

Highwoods Community Primary School Newsletter Summer 2 May edition

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Highwoods Community Primary School 'Learning for Life'



Dear parents and carers,

This term is so much fun with Sports Day, PTA Summer Fair and so many wonderful trips arranged. We wrote to you in March about our Ofsted inspection and the findings. In case you missed the letter- here are some of the highlights:

'Parents, carers and pupils appreciate the friendly and community feel of the school'

'Everyone works so hard and goes the extra mile for the children'

'Pupils are happy at school...they feel safe'

'Good relationships and mutual respect between teachers and pupils'

'Calm and purposeful atmosphere in classes and around the school'

'Leaders have the support of staff, governors and the wider school community'

'Parents are extremely positive about every aspect of the school and the overwhelming majority would recommend the school to others'

'High expectations, good subject knowledge among teachers and learning support assistants'

'The school is fully inclusive'

Needless to say, we are delighted by the report but also look forward to our next inspection that will hopefully see us move to outstanding-as the report highlights, we are so close! As mentioned in the letter, thank you to all the staff, children and parents for making this school what it is.

This week has also seen our Year 6 children sit their SATs tests. We have been so proud by how calm and mature they have been all week. They have been a credit to themselves and as we have said all year, if they have done their best, we can ask for no more. Well done to the staff and parents for keeping everything so calm for the children too.

Yours sincerely

Mr Disley

ECO Waste Week.

ECO council have been so busy this term. They organised a fantastic bring and buy sale which saw the school raise £120. This was spent on new recycling bins for paper waste. ECO council also ran the 'Great Big Litter Pick Up', a national drive to clean up the environment. We collected 5 large bags of rubbish from in and around the school grounds, as well as the local community. Thanks to the Eco council and Mrs Rose for organising such great events.





New Playground markings!

Huge thank you to the PTA (parent teacher association) who have funded new playground markings to the cost of £900. They look great and are another great addition to our playtimes. We are now saving for an extra climbing frame to go outside the Year 5 classes!

Thank you to all of the families who support our fund raising events so well.

School trips and PE Kits.

I am increasingly worried about the amount of time staff are spending chasing permission slips for school trips. Office staff have also spent a considerable amount of time making sure trips have been paid for and this is not an effective use of their time. Had it not been for the hard work of the office team, recent school trips were in danger of being cancelled due to non-payment and lack of permission slips being signed. Obviously we do not want this to happen so we all need to make an effort.

From September, trips are going to be communicated through a letter with a permission slip to sign and return. This will be a hard, paper copy. Ping will still be used for updates and messages. The letter for trips will also have space for medical information, contact details and whether a packed lunch is required. This letter is going to be sent out even earlier than we currently do prior to a trip so we all have plenty of time to return and collate information. The trips we run are integral to our curriculum and the learning that the children get from these is amazing. Our recent OFSTED inspection commented on how much the children enjoy and benefit from the trips so it is vital we all improve this aspect of organising and running them.

The number of children in KS2 who are 'forgetting' PE kit is also a concern. PE is part of the national curriculum and children should only miss a lesson for exceptional circumstances. We know that when children enter secondary school, sanctions are used when children forget kit, such as detentions. We need to get children into good habits of remembering kit as it is incredibly difficult for teachers to find spare items. We are now going to log and record children who miss a session of PE due to not having kit and if it occurs more than once, a letter will be sent home to make parents aware of the situation.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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Sports Day!

Sports Day is Wednesday the 19th June. Infants are in the morning and Juniors are in the afternoon. Timings are to follow. We are running a picnic lunch again so children and parents can stay and have a picnic on the school field. Fingers crossed for good weather!

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOL MEETING – NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

For your information we have been informed of a meeting which may be of some interest to some parents. This will take place on May 29th at 7.30pm in the Myland Church itself (NOT the Myland Parish Halls) to discuss the new Trinity Secondary School which is set to open in September 2021.

This will also cover some of the issues regarding secondary school capacity between now and 2021.

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Key dates:

20th May 9:00 phonics screening meeting for parents in Key Stage One hall

23rd May Year 6 Fairtrade coffee morning (for year 6 parents)

27th May Half term

3rd June 2019 Children return to school and Class photos

10th June 2019 Year 1 phonic screening check

19th June 2019 Sports Day

25th June Reserve date for Sports Day

26th-28th June 2019 Year 6 residential

2nd July Highwoods move up morning (children meet new teachers)

1st July to 3rd July 2019 Gilbert Move Up days for Year 6

5th July 2019 PTA Summer Fair

11th July 2019 Year 4 and 6 visiting Harry Potter/Warner Brothers studio

12th July 2019 End of year reports out today