

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Curriculum news



Dog's Trust visit

On Tuesday, we had a visit from Jodie and Emily from the Dog's Trust. They held assemblies teaching us how to approach dogs safely, and what to do if a dog approaches us when we are not expecting it. We learnt to stand still, keep quiet, get rid of anything in our hands that the dog might be interested in, cross our arms across our body and not make eye contact until the owner comes to help. In our workshops, we learnt a bit more about keeping safe and about the work that the Dog's Trust do to help rehome 12,000 dogs a year across the UK.

"I really enjoyed learning about dogs' senses. I found out that you shouldn't just go up to a dog's face as they are almost colour blind and they can't see that well so they might get triggered to run away or even attack. They are much better at smelling!" Jensen

"I really enjoyed it because although I have a dog and know quite a lot, I still learnt a lot of new things such as don't just stroke a strange dog - always ask their owner and an adult." Faith



Remembrance

Today, one of our parents, Mr Corrigan, took a special assembly for KS2 pupils on the subject of Remembrance. He talked about his life as a soldier in Afghanistan and why we remember those who have lost their lives in conflicts over past and modern times. Next week, Year 5 will lead our own Remembrance Assembly for KS1 and KS2 pupils.

Learning about different cultures

As part of our school development plan this year, we would like to celebrate and learn more about the different cultures that are represented in our school community. We would be grateful for any parents / carers who would like to come in and speak to their children's class about their religion or culture so that children can learn more about the wider world. If you would be willing to do so, please email Mrs Souques (R.E lead) at woodpeckers@holbrookprimaryschool.com and she can help liaise with class teachers a suitable opportunity for this. Mrs Souques



INSET day

Earlier this year, we published four of our five INSET (staff training) days for 2023-24. I can now confirm that the final INSET day is Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Consequently, the spring term will begin for pupils on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Parent Consultation evenings on the 7th and 9th November. Further details can be found in a separate Parentmail.

Safeguarding

During the wet weather, it can be tempting to drive to school and drop your child off on the yellow zig-zag lines on Holbrook School Lane, which has important safety implications and increases the chance of a child or adult being seriously injured. Please park responsibly and safely.



Firework safety

Please have a safe and enjoyable celebration if you are holding your own event or attending an organised display. Every year children, adults and animals are injured by fireworks, so here is a reminder of the Fireworks Code.

Poppy Appeal

Don't forget poppies and other remembrance merchandise is on sale outside the office before school until Friday 10th November. Please note that it will be a silver/gold collection only, with a suggested minimum of 20p.



School Library



We are delighted to confirm the library will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school until 3.30pm from 14th November. Thank you to our lovely parent volunteers, Mrs Woodason, Mrs Laws and Mrs McCann, who have made this possible.

CHARTWELLS ORDER CUT OFF DATES

| CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59 | FOR WEEK COMMENCING |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9th November 2023 | 20th November 2023 |
| 16th November 2023 | 27th November 2023 |
| 23rd November 2023 | 4th December 2023 |
| 30 th November 2023 | 11 th December 2023 |
| 21 st December 2023 | 2 nd January 2024 |
| 28 th December 2023 | 8 th January 2024 |
| 4th January 2024 | 15th January 2024 |
| 11th January 2024 | 22nd January 2024 |

Picture News

This week the topic for discussion is 'Should 'super shoes' be allowed in races?' – see below.

TAKEHOME

30 Oct - 5 Nov

In the news this week

Kenyan long-distance runner, Kelvin Kiptum, crossed the line in a new world record time at this year's Chicago Marathon, wearing Nike Alphafly 3 'super shoes'. He completed the race in the time of 2:00:35, beating the record set by fellow Kenyan, Eliud Kipchoge, in 2022, by 34 seconds. It was Kiptum's third marathon, and he now holds three of the six fastest times in history. In September this year, Tigst Assefa from Ethiopia also broke the women's marathon world record in Berlin.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you think it is fair that a lot of focus has been on the shoes Kelvin was wearing rather than what he has achieved with a new world record?
- > Do you feel that people should be allowed to wear whatever they like in competitions?
- > In your opinion, should there be a different rule for professional athletes and those who are entering for fun/not as a professional?

Should 'super shoes' be allowed in races?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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Horsham Matters Foodbank (from Amalia Lovett, Network and Campaigns Lead and Holbrook parent)

As you can imagine, our foodbank, like many across the country, has been very busy as residents struggle due to the cost-of-living crisis. Locally, this is the picture:

- In December 2022, the Horsham District Foodbank provided almost 1,500 individual food parcels, including almost 300 Christmas parcels to families suffering hardship in the district. This is more than the food bank provided in December 2020 during the pandemic.
- 45% of current clients are using the food bank for the first time.
- We are currently supporting between 700-800 individuals per month.



Our aim is to end the need for foodbanks, as we know that they are not a long-term solution. We provide a range of holistic services to address the root causes of poverty, including household budget support, benefit advice, counselling, and gas and electricity vouchers.

We know that community and teaching students to be good citizens is at the heart of your school. Research reveals that participating in community service programs and learning about the importance and value of serving others can be a powerful influence on positive character development.

We have created a short film that talks about the work we do. You can find the film here

<https://youtu.be/GmODT7UyshQXX>.

Diary dates (new dates will appear in bold)

| Autumn 2023 | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 7 th November | School photographs - individuals |
| Tues 7 th & Thurs 9 th November | Parent Consultations |
| Friday 10 th November | Remembrance service |
| Tuesday 14 th November | Y1 trip to Lewes Castle |
| Thursday 16th November | Bowles meeting for Y5 parents |
| Thursday 23 rd November | Flu Vaccinations |
| Friday 24 th November | Y5 Trip to Newhaven Fort |
| Saturday 2 nd December | FOH Christmas Fayre |
| Tuesday 5th December am | KS1 Nativity to Y1 parents |
| Wednesday 6th December am | KS1 Nativity to Y2 parents |
| Wednesday 6 th December | KS2 Carol Concert at St. Mary's church |
| Thursday 7th December pm | EYFS Nativity to parents |
| Friday 8 th December | Christmas assemblies at St. Marks church |
| Tuesday 12th December | EYFS & KS1 FOH Christmas dance parties |
| Wednesday 13 th December | Christmas Lunch & dress up day |
| Thursday 14 th December | KS2 FOH Christmas dance parties |
| Friday 15 th December | Last day of the Autumn term |
| Spring 2024 | |
| Tuesday 2nd January | School closed for INSET day |

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,



Ian Holmes

Headteacher