Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I need to start by letting you all know that I have been feeling increasingly proud of the children and the school lately as this academic year unfolds. Over the last two weeks we have been hosting a range of visitors for various reasons ranging from other schools, Governors and families looking to join the school. It means I am spending a good amount of time showing people around the school at various times of day. Without exception the feedback from all of these visits refer to how well behaved, focussed, respectful and happy the children appear in the school. Yesterday, as part of our commitment to the Devon Primary School Centred Teacher Training (DPSCITT) programme, we hosted 6 candidates wanting to train to teach. They all found the children and the school to be amazing. Last Friday children from Year 4,5 and 6 represented Littletown at the East Devon cross country finals. A full report can be found from Mr Bilcock below, but today in assembly we celebrated the fact that two other schools have commented to me personally about how impressive Littletown pupils were when it came to sportsmanship and encouragement of all runners. All of this makes me a very lucky Headteacher.

On Wednesday, our new House Captains shared personal examples of how they have shown Growth Mindset principles and resilience in their lives as part of school assemblies. I would like to thank them for this as it was very clear how powerful it was to see other children share examples of this rather than adults.

This week, after a long and frustrating delivery delay on trolleys, we were finally able to complete the installation of the next phase of our technology infrastructure in the school. All children from Year 2 to Year 6 now have access to their very own chromebook all day every day at school. This allows teachers to use technology to both teach coding and computing to a very high level, but also support high quality learning across the entire curriculum. It also allows us to get even more impact out of other infrastructures in the school such as Lexia, Timestable Rockstars and Accelerated Reader. I would like to thank Mrs Heywood, subject lead for Computing, for being so instrumental in this - including arriving at 6:30am receiving deliveries etc. I would also like to thank the Governors for their support of what has been quite a significant project. I am sure you will agree with me that this is now a high quality provision in the school to fully support 21st Century Learning.

Based on sights and sounds in the school this week, all things point to us enjoying some wonderful Christmas performances in a couple of weeks. Information about tickets for specific performances should be making its way to you over the next few days. Please make sure you get in touch with us if you have any questions.

Next week, on Monday, some children from Year 5 and Year 6 children will be going to Honiton Leisure Centre to take part in sportshall athletics.

Please see below notification of the Annual General Meeting of the Trust on Tuesday 7th December. This is an opportunity to hear a strategic overview of the Trust Board’s work over the last 12 months. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Finally, please see news from the PTFA below. With the challenges of arranging large scale community events currently, initiatives such as raffles, colouring competitions and our ‘Jolly jars’ are a great alternative for supporting the school. This is why we will commit to a non school uniform day for Jolly Jars next Friday despite having several already this term. You should have received a letter with all the information today. Please do support this initiative if you possibly can. Thank you to all the Year 4 families for donations for the cake sale in the playground after school today. Always a great way to start a cold November weekend!

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**News from pupil reporters**

**Nursery**

This week, Nursery have been learning about weddings.

**Reception**

This week, Reception have been making pictures of hedgehogs and singing songs for our nativity.

**Year 1**

This week, Year 1 have been practising the Christmas performance and learning about subtraction.

**Year 2**

This week, Year 2 have been making castles out of paper and learning about bar models in Maths.

**Year 3**

This week, year 3 have been making shadow puppets and planning a Santa story.

**Year 4**

We have been learning how to use apostrophes, and also learning about bottlenose dolphins.

**Year 5**

In Purple Mash we have been making a badge for a new school, and we have been practising “Off With Her Head” play.

**Year 6**

We have been collaborating on a poem about a Tiger. In maths we have been adding and subtracting fractions by looking for the lowest common multiple.

**Mental Wellbeing**

The Parent + Support Hub are holding their monthly *SEND Coffee Morning Meet* this Saturday 9.30 - 11.15am at Full of Beans Cafe. £2 for children to play. Tea, coffee and cake available to buy. ‘It will be a relaxed environment with like minded parents. Exclusive use of the cafe for SEND families.’

The Parent + Support Hub are also holding a ‘Surviving Christmas’ event on 16th December at Zest Cafe 7pm. All parents are welcome to attend. An online event will be held on the 28th December to prepare for 2022.

**News from Mr Bilcock (sports coach)**

On Friday the 19th of November a selection of children from years 4,5 and 6 represented the school in the East Devon running finals at Bicton College. After previously getting through the local round at All Hallows

Honiton, the children were very much looking forward to running against other schools and testing their endurance further! They were all fantastic with their efforts and some of the children coming inside the

top 20 should be very proud, considering the races existed of 80 children altogether.

Final results were as follows:

Yr 3 and 4 boys: 9th place

Yr 5 and 6 boys: 6th place

Yr 3 and 4 girls: 4th place

Special mention to Kahmali who sacrificed his own race to help someone who was finding it difficult towards the end and also to Seb who received a 'Spirit of the Games' certificate for teamwork.

Well done to all the runners!!

**P.E hoodies**

From next week, pull on hoodies for PE will be available from Honiton Sports. They are navy and with the school logo. Uniform can also be ordered from their website;

<https://honiton-sports-ltd.myshopify.com/collections/littletown-primary-school-uniform>

**Covid-19: Staff absences and CO2 monitors**

Children may have been reporting to you and you may be noticing on the playground at the start and end of the day that we continue to navigate periods of staff absence due to Covid-19. This is having an impact on all schools in the UK currently. By using a combination of regular supply teachers we know and value and who love working at Littletown and part time staff taking on extra hours for which I am very grateful, we continue to minimise impact on classes as much as we possibly can. Whole school curriculum vehicles such as Power Maths, Cornerstones and Writing pathways along with a whole school consistent approach to teaching and learning we have made well established at Littletown, mean that children’s learning and progress is disrupted as little as possible during teacher absence. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support during this time.

This week we received our Carbon Dioxide monitors from the Department of Education. These are in classes and spaces around the school so that we can increase ventilation when it is identified as poor by the monitor. This will mean short periods of ventilation continue to happen in spaces around the school, whilst balancing this with the warmth and welfare of children and adults. Please bear with us while we get used to using these in school.

**Annual General Meeting**

Honiton Littletown Primary Academy Trust

COMPANY NUMBER: 07851471

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (the “Meeting”) of Honiton Littletown Primary Trust will be held virtually on Tuesday 7 December 2020 at 5.30pm to transact the following business:

1. To receive the Chairman’s report;

2. To receive and adopt the company's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 August 2021 together with the directors' report and auditor's report on those accounts;

3. To appoint the Company's auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the meeting to the end of the next period for appointing auditors under section 485(2) of the Companies Act 2006, at a remuneration to be determined by the directors;

4. To appoint new Members to the Board and accept any resignations from the Board by current Members.

By order of the Board

Tina Sillitoe

Chair

Honiton Littletown Academy Trust

If you would like to attend please contact Jenny Rawlins (littletownclerk@littletown.devon.sch.uk)

**Next week’s events**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday 29th November** | **Tuesday 30th November** | **Wednesday 1st December** | **Thursday 2nd December** | **Friday 3rd December** |
| Y5/6 (12 children) Sportshall athletics |  |  |  | Non uniform day and ‘Jolly Jars’ |
|  |  |  | **Nursery Outdoor Classroom** | **Reception Outdoor** **Classroom** |

**PTFA news**



Thank you to Year 4 who are holding their cake sale this afternoon.

Christmas Performances: We will be serving refreshments at most of the Christmas performances. It will be £1.50 for a choice of cake and cold drink. Please bring the correct money with you if you can so we can avoid queuing.

Raffle: Our Christmas raffle will be running in December. Tickets will be £1 each and we are excited to have been given many great prizes by local businesses including:
Match tickets from Exeter City Football, Vouchers from Bruv’s Bar, River Dart Country Park, Seaton Tramway, Otterton Mill, Planet Play and Coombe Garden Centre, Hair and beauty treatments from House of Hair, Natural Beauty by Bev, and L’reigns, a Christmas hamper from Tesco, and other prizes. There will be one ticket sent home with each child to sell and more tickets will be available in December and at the Christmas performances. Look out for more information and buy as many tickets as you can.

Jolly Jars: Our Jolly Jars stall is always very popular at our Christmas Fayre so, as we are not able to have a fayre this year we will be doing a Jolly Jars stall in December. Please see the separate letter sent out by email today.

Colouring competition: Our Christmas colouring competition will be sent out during December for the children to enter with a chance to win a prize.

Over the Christmas holidays we will also be running an Elf treasure Hunt and a Christmas themed quiz. More details of these will be emailed to you nearer the time. Everyone can have a go at these – we want to give everyone a chance to have some fun with them – you will only need to pay if you want to submit your answers with the chance of winning a prize.

Please try to support these events to help us to make as much money as we can to support the school.

**Community news**

**British library competition**

Honiton library have shared the following information with us regarding a competition which ongoing currently:

**What makes your hero super?**

**bl.uk/superheroes**

From 11 October to 30 November, we’re asking children to create a comic and help us assemble a new galaxy of superheroes! We’re celebrating heroes of every kind – whether they have the power to scale walls, save forests or make someone smile.

Teachers and parents can help themselves to a raft of **free online resources**. There are top tips, videos and templates to inspire you to make comics, flying heroes and flip-books: <https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/what-makes-a-hero-super>

**Share your creations**

Share photos of children’s work on Twitter @BL\_Learning or by emailing childrens.books@bl.uk. On 30 November we’ll pick 5 lucky schools and 5 lucky families out of our (virtual) hat to **win National Book Tokens**.