

SCHOOL UPDATE 2 December 2017

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 all letters to parents sent from school.

Parental Questionnaire results – November 2017

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%	18%				
My child feels safe and well looked after at this school	76%	18%		3%		3%
The school tries to ensure that all pupils progress	64%	27%		3%		6%
I am informed about activities and events in school	55%	36%	3%	3%		3%
My child receives good teaching at this school	73%	24%	3%			
My child receives a range of homework activities	39%	55%	6%			
This school encourages positive behaviour from its pupils	64%	33%	3%			
This school listens and responds to any concerns about bullying	37%	21%	27%			15%
This school is well led and managed	70%	27%	3%			
This school responds well to any concern I raise.	55%	30%	6%	3%		6%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	42%	51%	3%	3%		
I would recommend this school to another parent.	79%	15%	6%			
Number of forms returned =33 NOV 17						

Follow [this link](#) for further information.

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.

Dinner Money

The cost of school meals for the next half term (Jan-Feb) will be £63.60 (£10.60) 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 21st December.

Packed lunches

We have noticed that some packed lunches are containing biscuits, sweets and fizzy drinks. Please ensure that your child brings a healthy packed lunch each day. We encourage children to have a healthy morning snacks, including fruit and vegetables. Thank you for co-operation.

Sharpies

These pens are increasingly being brought in to school but unfortunately the marks that they make seem to be permanent and cannot then be cleaned. We have also had an incident where the ink has come from the pen which then went in a child's eye. Please, therefore, ask your child/ren to leave the pens at home and not bring them in to school. Thank you.

Trips and visits/visitors

Kate Mallard from Rhythm sticks came in and held drumming workshops with the children in all classes. The children learnt about the different types of drums and the sound that they made. The drumming was fantastic, and I know that the children had a great experience.

Following on from these sessions we will now be having an after school club on a Wednesday. If your child would like to attend please sign up through your ParentPay account.

Year 5 completed their 'Bikeability' training and received certificates for their achievements.

Fay Lunn from Pennine Sports Partnership came to give Year 5 Play Leader training. The children are now able to help other children play and interact at playtimes. The Year 5 children will take it in turns to take up this role.

The Year 6 class will be at Robinwood from Wednesday 17th January until Friday 19th January.

PE Kit

As we mentioned in the last school update, 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 (warm) clothing should also be worn when attending the after school sports clubs as they will be outside whenever possible. Children can get changed or add extra layers at the end of school. During the winter months please make sure that the children attending the tennis club have warm clothing/coats/hats and gloves as it can be very cold whilst we wait for the bus and the walk back to school. Thank you.

After School Clubs

Details for all the clubs for the next half term was e-mailed home last week. Please log on to ParentPay and reserve your place at the clubs of your choice. Spare copies of this letter can be found in the blue folder outside the office. Please sign up for the clubs by Monday 18th December so that final numbers are known before we finish for the holidays.

A late amendment to the clubs is that 'Born to Move' will now be held on a Tuesday morning instead of a Wednesday. Apologies for the late notice. If you have already signed up for the club you will be automatically registered for the new dates. If you are unable to attend please let Mrs Pearson know and a refund will be made.

Fundraising

This half term we raised funds for the 'Children in Need' charity, through your generous donations we raised a fantastic £232.14. 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 £120.47! As always we thank you for your charitable support to the school and for other charities.

January Nursery starters

The children joining our Nursery in January are welcome to join us on Tuesday 12th December to visit their new class and teachers. Please come for 9.30am to 11.00am. Thank you.

FONS

There will be a Christmas Disco on Tuesday 19 December – FSU/KS1 6.00pm – 7.00pm and KS2 classes from 7.15pm – 8.15pm.

Online Safety

You may have seen recent news reports about online safety for children, especially concerning live streaming websites. You can find more information regarding this issue on the Think You Know website

(<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>). Our school website also has links to various websites that has information for parents on how to keep your children safe online – click [here](#) for more information. This seems to be an increasing problem and it is important that, as well as learning about online safety in school, you, as parents, talk to your children and monitor their online activity at home and on their mobile devices.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

A Year 3 & 4 Christmas Café and Craft Fair was held on Friday the 8th December. I'm sure you will agree that this was a very successful event which had a lovely festive atmosphere! A big thank you goes to all who supported the fair both in its planning and on the day – we couldn't have done it without you. The children have completed many 'Design & Technology' objectives from the Curriculum in the making of the items on sale; they loved being in charge on the day too!

Parents for Years 5 & 6 are invited to join us for a 'Winter Wonderland' walk on Wednesday 13th December from 1.30pm. After the walk we will sing carols round the 'Viking Village' fire and have mulled apple juice to drink. Please come festively dressed and bring any refreshments for sharing. Thank you.

On Wednesday 13th December the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 are going to the Lawrence Batley Theatre to watch 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Children should be dropped off and collected from school at the usual times. Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 are going on Thursday 21st December in the afternoon. They will need to be collected from the bus station at around 4.30pm.

On Friday 15th December parents and carers are invited to join the children in Reception and Nursery for an 'Open Afternoon'. Please come between 2.00pm and 3.00pm.

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 - Christmas Performances

There will be two performances, the first being on Wednesday 20th December at 10am and the second on Wednesday 20th December, at 2pm. The dress rehearsal will be on Monday the 18th.

Key Stage 2 - Carol Service

From Monday 11th 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 20th 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 Tuesday 19th December for all classes.

Christmas Lunch

This special lunch will take place on Monday 18th 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 Thursday 21st December and re-opens on Monday 8th January 2018. Please note that there is a staff training day on Friday 22nd December 2017 so the school will be closed for the children.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. Also, 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