

Helmingham Community Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Bernie Cleland
Newsletter 5 – February 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half of the term has flown by and what a way to end with the snow! Thank you for sending the children in to school with suitable clothes for them to be able to go outside sometimes to enjoy the weather.

Next half term years 4 and 5 have the opportunity to take part in mini Olympic events at Debenham High School. Sun class are planning a trip to Needham Lakes and Moon Class to Colchester Zoo. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our Internet safety rules that are displayed in school. These have been shared with the children.

Bernie Cleland

School Improvement

Thank you to those who returned the homework questionnaire. There was quite a variety of responses and the children's opinions differ from that of the parents! We are working on the policy to ensure that it provides appropriate guidance and expectations.

The school council have chosen the gazebo which has been included on the plans. We are still awaiting updates on the progress of these plans. We are continuing to work on our curriculum provision and the children are enjoying trying new topics.

The attendance policy has been updated in line with local authority policy. Just a reminder that there are 3 eligible reasons for authorised holiday absence - service personnel leave, employees subject to a strict and negotiable holiday rota where proof is provided by the employer, to support a family in a time of crisis. Also the school day starts at 9.00am and finishes at 3.15pm. The register closes at 9.15am and 1.15pm. the full policy is available in school if you wish to see it.



Governors News

The governors met for their regular half-termly meeting and were delighted to welcome Rosie Hutchinson as the new community governor. Rosie previously had two children at Helmingham so knows the school well.

Four governors recently attended a School Council meeting and heard directly from the children ideas and suggestions for improving the school. One issue that came up repeatedly was a request for more lunchtime and after-school clubs. **CAN YOU HELP AT ALL?** The majority of these clubs rely on the support of parents to run them. Can you spare one hour a week or a fortnight to help out? Joanna Thomas in the school office has some great ideas for a gardening club to run during a lunch hour every week starting after Easter but she needs help. Or perhaps sport is more up your street and you wouldn't mind organising football, rugby or rounders! Please let either myself or Mrs Cleland know if you think you could help us at all.

A new, improved and bigger bike shed was also discussed and the council members then went away and ran a survey to see how many children would be interested in cycling more regularly - 19 indicated that they would be. So the governors are now considering how we can take this forward so that we have something in place for when the weather warms up.

Once again some of the governors will be available at the parent's evenings in March so we look forward to meeting you then.

As always, you can contact me via the school office. The governor meeting next half term is on 19th March.

Mary Graham



Congratulations

These children have received their bronze certificates, so far the term, for 50 house points:- Polly Cox, Emre Altintop, Abbie Smith, Holly Mayhew, Dempsey Lydecker, James Davies-Stokes, Hannah George and Charlie Berry. Gruffudd Harries has received his silver certificate for 100 house points. Ellie Jacques and Jessica Ford received 4R's certificates and Joanna Thomas, Hannah George, Holly Walker and Henry Meadows were winners of the recycling competition. For the 4th year in a row our basketball team won the interschool tournament - Baris Altintop, James Davies-Stokes, Abbie Webb, Tim Leggett, Dempsey Lydecker, Holly Mayhew, Jacob Toohey and Daisy Felton

Class News

Sun Class have enjoyed their art work on rivers. Also the basketball training leading up to the tournament. In numeracy we have learnt about fractions and in creative writing we wrote an adventure story. James and Zak

Moon Class have watched some of Finding Nemo and used it as a stimulus for weaving. In literacy we have written calligrams based on a sea theme. In science we have been measuring and ordering. Gymnastics has been fun using the equipment. Polly and Francesca

Stars Class We have had fun with songs in literacy and poems. We have been counting in 5's up to 100 and even above also weighing. Playing with the wild animals is great and drawing snowy pictures. Gethin, Samson and Joe

Reminders

If your child is going home with another child at the end of the day please let a member of staff know, especially if they will be travelling in one of the taxi's.

Dates for your diary.....

Spring 2012

Thursday 9 th February	Sun Celebration assembly (9.00)
Monday 13 th - Friday 17 th February	Half term
Thursday 23 rd February	Friends Pudding Night
Wednesday 29 th February	Scholastic book fair
Thursday 1 st March	Moon Celebration assembly (9.00)
Tuesday 13 th March	Parents evening (3.30-5.30)
Wednesday 14 th March	Parents evening (5.00-7.00)
Thursday 23 rd March	Stars Celebration assembly (9.00)
Friday 30 th March	End of Term

Summer 2012

Monday 16 th April	Staff in school
Tuesday 17 th April	Children in school
Monday 30 th April	Year 6 Residential
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SAT week
Monday 4 th June - Friday 8 th June	Half term
Sunday 20 th May	Crows hall country dancing
Friday 20 th July	End of term for children
Monday 23 rd July	Staff in school



Can you help?

Scholastic Book Fair

From Thursday 3rd March to Tuesday 8th March we will have the scholastic book fair in school. The children will be given time in school to browse the books and they will be available to buy after school on Thursday 1st March, Friday 2nd March and Monday 5th March. It would be great if there are some parents who could help us during these sessions. If you are unable to attend one of these sessions and your child would like to purchase a book please send the money into school in a named envelope. Attached is a brochure for you to be able to look through with your child.

A previous book fair raised over £400

New clubs....

After half term Mrs Scase will be running a country dancing club, ready for performing at Crow's Hall on 20th May.

Also Mrs Scase and Mrs Borrett will be running a lunch time 'Maketon' club for children in reception, years 1, 2 and 3.

Book Call

Please could you check at home for any school books that have a blue sticker with SLS on. If you find any please return them to school as these are county library books and need to be sent back.

Thank you

If you have any questions or concerns please speak to a member of staff and with home and school working together we can ensure that your child achieves their full potential. Your ideas are always welcome, just speak to member of staff or drop us a note.

School lunches

On Tuesday 21st February there is a special Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Lunch of -
Mardi Gras Piggy in a Blanket
Or Vegetable Burrito
Cheesy Mash, Baked Beans and Peas and Sweetcorn
Lemon and Sugar Pancake

*Come and join us for a Special Mother's Day Lunch of -
Homemade Lasagne or Homemade Quiche
Served with Granary Bread or Jacket Wedges
Lemon Steamed Sponge Pudding and Custard
Adults £3.17 and children £2.10*

Please let us know if you are interested by returning this slip

Name

I am/am not interested in having a Mother's day lunch

