak to someone about their child's mental health.

We hope to be able to offer these drop in sessions regularly.

Peter Banes, Senior Practitioner for MHST will be in the Acorn Room on the 5th March from 3pm - 4:30pm.

The MHST are able to offer advice on the following:

- How to respond when your child feels anxious
- Managing their worries
- Coping strategies
- Problem solving
- Building their independence

SEND Volleyball Competition

Well done to our year 5 pupils who took part in the Sitting Volleyball Competition on Tuesday 13th February at St Clare's Catholic Primary School. This sport was new to our pupils, yet they showed great enthusiasm and perseverance, whilst having lots of fun. The morning resulted in a 3rd place win for Holland Haven!

Congratulations to: Max King, Frank Fletcher, Lily-Rose Cole, Charlie Linehan, Summer Rydon and Abigail Shillito.

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>

PTA Corner

Wow into the second half of the Spring term already! Here is to the lighter evenings and hopefully some sunshine!

We have some exciting upcoming events this term, starting with our Mothers' Day Secret Shop. This is running on Thursday 29th February and Friday 1st March and your child will attend during the school day. Gifts can be purchased for £5 each ready to give to the person of their choice.

We are also pleased to be bringing back our silent disco, this time for Easter and this will be happening on Thursday 21st March, keep an eye out for the details sent home soon.

If you are able to help at any of our events please email ptachair@hollandhavenschool.co.uk.

Our next meeting will happen on Thursday 14th March at 3.30pm after school, please come along if you can. We desperately need people to assist with the planning and running of events so that we can make more things happen for the children so we can continue to raise money for the extras at school. If you can help in any way please come along to the meetings.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sam and the Friends of Holland Haven Committee.

Dates for the Diary

February 2024

29th February - Mothers Day shop day one

March 2024

1st March - Mother Day shop day two

5th and 7th March Parents' Evenings

6th March Year 6 Height and Weight checks

15th March Red Nose Day - non-uniform day

21st March Easter Discos