

SCHOOL UPDATE 2 1 December 2016

We have nearly come to the end of another very busy term and we would like to update you on some of our school activities.

This is the second update for this school year. In addition to this update we have also prepared a diary for the coming half term (see attached). Sending letters home via e-mail and the Xpressions app for mobiles and tablets and continues to be successful. If you change your e-mail address please let the office know and we will amend your details. office.holmfirthjin@kirkleeseducation.uk

Website

Please check the school website (<http://holmfirthjinschool.net/>) for regular daily updates from Mr Rose, other information is shown on the site including letters to parents.

Parent/Carer questionnaire results

Here are the results from the recent Parent/Carer Questionnaire. As you can see we have, on the whole, received very positive feedback. Thank you to those who completed and returned their forms. Comments made on named questionnaires have been followed up where possible.

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
My child feels happy at this school	82.5%	15.0%	2.5%			
My child feels safe and well looked after at this school	65.0%	32.5%	2.5%			
The school tries to ensure that all pupils progress	45.0%	52.5%	2.5%			
I am informed about activities and events in school	40.0%	50.0%	10.0%			
My child receives good teaching at this school	67.5%	30.0%	2.5%			
My child receives a range of homework activities	50.0%	45.0%	2.5%		2.5%	
This school encourages positive behaviour from its pupils	55.0%	42.5%	2.5%			
This school listens and responds to any concerns about bullying	52.5%	45.0%		2.5%		
This school is well led and managed	70.0%	27.5%	2.5%			
This school responds well to any concern I raise.	60.0%	27.5%	12.5%			
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	47.5%	40.0%	12.5%			
I would recommend this school to another parent.	82.5%	15.0%	2.5%			
Number of forms returned =40 NOV 16						

Facebook or Face-to-Face?

It has been suggested that the school has a Facebook page – and it is something we have considered. After careful reflection we have concluded that we would always prefer a face to face conversation if you have any queries, suggestions, complaints or compliments! Facebook posts are difficult to administrate out of school hours and sometimes posts can be misconstrued. Our website (<https://holmfirthjinschool.net>) is full of information and all our latest news, celebrations and letters can be accessed there – it is updated and added to several times a day, so you can always keep up to date with what is happening in school. Mr Rose is in the playground most mornings

and afternoons and if you need to see your child's class teacher call into the office and we will arrange a meeting for you.

We also use email, text messaging from Groupcall, along with the Xpressions app which you can download onto your mobile ([click here for instructions](#)). As long as you remember to update your contact details (mobile phone number/email address) regularly you will always be able to access, and receive, up-to-date information and news from school.

Absences and late arrivals

If your child will be absent from school please telephone the school office on 01484 687565 by 9.30am giving a reason for their absence. The morning bell goes at 8.55am. Please ensure that your child(ren) arrives on time. Late arrivals cause disruption to classes and children miss out on important learning time.

Driving to school and parking

Once again we would ask that parents drive carefully and considerately on the road up to and down from school – especially now the weather is poor and the mornings and afternoons are dark. Please take extra care to avoid a child being hurt. Out of courtesy to our neighbours if you do arrive by car, please allow access to driveways at all times. This applies when coming to school for any Christmas events too.
Thank you.

Dinner Money

The cost of school meals for the next half term (Jan-Feb) will be £67.65 (£10.25) per week. School dinners should be paid for in **ADVANCE** through your ParentPay account. Please note that your account will not show the full amount owed for the coming half term as dinners are only charged on a daily basis, if you pay the full amount for the half term the amount will decrease day by day. Please can you ensure that any outstanding amounts for this half term are paid by Thursday 15th December.

Trips and visits/visitors

The Year 2 class took part in a 'Real History' day where they learned about 'The Great Fire of London'. They enjoyed a very interesting day, dressing up as children from that time and saw history come to life in their classroom.

The Year 1 children went to the High School this week to take part in a Sports Hall Athletics event.

Barry Russell has worked with a number of year groups where they made lanterns which were used in the Christmas Lights parade in Holmfirth last Saturday. Well done to our school choir and Miss Clayton who helped entertain the community in church, at this event, with their beautiful singing!

Year 4 are visiting Hope Bank Works in Honley today to work with Chloe Williams in creating an Iron Man in 3D. A big thank you to FONS for funding this trip/event.

Bacon Butties!

Thanks to all the parents, carers and children who supported our 'Family Breakfast' last month. It was a great success and raised valuable funds for our 'Hang Out' club. Thanks to staff and children for their help in running the event.

PE Kit

As we mentioned in the last school update can we remind parents that it is essential that all children have a suitable PE kit in school every day. We want to continue teaching high quality PE and this is more difficult when children do not have the correct kit.

They will need shorts, t shirt, trainers and, during inclement weather, additional tracksuit bottoms and top. A change of footwear (trainers) for outdoor PE is also required as they often get muddy. If there are any problems with the above please see your child's class teacher so they can support your child.

Suitable clothing should also be worn when attending the after school sports clubs as they will be outside when it is fine.

After School Clubs

Details for all the clubs for the next half term will be sent home next week. Please return your reply slips to the office as soon as possible so that the arrangements can be made before the end of this term. Spare copies of this letter can be found in the blue folder outside the office

Tennis Club

At the moment the tennis club is supported by three parent volunteers who help the children during the lessons at Thongsbridge Tennis Club on a Thursday morning. They then walk us back to school. One of our current helpers cannot continue to help us after Christmas. As a result a new parent helper will be needed from January 2017. Free tennis sessions are available to your child if you help at the club. If you are interested in being part of the tennis team please contact Kate Pearson in the office for more details. Thank you.

January Nursery starters

The children joining our Nursery in January are welcome to join us on Thursday 8th December to visit their new class and teachers. Please come for 9.30am to 10.30am. Thank you.

Fundraising

This half term we raised funds for the 'Children in Need' charity, through your generous donations we raised a fantastic £313.49. The children took part in class talent shows and there were lots and lots of spots everywhere.

For the 'Poppy Appeal' we raised an incredible £203.99!

As always we thank you for your charitable support to the school and for other charities.

Book Fair

Following on from the successful book fair Mrs Worsley has spent £650 on 44 new sets of group readers for the children to enjoy in school. The titles include up to date stories about Horrid Henry, How to Train Your Dragon and books by Roald Dahl. Thanks again to all those who supported us with this school event.

FONS

The Christmas Fair will be held in school on Friday 9th December at 3.30pm – 5.00pm. Further details will be issued in due course.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

A Year 3 & 4 Christmas Café and Craft Fair will be held on Friday the 2nd December from 2pm onwards. You are all welcome to join us for some Christmas goodies and treats made by the children.

On Monday 5th December children from Holmfirth High School will come into school, the band will play Christmas music for the whole school.

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1

Christmas Performance

There will be two performances, the first being on Tuesday 13th December at 2pm and the second on Wednesday 14th December, at 10am. The dress rehearsal will be on Monday the 12th. Tickets are now on sale.

Key Stage 2 - Carol Service

From Wednesday 7th December children in Key Stage 2 (years 3-6) will be walking to the Parish Church for rehearsals most days. All children should have suitable clothing/footwear for walking as it may be cold and wet. The concert will then be held on **Wednesday 14th December**, at 6.00pm, at Holmfirth Parish Church for Key Stage 2 children and parents. Please do not arrive at the church any earlier than 5.45pm as the doors will not open until then.

Class Parties

These will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 15th December for all classes.

Christmas Lunch

This special lunch will take place on Wednesday 7th December. Don't forget your crackers and hats! The children who normally bring sandwiches can bring a festive lunch including sweets/chocolates on that day only. Please do not include fizzy drinks though! Thank you.

This half term school closes on Friday 16th December and re-opens on Wednesday 4th January 2017. Please note that there is a staff training day on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 so the school will be closed for the children.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. And we would like to say a huge thank you to the FONS team for their hard work and commitment to our school so far this year.

Finally, we hope you have a fantastic Christmas and we wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Kind Regards

J Rose
Headteacher