



# Helmingham Community

## Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Bernie Cleland Newsletter 4– Dec 2015

Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to start by saying a huge congratulations to all the children for their super Christmas show. The fact that they came up with the ideas, wrote their script and performed it is a fantastic achievement. We are very proud of them, as I am sure you are. I would also like to say thank you to Friends for providing mince pies and drinks, which I know were appreciated, and for organising the raffle (prize winners will be notified). They raised £217 for the children. Friends will be holding their AGM in January and would welcome you to join them.

The service at Helmingham Church was another success. Not only did the children sing beautifully but there were comments from the congregation about their exemplary behaviour. Well done to all those that came.

We have a couple of staff changes after Christmas. Mrs Everard will be leaving us and I am very grateful to her for helping us out this term. In January Mrs Last joins us as Bursar and will be working on a Tuesday with Mrs Thomas in Monday and Wednesday to Friday. Miss Scrivener is joining Stars class for 4 mornings a week—this will mean Stars will have 2 teachers during these times. I am sure you will make her feel welcome. Unfortunately we have yet to replace Mrs Chilvers role of Cleaner in Charge and are very appreciative of Emma stepping in to this role temporarily. Please let us know if you know of anyone who may be interested in this role. Mrs Care has joined our mid day supervisors team.

Just a reminder that the children return to school on Tuesday 5 January.

Have a great Christmas and new year; you never know we may see snow!

### School Improvement

The deadline has passed for returning the parent questionnaires. We have had 18/38 families return them. I have had an initial look at them and a full analysis will be ready for the next newsletter and this will feed in to our plans for the future. I am aware that, in these, some people expressed concern about the state of the outside of the building; and I would agree. We have gained quotes for repainting the woodwork and these have come in around the £15 000 mark. It is on our schedule to do but I am sure you can appreciate this is a lot of money for us to set aside. If you have any fund raising ideas to help get funds towards this please let me know.

Mrs Coupe and Mrs Jest have been working with our Chair of Governors and Helmingham Hall to set up an outdoor learning area just outside the school perimeter. This will be based on the Forest School idea and provide some exciting outdoor learning experiences for all the children, starting in February.

We are currently working on our Marking and Feedback Policy and as part of this held an 'Austin's Butterfly' Day. On this day the children made a drawing then gave and received feedback to help improve their work. All the children gave very specific feedback, listened and acted on what they heard. Their work showed great improvements as the day went on. The children were very resilient and produced many drafts before using colour on their final one. Ask the children about the day.

Apologies for the hiccups we are having with parent mail, we hope this will be sorted for the new year. In the meantime please make sure you are registered on the system.

Next term there will be an information evening, **on Wednesday 10 February at 6pm**, to explain how we assess the children and share some of the tools we use in school. It will also look at the statutory requirements for assessing children in year 2 and 6.



### **Winners in school.....**

Anya Rodriguez won a competition, run by Otley College, to design a tractor for the future. Ellie Scoresby won a bauble designing competition and has won tickets to a panto and a chance to meet and greet the cast. Both of these competitions were county wide so the girls have done really well.



## Dates for your diary.....

### Spring Term 2016

#### **January**

Mon 4 Staff in school  
Tues 5 Children in School  
w/b 11 Clubs start

#### **February**

Wed 10 Assessment Information Evening  
15—19 HALF TERM  
Fri 26 Reports out

#### **March**

Tues 8 Parents evening  
Wed 9 Parents evening  
w/b 14 Last week of clubs  
Thur 24 END OF TERM

### Certificate update



#### Bronze House Point Certificates

Nathan White, Alex Chattell, Ella Reid, Freddie McLennan, Tomos Harries, Jared Reeve, Lyra Rodriguez, Alice Rutland, Joseph Marshall, Leo Cox, Beatrice Meadows, Kathrine Coleman, Samuel Barstow, Oliver Leech, Isabelle Checketts, William Rutland, Hannah Reynolds, Kyran Lewin, Jessica Ford, Kathryn Reynolds, Flossie Booker, Gruff Harries, William Raven, Joshua Horsup, Joshua Oxborrow, Fern Berry, Freddy Irvine, Grace Checketts, Sophie Checketts and Sophie McLennan

#### Silver House Point Certificates

Kyran Lewin

#### 4 Rs Awards

Hannah Reynolds, Daniel Marshall, Caleb Reeve, William Rutland, Joshua Oxborrow, Flossie Booker and Fern Berry

Vey Well Done

### Free School Meals

Don't forget that all children in Years R, 1 and 2 are now entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of your financial situation. You do not need to do anything to register. They just need to order their lunch as normal.

If you qualify for Free School Meals (under the previous requirements) then you are entitled to a free bundle of uniform, no matter which year your child is in. This can be renewed any time during the year. Please call into the office for further details.

## **Clubs news**

This term we are running the following clubs

Tuesday Football (Years 3-6)  
Thursday Hockey (Years 2-6)  
Thursday Lunch time Awesome Club (All years)

We had planned to offer a gymnastics club on Mondays but had little interest which did not make it financially viable.

We would like to offer more clubs and a bigger range. If you have any suggestions please come and tell us.



### Charity Fundraiser

Gruff and Joshua H were disappointed to have to cancel their quiz night fund raising event. Please keep a watch out for charity events in the new year.



### Colder Weather

Now that the weather has turned colder, can you please make sure your child brings a suitable coat for playtime.

In the event of severe weather, please refer to the school's website as the first point of information and listen to local radio. A decision will be made on closure between 6 and 7am.



### School Milk

Need information on the school milk scheme?

Either ask at the office or look on [coolmilk.com](http://coolmilk.com)

Free to under 5s and pupil premium children.

Subsidised prices for all others.

