

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Curriculum news

Tag Rugby

On Tuesday, 10 very willing Year 6 girls attended the postponed Tag Rugby festival at Millais. The carousel of activities enabled them to learn all the necessary skills in order to play competitive games later on. Pleasingly, they won two and narrowly lost one, scoring some fantastic tries and putting in some excellent last ditch tagging! *Mrs E Wright*



Even though I turned up not knowing much about rugby, I learnt lots of skills during the carousel that I could use in the games at the end. Molly M

New Age Kurling

On Wednesday afternoon, 16 KS2 children attended a New Age Kurling festival at Millais. The afternoon consisted of 4 skills practices followed by games against the other schools. It was lovely to see children from different year groups mixing so nicely together and also showing great sportsmanship to the other schools too. *Mrs E Wright*

'It really helped me that the rest of my team were cheering me on no matter what. I had great fun' Ellie F



House Cup

The winner of the House Cup this week and a hat-trick of wins is Phoenix – well done!

Centaurs	Dragons	Phoenix	Unicorns
285	338	415	381



Festive activities

December has arrived and we have a host of Christmas activities, which kick off with our Year 1 & 2 productions on Tuesday & Thursday and our Carol Concert for Years 3-6 on Wednesday evening. This is the first time we have been back at St. Mary's Church and it will be lovely to see a packed church again. The children have been busy practising and are really looking forward to the events.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHURCH VISIT

To enable each of the Christmas assemblies to go ahead at St Marks Church on Friday 9th December, we will be looking for a number of parents helpers. If you are able to help at any please let the school office know. The assembly times are as follows:

9.30am EYFS/KS1

10.15am Y3/4

11.00am Y5/6

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CARDS - POST BOX

From **Monday 5th December**, the school Christmas Post Boxes will be available for pupils to post their cards.

The last posting day will be Tuesday 13th December. Year 6 pupils will act as post people each day to sort and distribute the cards. **Please ensure your child addresses the card with the name and class of the recipient.** There will be 4 post boxes around school:

- Yellow end for Reception and Year 1 pupils
- Blue end for Year 2
- Red end for Year 3 and 4
- Green end for Year 5 and 6



Friends of Holbrook

We are looking for a Class Rep for Year R and Year 3 classes. The role was introduced to speed up and improve communications between the school/PTA and parents regarding events and common queries that parents have. Please contact Mrs Sullivan if you can help.

Festive Food Donations

A reminder that you can bring festive food donations for the Horsham Matters foodbank into school on either the 6th or 8th December next week. The number of people using foodbanks in our area has increased by 50% over the past year.



The following long-life items are particularly sought over the festive period:

Chocolates, selection packs, Tubes of sweets, Savoury snacks, Biscuits, Hot chocolate, Christmas puddings, Tea bags/coffee, Long-life juice. Thank you. *Mrs Filson and the Eco-council*

Attendance

At Holbrook school, we have an attendance target of 97%, which helps us provide an outstanding education to all pupils. Any child whose attendance is below 90% is considered a 'persistent absentee' by the Department of Education. Schools are required by the Local Authority to regularly review all children whose absence is below this threshold to support children and to improve their attendance. We value the home-school partnership, so please do contact us if you need support in this area.

Below is guidance as to how absence impacts upon attendance each term and over the year.

Days missed in an average school term (approx)	Day missed over a school year (approx)	Attendance Percentage
0 - 2½	0 – 7½	96% to 100% GREEN
3 - 6	8 - 19	90% to 95% AMBER
6+	20+	Below 90% RED

Please note there is no legal entitlement to holidays during term time. Holiday during term time will automatically be classed as unauthorised (unless exceptional circumstances) and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance is the best it can be.

Picture News

This week's topic for discussion is Are some jobs more important than others? – see below.



Diary dates (new dates will appear in bold)

Tuesday 6 th December	Y1/2 Nativity to Y1 Parents
Tuesday 6th December	Horsham Matters Food Collection
Wednesday 7 th December	KS2 Carol Concert at St. Mary's church
Thursday 8 th December	Y1/2 Nativity to Y2 Parents
Thursday 8th December	Horsham Matters Food Collection
Friday 9 th December	Christmas assemblies at St. Marks church
Tuesday 13 th December	EYFS Nativity to Parents
Wednesday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 16 th December	Last day of the Autumn term
Spring 2023	
Tuesday 3 rd January	First day of the Spring term
Tuesday 10 th January	Y3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Thursday 12th January	Y3 Swimming Starts
Monday 16 th January	Parent Workshop-Sensory Processing Differences
Friday 20 th January	Young Voices at the O2
Monday 13th February-Friday 17th	Half Term
Monday 20 th February	INSET Day- School closed for pupils

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards,

Ian Holmes