

Helmingham Community

Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Bernie Cleland Newsletter 5– Jan 2016

Dear Parents & Carers

Everyone is already settled in to the new term and I am sure you also feel like Christmas was ages ago!

Congratulations to Emma Smith. We nominated Emma for an award with the catering company and she has reached the final 3 (from 140).

We are working closely with Earl Soham Primary School with a view to developing a closer collaboration to offer the pupils more opportunities and support staff development. We will keep you informed of the progress on this.

This term Stars are working on the theme of 'Castles'. Moon class theme is 'On the Rocks' and Sun class are looking at 'The Americas'. There are visits already being planned so watch out for the information on these.

Unfortunately we have been unable to appoint a 'Cleaner in Charge'. If you know of anyone or are interested yourself please let us know.

Mrs Cleland



School Improvement

There will be an assessment 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. The meeting will be no longer than 1 hour.

The parent questionnaires have been collated we had 18 responses. These are the highlights from the responses we had.

- 100% agree or strongly agree their child is happy at Helmingham
- 100% agree or strongly agree their child has friends at school
- 100% agree or strongly agree there is a happy atmosphere at school
- 100% agree or strongly agree they feel welcome when they come in to school
- 100% agree or strongly agree their child is making good progress
- 100% agree or strongly agree the teaching is good
- 100% agree or strongly agree the school trips and visits are worth while
- 100% agree or strongly agree the schools values and attitudes have a positive affect on their child
- 100% agree or strongly agree that schools meals are enjoyable
- 100% agree or strongly agree that members of staff are approachable
- 100% agree or strongly agree the end of year report provides the information needs about their child's progress and achievement
- 100% agree or strongly agree that they can approach the school if they have a concern



The key areas for future development are

- 28% disagreed that the school building are well maintained
- 45% disagreed that they were given enough information about to support their child
- 26% disagreed that we run enough clubs
- 22% disagreed that the system of discipline is effective
- 28% disagreed that inappropriate behaviour is dealt with effectively
- 21% do not feel they understand the role of the governors

We are working on our Behaviour Policy and it is important that we look at how we move forward with this. We would love to hear your suggestions. If you can pop in and tell us on Friday 22 January between 9 and 9.30 or Thursday 28 January between 2.45 and 3.15. Alternatively email the office (admin@helmingham.suffolk.sch.uk).

We are moving forward with our plans to use a Forest Schools approach to learning. If you would like to find out more this website is useful www.forestschoolassociation.org/what-is-forest-school.

Dates for your diary.....

Spring Term 2016

January

Fri 22 Behaviour drop in
Thurs 28 Behaviour drop in
Governors meeting

February

Wed 10 Assessment Information Evening
Thur 11 Maths day
w/b 15 HALF TERM

March

Fri 4 Reports out (change of date)
Tues 8 Parents evening (3.30-5.30)
Wed 9 Parents evening (5-7)
w/b 14 Last week of clubs
Tues 15 Science day
Wed 16 Year 6 DHS morning
Thur 24 END OF TERM

Summer 2016

April

Mon 11 Start of term

May

w/b 9 Year 6 SAT's
w/b 30 HALF TERM

July

Tues 5 Year 6 DHS induction
day
w/b 11 Year 6 Residential
Thur 21 END OF TERM

TERM DATES 2016-17

Autumn Term

September

1 and 2 PD days (no children)
Mon 5 Children in school

October

Fri 21 PD day (no children)
w/b 24 Half Term

December

Tues 20 End of Term

Spring Term

January

Wed 4 PD day (no children)
Thur 5 Children in school

February

w/b 13 Half Term



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.

Colder Weather

There has been a definite change to colder weather so please make sure your child brings a suitable coat for playtime. Our grass is also very muddy after the recent rain; if you would like your children to have a separate pair of outdoor shoes or wellies please feel free to send them in.

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.



Charity Fundraiser

We hope you had a happy new year. Our next charity fund raiser is on 20 January. The children do not have to wear uniform for a donation of £1.

Joshua H and Gruff



Fantastic App Recommendation

Do you have problems with your children using their tablets all the time? Just recently I have downloaded the app- OurPact for my children at home. OurPact is a leading control app for iPhones, iPads and iPods that makes it easy for you to set limits on how much time your children are spending on their mobile devices. You can create schedules, block all Internet and app use at a moments notice or reward them with the allowance feature. It's free and works a treat!

Mrs Salmon



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers.

We will be collecting these from the end of the month. We often use these to provide more play-ground equipment for the children. If you have any please send them in.

Certificate update

Bronze House Point Certificates

Neveh Morgan, Ethan Morgan,
Joshua Barstow, Caleb Reeve,

4 Rs Awards

George Saunders

Vey Well Done

School Milk

Need information on the school milk scheme?

Either ask at the office or look on coolmilk.com

Free to under 5s and pupil premium children.

