

December 2023

NEWSLETTER



Littlehaven Infant and Northolmes Junior Schools

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Headteacher's Update

Dear Families,

We take this opportunity to wish you all a restful break, along with a chance to relax, to re-charge and to enjoy seasonal events with your children and with your extended families over the holiday period.

It has been a very busy term, full of new experiences for children and staff alike. Throughout the autumn, I have been privileged to get to know you all, and I thank you for the warm welcome and the support that you have provided me with. It has been a real pleasure to help your children to find new ways to celebrate their achievements, to further develop their aspirations, to take pride in one another, and in the amazing team of adults supporting them. We have two unique schools, each with their own wonderful personalities and strengths, but both are united in their commitment to provide the most supportive, encouraging and nurturing environment for you and your children.

I know that you will want to join me in thanking all the staff at Littlehaven and Northolmes for their hard work this term. Your children have the most amazing team supporting them and I offer personal thanks to all staff for their hard work, particularly over the last few weeks, whilst they have helped the children to practice for their end of term events. Many thanks to all of the parents who were able to join us for the Nativity Play this year, and to all those who attended the Carol Concert.

We hope that you enjoy some extra-special time with your families over the next two weeks, and we wish you all every success for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you all when the pupils return on 3rd January.

Season's Greetings!

Mrs Cox & Mrs Saunderson

Overview

- Headteacher's Update
- Greenfields Association (PTA)
- Fundraising and Donations
- Junior School applications
- Staffing Update
- Updates from Year Groups
- School Hours
- INSET Days
- School Uniform
- Parking
- Holidays
- Bikes & Scooters
- Dates for the Diary

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you are worried about something that your own, or another child has told you, or you think that they may be at risk of harm, please contact our Designated Safeguarding team:

Mrs Saunderson (Lead)

Mrs Cox (Deputy)

Mrs Geoghegan (Deputy)

Greenfields Association (PTA)

The PTA has been very busy over the last few weeks. The children at Littlehaven thoroughly enjoyed the festive activities on Friday, when they were able to meet with a very special guest! Movie Night at Northolmes was very well attended, with £223 raised. The Christmas Raffle was a big success raising £548. All funds will help the PTA team to continue to deliver events, and contribute gifts and resources to support a wealth of extra-curricular experiences for the children.

Please do not hesitate to contact the committee via associationgreenfields@gmail.com if you would like further details on how you can support their work.

Fundraising and Donations

We offer thanks to you all for the kind and generous donations that you have gifted to the local community this term. Both schools raised a total of £201.11 for Children in Need, and £377.86 for the Poppy Appeal. We were also very proud to deliver the contributions made to the Christmas Food Bank collected on behalf of Horsham Matters. The team at the food bank offered personal thanks to us when the donations were dropped to them, and together with the Harvest donations earlier in the term, they wish to extend their thanks to the parents and staff at both schools for their continued support.

Junior School applications

A reminder to our Year 2 parents that applications for a place at Junior School/Northolmes need to be made by Monday 15th January 2024. Please contact the Littlehaven school office if you need help with this.

Staffing Update

We know that you will share our thanks to Ms Blakey-Lodge for all of the support she has provided for the Year 3 and 4 team, and for all the children in her class. Ms Blakey-Lodge is leaving Northolmes Junior School at the end of this week, but looks forward to keeping in contact with us as she goes on her travels overseas.

Mrs Blake will continue working with Faraday class, and will be joined by Mrs Leicester in January 2024, who will also be our new PE lead at Northolmes Junior and Littlehaven Infant Schools.

Year R Nativity Play

What a delightful treat we had this week in seeing the wonderful performance by our Peacock Class, 'Twinkly Nativity'. We hope you all enjoyed it too; thank you to Mrs Geoghegan and our Early Years team for their hard work during the many weeks of rehearsals.



Year 1 Design & Technology

The children in Woodpecker Class have been making lever and slider creations, using the tales of Red Riding Hood, The Gingerbread Man and The 3 Billy Goats Gruff as characters who climb, run and jump out from behind things! We were so impressed with their work that they were asked to share their designs with our Year R children.



Year 2 visit to Bridges Court

A group of children from Goldfinch and Robin classes had a lovely visit to see some of our neighbours in Bridges Court. The children sang beautiful carols, and spent time chatting with residents and enjoyed a drink and a biscuit.



Year 3 & 4 Victorian Workshops

What an extraordinary time we had at our recent Victorian workshop! Our young time-travellers eagerly embraced the past, and were fully immersed in an authentic Victorian classroom.

The children were engrossed in the captivating world of reading, writing, and arithmetic—the infamous three R's of the era. Joyful laughter echoed through the halls as little voices confidently recited times tables, magically transporting us to a bustling Victorian classroom. And oh, the curiosity!

Our mini historians asked thought-provoking questions, explored intriguing Victorian artefacts, and unravelled the captivating stories of days long gone. It wasn't just a workshop; it was a vibrant, hands-on journey that brought history to life!





Year 6 Royal Academy of Culinary Arts

We are very fortunate to have been nominated to be part of the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts 'Adopt a School' Programme by a parent at our school who works at South Lodge Hotel. The hotel have 'adopted' Northolmes Junior School!

The Adopt a School Programme has been running since 1990 and their vision is that every child learns about food in a holistic sense and has the confidence to eat well, be healthy and happy. The programme aims to help children to develop healthy eating habits and encourages an enthusiasm and interest in food and cooking.

Our Year 6 children will attend four different sessions across the school year, with each session delivered by a professional chef. This term, the session focused on Taste and Sensory experience. Future sessions will be looking at knife skills, bread making and a summer session which will be held at Plumpton College.





Northholmes Carol Service

Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work in creating a wonderful festive Carol Service at All Saints Church on Monday afternoon. Thank you to the families that joined us – as usual it was standing room only, and a fantastic start to the festive activities of this last week of term.



Northholmes Choir Recital

Our Northholmes Choir Club was invited to sing at John Lewis as part of their programme of carol singing. They performed beautifully, accompanied by some Christs Hospital choristers and instrumentalists.



School Hours – a reminder

A reminder please about the start times for each school as we are still getting a few children who are late each morning. The timings for both schools are as follows:

Littlehaven Infant School

Gates open: 8.35am
Registration: 8.40am
School ends: 3.10pm

Northolmes Junior School

Gates open: 8.40am
Registration: 8.50am
School ends: 3.20pm

January INSET Day

A reminder for parents/carers that the next INSET Day will take place on **Tuesday 2nd January 2024**. We look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Wednesday 3rd January.

The remaining two inset days for this academic school year are:

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

School Uniform

Please remember that only black shoes should be worn to school. Girls in particular, should not be sent to school in black ankle boots - they may be sold as school shoes but they are not part of our school uniform. Likewise, trainers should be saved for PE kits.

For Northolmes parents, a reminder that school jumpers or cardigans should still be worn on PE days. Hoodies or other jumpers are not part of our uniform. Also, PE bottoms should be plain navy or black in colour. For Littlehaven parents, please ensure that your child has plimsolls or trainers in their PE bag. Children in Year R will not need PE kits until the Spring Term.

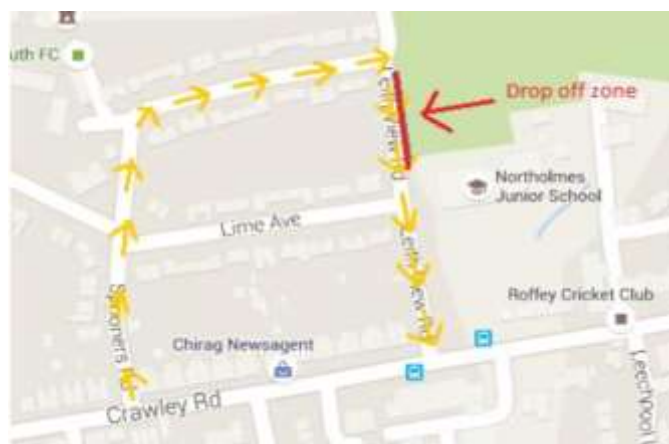
Please remember that the PTA do have a good supply of secondhand uniform and they can be contacted via the Classlist app. If you have any good quality, secondhand uniform please donate it to school via the school offices.

Parking

Please make sure you think before you park so that you ensure that you are parking legally.

Please be mindful when you are parking that you are not blocking driveways, parking on the grass verges, stopping or parking on the yellow zig-zag lines or parking on junctions. In addition please do not park in the drop-off zone outside Northolmes (the verge side of the road parallel to the school field) as it makes it unsafe for children to get out of the cars and onto the pavements.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe on their journey to school.



Holidays & Absence

Attendance at school is really important. We are only able to authorise absence for 'exceptional circumstances'. It is school policy to refer all unauthorised absences of more than 10 sessions for a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine). Please keep holidays and other events to the school holiday period. School needs to be informed of all planned absences from school (medical, family reasons or holidays) at least a week before they occur.

If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, then they need to remain off school for at least 2 days (48 hours) after the last episode. For all other illnesses, your child should return to school once they are well enough to do so.

Bikes & Scooters on the Playground

Bikes and scooters are not permitted to be ridden on either school playground and this extends to younger siblings. This is just to help prevent any accidents or injuries. At Northolmes, bikes and scooters should be dismantled and pushed while on the playground.

At Littlehaven, please make sure your child does not ride their bike or scooter up and down the driveway within the car park area, and ensure they are parked in the stands before entering the playground.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2024

Tuesday 2 nd January	INSET day
Wednesday 31 st January	Brunel Class Assembly
Thursday 8 th February	Woodpecker Class Assembly
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February	Half Term Holiday
Wednesday 13 th March	Edison Class Assembly
Wednesday 20 th March	Darwin Class Assembly
Thursday 21 st March	Robin Class Assembly
Wednesday 27 th March	Faraday Class Assembly
Thursday 28 th March	Last Day of Spring Term – Easter Holidays commence
Monday 15 th April	First Day of Summer Term
Thursday 16 th May	Peacock Class Assembly
Wednesday 22 nd May	Curie Class Assembly
Tuesday 18 th June	Littlehaven – School Photographs (class)
Monday 22 nd July	INSET day
Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET day



Recycle your Christmas Tree for Charity



We collect your Christmas tree from your drive or gate and take it to be recycled.

Collection from the following postcodes:

RH6, RH7, RH10, RH11, RH12, RH13, RH15, RH16, RH17, RH18, RH19, BN6, BN7, BN8, BN44, BN45, TN6, TN7, TN8, TN20, TN21, TN22, in return for a donation to our Charity.

For more information or to register and donate please visit:

www.dvlcc.org.uk
or phone 01444 473274

Booking required by midnight
Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Registered Charity Number 1089657



DAME VERA LYNN
Children's Charity
Discover together



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

GIVING BACK TO OUR
COMMUNITIES

FREE KIDS' SAUSAGE & CHIPS

NO PURCHASE REQUIRED

EVERY SUNDAY - THURSDAY
UNTIL DECEMBER 22ND

FOR UNDER 13s

*Child must be accompanied by an adult. One portion per child, no purchase required. Offer runs every Sunday - Thursday from 6th December - 22nd December. Available all day within operating hours. Takeaway only. Not available for online orders.