

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Curriculum news

This week we start with a couple of musical events. Firstly, our Spring Concert which took place on Tuesday evening and involved over 80 children from Years 1 to 6. There was a wide variety of musical talent on show including performances involving vocals, recorders, keyboards, guitar and ukulele. It was lovely to see the hall bursting at the seams and the audience really appreciated the amazing concert organised by Mrs Geisler and Mrs Kerr. Thank you to Friends of Holbrook who helped with ticket sales and refreshments.



A group of pupils had a fantastic day at Christ's Hospital on Monday. We learned 5 really great songs with David Lawrence from Young Voices, had a very special lunch in the hall and even got to see the pupils of Christ Hospital school perform the Band Parade - it was amazing!! *Mrs Geisler*

On Tuesday, 10 Year 4 students attended a Tennis festival at the Holbrook Club which was hosted by Horsham District Council and run by Collyer's students. The format was based around different skills such as grip and the different strokes. The children had a wonderful afternoon and were awarded 'Spirit of the Games' certificates for excellent listening and following of instructions. *Mrs E Wright*



On Thursday afternoon, 30 year 6 pupils participated in an event run by some Collyer's students as part of their Business Studies course. The children listened and behaved excellently and thoroughly enjoyed the rotation of 4 activities. The final scores were as follows: Centaurs 201 points, Dragons 179 points, Phoenix 167 points, Unicorns 150 points.

Mrs E Wright

Yesterday was our Annual Governors' Day. The Holbrook governors spent the day seeing the school in action, talking to children and staff, meeting with the School Council and Year 6 pupils, hearing children read and much more. They were very impressed with the learning environment, children's positive attitudes to learning, the dedication and commitment of our staff, and how we plan for continuous improvement.



Year 6 took the train to visit Amberley Museum on Wednesday as part of their learning about how the introduction of the railway helped local businesses to flourish by shipping their products throughout the country and beyond. They rode on a narrow-gauge train through the site and used a similar one to transport material around the site as well as investigating some artefacts including old clogs. They were protective and durable but very heavy! Later in the afternoon, the children returned to Horsham town centre to continue their local study.

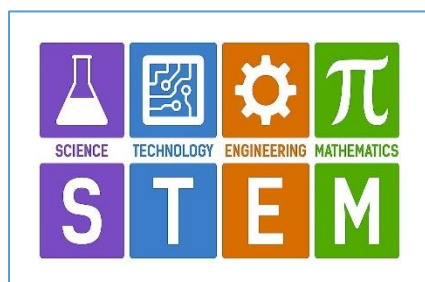


Chess Tournament

The Year 3 & 4 Chess Tournament reached its climax this week. Well done to all the children who took part in the UK Chess Challenge, which involved seven rounds of matches against a different opponent each week. The eventual winner was Abi Kelly who finished with 19 points out of 21 (5 wins and 2 draws). Runners up – Tristan Varga, Theodore Mikhalev and third place Tristan Page-Symeonidis, Jamie Hemingway and Jacob Smith. Congratulations all.



STEM



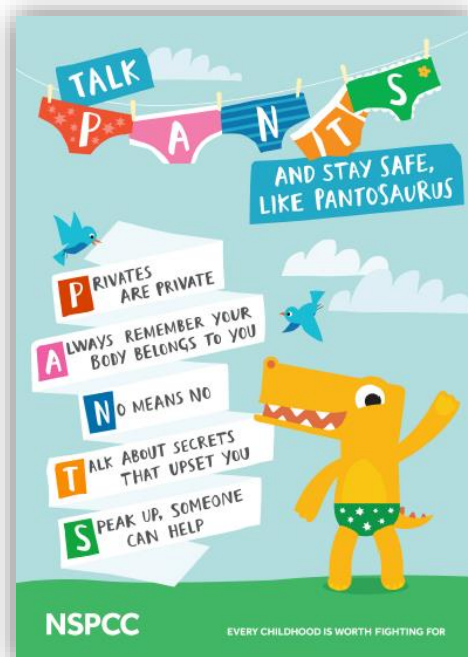
Calling for STEM grants! As a school, we have been very lucky in the past to have received STEM (science, technology, engineering & maths) grants from parent's workplaces. We are now seeking further grants to enhance our STEM offering to the children at school. This money would be used to buy further equipment and offer enrichment activities. If you think your workplace does offer grants, please would you look into this for us and please contact Mrs Noake for support in applying. Thank you

Mrs Noake

Safeguarding - Talking PANTS with your children

The NSPCC is one of the UK's leading children's charity and produces a variety of guides to help keep children safe. The NSPCC 'Talk PANTS' is a simple way for parents/carers to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex. We use this guide at school to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone, using the rules of PANTS. You can find out more and download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website www.nspcc.org.uk/parents.



Picture News

This week's topic for discussion is 'How important are guide dogs for those in need?' – see below.



In the news this week

Sight loss charity, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, has launched an appeal for volunteers to help raise and foster guide dogs. Guide dog users rely on their companions for help inside and outside the home, and for many, for their independence. In a recent documentary shown on the BBC, journalist Sean Dilley told of his relationship with his guide dog, Sammy, who recently retired. After the programme aired, the charity had close to 5,000 people stepping forward to volunteer. Before the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020, there were over 4,800 guide dog partnerships and now there are 3,695. More than one in five people who had a guide dog before then now do not.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you seen a guide dog? How did you know it was a guide dog?
- > In what ways do you think a guide dog will help someone who is blind or partially sighted?
- > Why do you think lots of people volunteered to help raise guide dogs?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Hot Meals Ordering Cut off dates

April Cut off Dates	May Cut off Dates
Thursday 6/4 for w/c Monday 17/4	Thursday 4/5 for w/c Monday 15/5
Thursday 20/4 for w/c Tuesday 2/5	Thursday 11/5 for w/c Monday 22/5
Thursday 27/4 for w/c Monday 8/5	Thursday 25/5 for w/c Monday 5/6

Diary dates (new dates will appear in bold)

Tuesday 28 th March	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Festival
Tuesday 28 th March	Girls Football Friendly at Southwater
Wednesday 29th March	House Cross Country tournament
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 20th April	Y2 Cricket festival
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9th–Friday 12th May	Y6 SATS week
Thursday 11th May	Y4 swimming starts

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Ian Holmes
Headteacher