

Holbeach

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st March 2019

Daffodil Growing Competition

Did you know that today (March 1st) is St David's Day and that St David is the patron saint of Wales? Did you also know that the daffodil is one of the traditional flowers displayed on St David's day?

On Wednesday, the Holbeach School Council helped to organise the school's annual 'Daffodil Growing Competition' and invited children from across the school to bring in the daffodils that they have been growing at home.



In October, 124 pots and 250 bulbs were given out and, on Wednesday, 54 flower pots were brought into school, in the various stages of growth to be judged by a lady called Barbara Nella from the London Children's flower society. **She awarded 26 children the Gold Certificate 15 children the Silver Certificate and 13 children the Bronze Certificate.** Well done everyone. Keep growing!



IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 5th March

- Parent Drop In Afternoon (3:20pm - 4pm) a chance to look at the work your child has completed in class.

Thursday 7th March

- World Book Day
- Year 1 Science Workshops with The Bug Man

Friday 8th March

- 1L Class Assembly (9:15am in the school hall for parents and carers)
- Nursery Reading Workshop for Parents

Sunday 10th March

Vitality Big Half Marathon (staff and parents running to raise money for the school)

Tuesday 14th March

- 3B Class Assembly (9:15am in the school hall for parents and carers)
- Years 5 and 6 Road Safety Workshops

A full calendar of events is available on the school website.



"Catford 1968"

Last November, **Lucie in 6F** took part in 'Catford 1968', a project run by Outburst Theatre company.

A group of children from different Primary Schools in Lewisham interviewed some older member of the Catford community and used the information they had gathered to produce an original play made up of every day scenes from 1968. The scenes included a major flood that occurred in that year.

The play has now been turned into a DVD and, this Thursday, a special public viewing was held at St Laurence Church. Well done to Lucie for getting involved in this exciting local project.

Specialist Tennis Lessons

Over the course of the rest of the school year, Michael Stephens, a local tennis coach, will be providing every child at Holbeach with specialist Tennis lessons as part of their PE programme.

This week Year 6 took part in their first lessons with one happy child saying, "At the start of the lesson I couldn't hit the ball with the racket but by the end of the lesson I was doing it really well!" Later on in the term, some of the children will also have the opportunity to represent the school in a Lewisham Tennis Competition.

A Message from the Friends of Holbeach (FoH)

On **Monday 4th March at 8pm** we will be holding a meeting in the school house, on the corner of Holbeach Road and Doggett Road, for anyone interested in finding out what FoH do, or anyone who is keen to help.

During the meeting, we will be planning upcoming events for the school, and discussing new ideas, as well as appointing new committee members. We'd love to see you!

If you would like more information, or can't attend but still want to be involved, please email us on friendsofholbeach@gmail.com

Holbeach Playground...The Transformation

During the Half Term break the Friends of Holbeach have been hard at work on the next stage of our playground improvements.

The Key Stage 2 garden area has really taken shape with a new seating area and trees added to create a calm, shaded area for the children to read and chat in.



While, at the other end of the playground, the Sensory Garden has been transformed into a great space for the children to have a change of environment, in a relaxing, quiet space.

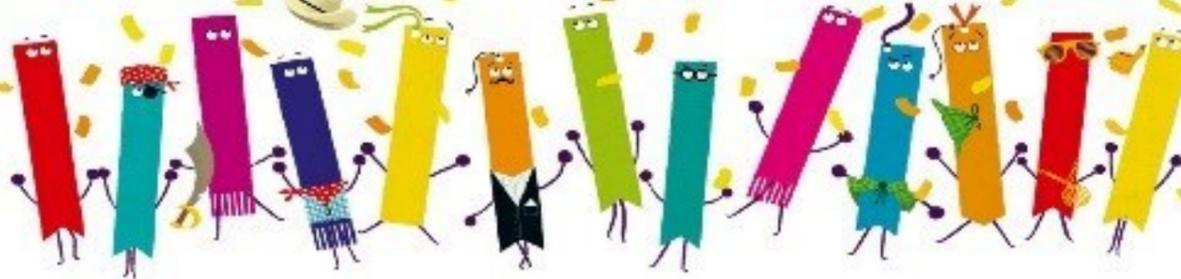


During this term, we will continue to see changes, with more planting and the finishing touches being added!

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to support this project and for the time and effort of the team over the holidays. A special thank you must go to **Marie-Claire Denyer** for organising this mammoth task!

THURSDAY 7 MARCH

SAVE
THE
DATE



World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March, so we have been busy planning some exciting activities for the children at Holbeach to celebrate the event next week.

Author Visit

A local author will be visiting us on World Book Day. He will speak to all the children in assembly on Thursday morning and lead workshops with some of the children.

Dress up as your favourite book character

On Thursday, children are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite character from a story, poem or rhyme. Please do not feel that you need to go out and spend money on this though, as home-made costumes are often more effective. Some character ideas are – The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Humpty Dumpty, The Cat in the Hat, Willy Wonka, Where's Wally or one of the alien's from Alien's Love Underpants. The possibilities are endless!

Book Swap

The children are also invited to bring in a book that they no longer want and swap it for another one. If your child wants to take part in the book swap they need to bring in their book on or before Friday 8th March.

Sharing a Story

The children share stories all the time at Holbeach but this week we are going to pair up older and younger children to share stories together.

Book Tokens

Each child will receive a £1 book token to spend on one of the special World Book Day books, or they may choose to put the token towards another book of their choice. The tokens have to be redeemed by 31st March, so please don't forget to use them.

Book Bus

We have arranged for The Book People to bring their Book Bus to school on 28th March, where they will be selling discount priced books.

Reading at Home

Please support World Book Day by sharing a story every day with your children. Reading together will make a difference to their future!

Holbeach Primary School

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Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders

1st March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: OPERATION ENCOMPASS

I am writing to inform you that Holbeach Primary School has recently signed up to a new safeguarding initiative which aims to improve outcomes for children and families affected by domestic violence and abuse.

This scheme has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that might have an impact on a child that attends their school. The approach, known as Operation Encompass is used in a number of other places across the UK and is run in partnership with Lewisham Council and Lewisham Police.

All public agencies currently share information where there are safeguarding concerns or risk of harm to children and the Police currently share information on all incidents of domestic abuse in Lewisham with Lewisham Council's safeguarding team.

To further support the welfare of children this information sharing is being extended to schools. During the school term our Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mr Bulpitt, Ms Cronin and Mrs Howes), who have been trained for this initiative, will now be informed when any domestic abuse incident has been reported to the police and one of our pupils was in the household. It will not give any details about the incident.

This has been introduced because domestic abuse in a household can have a big impact on children, even if they do not see what is happening.

This information will be used to ensure the school is able to provide appropriate support to our pupils. The information will remain confidential and only shared on a strictly need-to-know basis, for example with the class teacher. It will not be shared with any pupils

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about domestic abuse, contact the Athena Service (0800 112 4052; lewishamvawg@refuse.org.uk)

We look to offer the best support possible for our pupils and believe that this scheme is going to be beneficial and supportive for all those involved. In other areas of the country where it is in place it has been found to be a very effective way of supporting children at a most difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Bulpitt
Headteacher

Headteacher:
Mr Tom Bulpitt

Assistant Headteachers:
Mrs Angela Cronin
Mr Phil Morriss
Mrs Karen Robertson

School Business Manager:
Mr Gareth Hudson

Premises Manager:
Mr Derek Holmes