

Helmingham Community Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Bernie Cleland
Newsletter 4 – February 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the cold weather continues, please remember to look at the school's website for updates. You may find it quicker than the Suffolk County Council site.

We will be having a Friendship Week starting 25 February. The School Council have been organising this and the focus will be on building and maintaining relationships. You are all invited to come to school at 3pm on Thursday 28 February to see what we have been doing.

Do you have an interesting job? Would you be able to come into school some time and talk to a group of children about it? If so, please speak to your child's teacher. We'd love to hear from you!

Can you also let us know of any achievements the children have out of school, e.g. swimming, music, so that we can celebrate them in school.

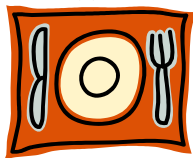
Bernie Cleland

Free School Meals

You should find a flyer attached about free school meals (apologies for those already receiving them). Please have a look and see if you qualify.

For every child that receives free school meals, we receive substantial additional funding.

If you need any help, don't hesitate to contact the office.



Governor News

One of the topics discussed at the last governor's meeting was the Suffolk County Council "Raising the Bar" initiative across all Suffolk schools - a real push by the local authority to raise aspiration and achievement as Suffolk is currently 121st out of 150 local authorities for educational attainment at age 16. With aspiration in mind, we're really keen as a school to invite outside speakers in to the school to talk to the pupils about their work or any interesting experiences they might have had. So if you've got a job which you think the children might be interested in hearing about or you've got some fascinating travel or life experiences (sailed the Atlantic single-handed or climbed Mount Everest perhaps....!), please contact Mrs Cleland! We'd love to hear from you and so would the children!

On a more serious note, the new funding formula which the government is introducing shortly is the biggest change to school funding in 26 years and will have an impact on every school in the country - and Helmingham is no exception. It means that the fundraising that Friends of Helmingham do is more important than ever and I hope that you will be able to support them over the coming months.

Wishing you a good half-term break.

Mary Graham

Chair of Governors

Congratulations

Winners of the bronze certificates are Amelia, Oliver, Hazel, Samuel B, Nell, Ronny, Hugh, Alfie T-G, Poppy, Izzy, James DS and Joe S.

Winners of silver certificates are Gethin, Samson, Joshua O, Kathryn, Caitlin, Maddy, Holly M and Tilly.

4Rs certificates go to James T, Rowan, Ewan, Ronny, William J, Alfie I and Asher Oxborrow.

Traffic Light Stars have been awarded to Scarlet, Maddy, Kathryn, Samson, Charlie, Anya, Woody, Alfie T-G, Lilianna, Gabrielle, Maisie and Hugh.

Very well done to all concerned!

School Council Report

In January the School Council went for a visit to Endeavour House in Ipswich and held a School Council meeting inside the Council Chambers. They met the current leader of the chamber, Councillor Jeremy Pembroke and James DS was invited to sit at the top table next to him and chair a school council meeting. James was also lucky enough to wear the chain of office, an honour only given to the Chair of the House. All the school councillors enjoyed their visit and used the laptop & intercom facilities to express their views on the subject of the forthcoming Friendship Week. After the meeting there was a quick tour of Endeavour House with a look at the view of Ipswich from the top floor.

Dates for your diary.....

Spring 2013

Thur 14 th February	Basketball tournament
Mon 18 th - Fri 22 nd February	Half Term Holiday
Thur 28 Feb	Moon Class Celebration Assembly
Tues 12 th Mar	Parents Evening 5-7.30pm
Wed 13 th Mar	Y6 DHS liaison morning
	Book Fair arrives
	Parents Evening 3.30 - 5.30pm
Thurs 14 Mar	Quicksticks Hockey tournament
	Stars Cl. Celebration Assembly
Fri 22 nd Mar	Tag Rugby tournament
Thur 28 Mar	End of Term

Summer term 2013

Mon 15 Apr	Children & staff in school
Mon 22 nd - Fri 26 Apr	Y6 African Adventure trip
Mon 6 th May	Bank Holiday
Mon 27 th - Fri 31 st May	Half term
Mon 3 rd June	Girls Football tournament
Wed 18 th June	Provisional date Crucial Crew Y6
Thur 27 June	Rounders tournament
Wed 10 th July	DHS Induction Day Y6
Fri 19 th July	End of term (children)
Mon 22 nd - Tues 23 rd July	PD Days (staff in school)

Collecting Children

When you collect your children can you please wait on the playground, and not around the picnic benches and front door.

It is for safety reasons as it much easier for the staff to see whose parents are present before sending the children home.

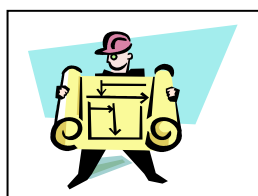
I would also ask that you wait until 3.10pm before entering the playground. I appreciate that there are some parents who pick up their children from Nursery at 3pm and I would be grateful if you could wait by the lower picnic bench (near the quiet garden) as there are sometimes lessons still taking place.

Thank you



School Improvement

There is currently a delay on the new build in connection with the lease. As soon as this has been resolved, work will begin. Watch this space!



Office Request

If you are sent a bill for school lunches can you please send in that exact amount. It takes time to calculate each bill separately and it is very frustrating then to receive different random amounts on cheques. School lunches are £2.20 each.

Bills for music and multisports have now been sent out to please check your child's book bag. 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.