

**HEADTEACHER COMMENT**

Earlier this week I communicated the good news that Highters Heath Lane from Maypole Lane to Pickenham Road will remain open during the forthcoming roadworks. This will obviously minimise disruption but there will be some time issues with restricted access and traffic congestion on Pickenham Road.

As mentioned the school will do everything possible to help parents with this problem. We will have a wider drop off time scale and the current 8.45am – 8.55am window will be extended to 8.40am – 9.00am. We will be setting up walking buses from Daisy Farm Park for the two weeks of disruption. The walking bus will be available from 8.30am – 8.40am on a daily basis. Staff will arrive at 8.30am and take children to school at 8.40am. We have had a reasonable response for this service so we will operate from Monday 6th February. Please let us know before then if you want to use the service. Currently we are going to operate the bus with two members of staff, we will obviously need to increase this if we have more children coming along.

Unfortunately we will need to CANCEL the Valentines Disco scheduled for Thursday 16th February due to the Roadworks, many apologies but we will organise an Easter Disco to compensate for this.

ATTENDANCE (W.B. 9.1.17) (REMEMBER ABSENCE LINE: 675 4525)

| Class | Lates | %Attend | Days Lost | Class | Lates | %Attend | Days Lost |
|-------------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|-----------|
| RSBS Otters | 0 | 98 | 0.5 | RSBS Deer | 0 | 80 | 7 |
| RA | 3 | 97.99 | 3 | 3B | 4 | 99.33 | 1 |
| RM | 2 | 93.67 | 9.5 | 3S | 0 | 98 | 3 |
| 1B | 3 | 88.33 | 17.5 | 4B | 0 | 94.48 | 8 |
| 1F | 0 | 93.33 | 10 | 4T | 1 | 95.17 | 7 |
| 2B | 0 | 96.67 | 5 | 5A | 2 | 96.33 | 5.5 |
| 2P | 1 | 90.33 | 14.5 | 5H | 3 | 97.33 | 4 |
| | | | | 6H | 3 | 95.33 | 7 |
| Total | 23 | 95.13 | 104.5 | 6S | 1 | 98.62 | 2 |

Well done to RA and 3B and the Otters who won the pandas for last week. Thank you for your support - we are now at 96.36%, so we are creeping closer to our target of 97%.

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGES FOR 2017

We have been reviewing the way we assess at Hollywood and in order to get accurate data we will be assessing the children throughout the year, with the next big assessment period being at the end of the spring term. In order to give parents useful and up to date information we will be postponing the next parents evening from the end of March to the following dates at the start of the summer term:

Thursday 27th April Parents Evening with Reports
Tuesday 2nd May Parents Evening with Reports

HSBC BANK – KS2

Our next visits from Miss Howes will be on 23rd January and 6th February.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

We continue to have vacancies for the role of parent governor at the school. If you would like to find out more, without committing yourself, please come along to a meeting at school on Monday 30th January at 4.30pm.

BAD WEATHER REMINDER

In the event of severe overnight winter weather, leading to general closure of schools, announcements will be made on local radio from 7.00am onwards. Where extreme weather is localised and affects a small number of schools, the names of the closed schools will be broadcast. It is vital that parents tune into local radio stations for updates. We will also text parents as soon as we can.

RADIO WM (95.6FM)**FREE RADIO (96.4FM)****HEART FM (100.7FM)**

No announcements mean school is open; therefore there is no need to phone school.

WHY IS READING SO IMPORTANT?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN I MAKE AS A PARENT?

You can make a huge difference! Parents are the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too early or late to start reading together.

BUILDING VOCABULARY AND UNDERSTANDING

Reading is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard. As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books, comics, magazines, leaflets etc. that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together.

Some of the things you can do include:

- reading aloud to your child, talking about the words and pictures, and sharing ideas about the book,
- reading yourself – children who see adults reading, and enjoying it, are much more likely to want to read themselves,
- surrounding your child with books – you don't need hundreds of books at home, but go to the library or bookshop regularly to borrow books, spend time together, browse and make choices. In this way, reading becomes a habit.

If you would like more information please visit <http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/how-to-share-books/top-tips-on-sharing-books>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 2017

- Monday 23rd January - Inspire Workshops Year 3 – Literacy/Numeracy 10.00am
Tuesday 24th January - Year 6 - Inspire Workshop – Literacy/Numeracy – 9.15am
Wednesday 25th January - Ofsted Inspection Report Action Plan Meeting with Parents 6.00pm
Friday 27th January - Young Voices Event – School Choir
Monday 30th January - Parent Governor information meeting 4.30pm
W.B. 30th January - National Story Telling Week

FEBRUARY 2017

- Thursday 2nd February - Year 2 – Inspire Workshop – Literacy/Numeracy – 9.15am
Monday 6th March - Inspire Workshops Year 4 – Literacy/Numeracy am
Tuesday 7th February - Safer Internet Day
Thursday 16th February - FOH Valentine Disco CANCELLED
Friday 17th February - Break up for half-term
Monday 27th February - Return to school

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“If one comes across a person who has been shot by an arrow, one does not spend time wondering about where the arrow came from, or the caste of the individual who shot it, or analyzing what type of wood the shaft is made of, or the manner in which the arrowhead was fashioned. Rather, one should focus on immediately pulling out the arrow.”

~ Shakyamuni, the Buddha, via The Art of Happiness

Many thanks

Mr. S. Dix
(Headmaster)