

16th September 2011



HOLLYMOUNT SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

Welcome back to all those returning for the autumn term and beginning of the new academic year at Hollymount School. And a warm welcome too, to all our new pupils and parents - in the Nursery and two Reception classes, as well as throughout the school. We hope you find Hollymount a safe, happy and stimulating place to be and I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks - in the playground, outside the classroom door and at teacher and PTA events.

Over the summer, the current building underwent some refurbishment in advance of the new building being completed. Many of you have seen the new entrance area, now seeming much lighter and more spacious in its new configuration. More information and photos can be seen on the school website - there is a link straight from the home page (www.hollymount.org)



As a result of the entrance area getting a facelift, the library has also had a "spring-clean" and one of our teaching assistants, Ms Maley, is currently entering all the library books on to "Junior Librarian", the computerised cataloguing system purchased for the school by PTA funds.

One of the first assemblies for the children was led by Mrs Lindsay and her class, introducing our new **school rules**. These were developed by the pupils themselves last year, through meetings of the school council as well as staff and governor consultation. There are 6 simple rules that can be applied to all activities and areas of the school, as positive statements of intent: "We will....." A copy of these is overleaf. At the same time, we reviewed the **Behaviour Policy**, including the new school rules and the ladder of sanctions that apply. The full policy can be found on the school website - go to "All about our school" - Policies. If you prefer a hard copy, please ask at the school office for one.

Over the next couple of weeks, there will be meetings at 2.45pm so that you can meet your child's teacher and find out more about the curriculum, daily routines and expectations for the year. Please note the dates in the separate box.

When I am in school, my door is mostly open, so if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, or simply want to introduce yourself, please do come and find me.

Am Jackson

Meet the Teacher dates

ALL AT 2.45pm in classrooms:

Mon 19th Sept: Y2 Rowan & Sycamore / Miss Kerr & Miss Howard
Tues 20th Sept: Y5 / Miss Darwin
Wed 21st Sept: Y6 / Mrs Davies
Thur 22nd Sept: Y3/ Mr Hymans and Y4 / Mrs Lindsay
Mon 26th Sept: Y1 Oak and Chestnut / Miss Ricketts & Mrs Vinas

DIARY DATES

Monday 19th September

SWIMMING STARTS FOR Years 4 & 6

Thursday 22nd September

Citizenship assembly (Y1—6),
followed by workshop for Y4

Friday 23rd September

9.20: Prospective parents' tour

2pm: FSU Phonics meeting in hall

2.30: School Council meeting

Monday 26th September

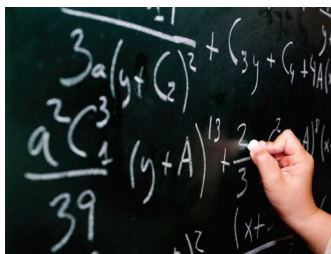
9.30 - 11am: Orange Tree Theatre
workshop on MacBeth - Year 6

Tuesday 27th September

9.15: KS2 assembly - new Head-
teacher, Raynes Park High School

Wednesday 28th September

12-4pm: Years 3 & 4 to Royal Festival
Hall for Quentin Blake event



LOOKING FOR A MATHEMATICS ENTHUSIAST

We are looking for a volunteer to come into school to work with one of our pupils in Year 6 to develop and extend his mathematics skills and concepts. Someone who has knowledge of the secondary school Year 7 Maths curriculum would be ideal. Please contact Mrs Jackson if you would be interested, or know of anyone who might be available.

BREAKFAST CLUB ASSISTANT

We are also looking for an additional helper for our Breakfast Buddies Club. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact our Breakfast Club Manager, Remi Amos on 07939 534966.

Requesting leave during term-time

We have only been back at school a week and already there have been several requests to take children out of school during term time. Authorising these absences is at the discretion of the Headteacher and the Governing Body and although, often, families have valid reasons for making these requests, the regulations state that "you should not normally take your children on holidays during school term, as this causes disruption to their education."

Exceptional circumstances are taken into consideration and each request is looked at individually - where there are particular circumstances e.g. family celebrations or illness or for reasons of religious observance. If a holiday is booked simply to take advantage of lower prices and/or availability out of school holidays, the absence will not be authorised. You should not book travel arrangements until you have submitted the leave request form. Please note that unauthorised attendance will affect your child's record.

Where the reason for absence is illness, would you please inform the school office on the first day of absence. Where at all possible, medical and dental appointments should be taken out of school time. If this is unavoidable, as in a hospital referral, for example, a copy of the appointment card needs to be provided to the office.

I look forward to your support in ensuring all our pupils maintain good attendance records and benefit fully from the excellent education provided here at Hollymount School.

At Hollymount School...

We will make good choices

We will look after the equipment in our school

We will be good friends

We will listen to and respect each other

We will do what we are asked the first time

We will keep our hands and feet to ourselves