



Holtsmere End Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to our new guinea pigs who's names are Muffin and Cookie. Names by Morgan P. chosen at random.

Coats

Some children are still coming to school without a coat. The children still go outside to play at break and lunch in the cold weather so please ensure your child has a coat.



Help

Parent helpers are needed for reading first thing when children come in. If you can help please make a note in your child's link-book.

Local Stars

Good luck to Ella P. and Brooke M. who will be appearing in local pantomimes this Christmas.



Holtsmere End Junior School Business Partnership

We are looking to approach Hemel Hempstead businesses to find companies that would like to support our school. Larger businesses have to demonstrate corporate social responsibility so many companies now partner charities or schools. Some London businesses have run successful school partnerships for many years.

We believe there is an opportunity to set this up in Hemel, especially as several large companies have their Headquarters here. We are looking for companies that could support us in the following areas:

- Financial donation £100-£200
- Mentoring Year 5/6 children
- Listening to children read
- Gardening projects – developing the existing wildlife area
- Donation of library books

Any company that joins our partnership will receive a range of marketing benefits. For example – adverts in the Fair programmes and links on our website.

If you work for a local company or have links with businesses that would consider partnering with us please contact the office as we have a letter that you can give them.

HAVE YOU MISSED ANY LETTERS/EMAILS HOME

Carol Concert
Yr 3 & 4 Play + tickets

DIARY DATES

December

- 10th Christmas Play Yr 3 & 4 afternoon 1:45 pm
- 12th Christmas Play Yr 3 & 4 evening 6 pm
- 16th Christmas Carol Service
- 18th Christmas Dinner (sensible non-uniform)
- 20th End of term - pick up 2:15pm

January

- 6th Inset Day (school closed)
- 7th Spring Term starts 8:50 am

February

- 25th Learning Review Meeting (3:30 - 5:30pm)
- 27th Learning Review Meeting (4:30 - 6:30pm)

Lost Property

We have a huge amount of mislaid uniform in school.

Lost property will be on display at the end of the day

Thursday 12th December

in the dining room, please come and have a rummage and see if any belongs to your child.

Anything left will be disposed of.

Year 6 Collaborative Writing - Stories with Flashbacks

The memory never fades: it can never be wiped away.

First, the crackling fire ignites into flames before my unsuspecting eyes. The once content atmosphere was burnt to a crisp in the growing hazy smoke. Flames of steel drain the colour from the already darkened air. Fierce fire devours each and every fumed room. A malodorous stench burnt my sooty nose, as I finally bolted out of my now destroyed house and watched the last flicker of hope burn to the cold cobble stone path.

Wow, well done Ella, Sophie C, Alfie A, Lois and Ben F.

Results of the website survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent website survey. It was very encouraging to find that most parents are supportive of an online blog. It will allow the teachers to set homework online and enable parents to feedback comments. (Although all comments will be approved by the teachers before they are uploaded onto the blog).

Many of you suggested we produce a calendar of school events so you can run off the planner for home use. We think this is a great idea. We are also planning to eventually have teacher & governor photos and biographies on the website, so you will be able to work out who is who if you are new to school. Our golden rules and student achievements will also be added.

We have taken note of all the feedback and work has already started on the new website which will be ready at the end of January.

Questionnaire Results

1. How often do you look at the school website?

each week	29%
once per month	37%
every 2-3 months	30%
never	4%

2. Do you or your child look at the following information on the school website?

	Yes	No	Occasionally
Newsletters	61%	17%	22%
Parent information - uniform/school meals	51%	29%	20%
Statutory information - policies/SATs results	32%	34%	34%
Year Group information - Curriculum/pupil pages	41%	29%	30%

3. We are hoping to link a blog to the new website to help children with homework. The blog would allow parents to leave comments for teachers. Do you think this is a good idea?

Yes	76%
No	9%
Not sure	15%

4. In the recent Year 6 journey parents kept up to date with activities via a twitter feed. Do you think a twitter feed would be a useful addition to the school website?

Yes	39%
No	20%
Not sure	41%