

THE HOLLY LEAF

Message from the Head

Eeeee..... (shiver)

The dates for future editions of the Holly Leaf/Leaves are published in the school calendar, so please remember to look on our website to see a copy of your favourite periodical! Occasionally the link reminder emails to parents fail and I know parents can get very disappointed if we fail to communicate – so no need to wait: check the date!

We welcome Emma and Angèle who have joined Mrs Payne's class since the beginning of term. We are delighted to have you with us at Hollygirt.

We had our first Open Day for prospective parents this week and we were thrilled to have lots of very positive parents looking around our lovely school. It's great when existing parents are able to recommend the school to new families - whether formally or informally. This makes a huge difference to people's trust in us and their likely decision to consider us. I am more than happy to make a private appointment to show prospective parents around the school if the Open Days scheduled are not at a good time, though for some, the relative anonymity of the Open Day is less frightening. Remember if you let us know about a neighbour or friend before they visit, you can save yourself money - ask Wendy Nuttall about this scheme.

It was lovely to meet so many parents of Year 7 girls at the social evening on Monday. I am pleased that the girls have settled in so well. The down side of this for the girls is they now get homework: usually 3 pieces a night of about 30 minutes each. All homework set should be written in the homework diary and parents should keep a check on what is set, what is done and feel free to write any comments about it or issues with it for the teacher to see, in the space on the bottom left hand page of the diary. If work is not done on time or it is not up to the standard expected for the individual, she may be asked to repeat it. Persistent offenders may receive a detention, be put on report and it is likely that parents will be contacted at home.

Talking of activities - I am so impressed by the uptake of the courses on offer after school. I am only saddened that I can't have a go at everything myself. The fencing is 'really cool!' I hope to continue to develop this programme over time. Let me know if you have ideas/contacts of facilitators and I will follow them up for future terms.

Parking

Following a potentially serious incident with the link school bus and a Hollygirt pupil, can I beg parents not to obstruct the double yellow lines directly after the narrowed road section of Cranmer Street, so the bus can get in, and park in safety.

The world famous Goose Fair returns to Nottingham next week from Wednesday 6th to Sunday 10th October so please be aware of the parking restrictions in the area. We are expecting that Villa Road and Cranmer Street will be vehicle free during the school days. See further details at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk. Perhaps some of us could try to minimise the problem by sharing cars.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Year 11 Vocational Studies Placements

• All week commencing Monday 4th October

Parents' Evenings
~form teachers only~

• Mon 4th October 3.45-5.30pm
Nursery, Yr1, 2, 3, 5 & 6
• Tues 5th October 3.45-5.30pm
Reception, Yr1, 2, 4, 5 & 6

Sorrento Meeting

• Wed 6th October 5.30pm
• Senior School Hall

Year 2 Visit to Goose Fair

• Thurs 7th October

Year 9 Visit to see Twelfth Night

• Thurs 7th Oct
• Nottingham Playhouse

Inter House Hockey Competition

• Fri 8th October

Year 8 HP Vaccination

• Mon 11th October 9.00am

Hollygirt Prize Giving

• Wed 13th October 7.00pm
• Albert Hall

Year 8 History Visit to Hardwick Hall

• Thurs 14th October

Year 7 to 11 Report Cards and Holly Leaves sent home

• Fri 15th October

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

• Mon 18th to Fri 29th October

Parents of girls who are going to Sorrento at half term are invited into school for an information evening next **Wednesday 6th October at 5.30pm.**

A similar meeting will take place on **Monday 6th December at 6.00pm** for girls going skiing to Austria in February. There is still one place left – please see Mrs Atherton if you are interested.

Year 9 Visit to Twelfth Night at Nottingham Playhouse

Girls in Year 9 will be visiting Nottingham Playhouse on Thursday 7th October to see Shakespeare's comedy, Twelfth Night. They will remain in uniform and should be collected from Nottingham Playhouse at 3.45pm, unless they have permission to make their own way home. Please provide a packed lunch. The girls have been working hard in English to prepare for the trip and I'm sure that it will be a worthwhile and entertaining visit.

Dr Stannard

We are taking part in a new fundraising incentive. If you have any old CD albums or DVD films that you no longer want please donate them to raise money. The money raised will go towards a Creativity and Literacy Day in the Junior School. There will be prizes for the girl(s) who collect the most in the whole school.

CDs and DVDs can be given to your daughter to bring into school for collection. Even just a couple of your old CD albums and DVD films will make a big difference to our fundraising effort. Please bring them in for Mrs Pietrantonio as soon as possible - before half term.

Please note we are only able to accept CDs or DVDs in a box with a bar code and we are unable to accept CDs or DVDs that are provided free in newspapers or magazines. We are not able to accept CD singles.

Thank you in advance for your help in raising funds for the school.

Mrs Atherton is planning an outdoor pursuit holiday to Tossa de Mar in Spain next August for girls in Years 7 to 10. The visit will be shared with pupils from King Edward's Grammar School in Chelmsford as with previous watersports holidays. **If you are interested please ask Mrs Atherton for a letter.**

We would like to extend invitations to our Prize Giving on Wednesday 13th October and our Christmas Carol Service on Monday 13th December to all our old girls, ex parents, friends, neighbours and anyone interested in Hollygirl School. If you know somebody who would like to receive an invitation please let Lucy Wilkins know.

Holly Leaves are due out on 15th October

Parents of the Year 7 girls who are going to see 'Joseph' at the Theatre Royal TODAY should pick up their daughters from outside the theatre (by the layby) at 7.05pm. Girls have all been given a slip with this information on.

Year 11 girls have already started their applications to schools and colleges for the next stage of their education. For those of you who have not made up their minds there are lots of Open Days happening in the next few weeks:

The Becket School: Tuesday 5th October, 6.00pm
Ockbrook School: Thursday 7th October, 6.30pm
Worksop College: Saturday 9th October, 10.00am
Billborough College: Thursday 21st October, 6.00pm



Sit Down & talk about football with your daughter

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You select and manage a team of 11 premier league footballers and compete against your fellow pupils, teachers and parents for real trophies, medals and certificates. Follow your team's progress over the nine month season in your overall school league, against your closest rivals in your year group, your teachers, your friends and even your parents. The main season starts on **16th October**. For more information check out the website at www.schoolsfl.com. Full reports and weekly updates for the whole nine months all for £3.50 (plus you get a spongy ball!!)

Girls can now collect an entry form from me.

Miss Howd

Homework

Girls from Year 3 upwards are expected to do formal homework, with the time increasing progressively year on year. If we have got it wrong, your daughter seems to be doing nothing or conversely if she appears to be overloaded, please let the teachers know so this can be looked at. Our youngest girls are not given formal homework but we expect that parents read with their daughters to reinforce the good work that is done in class and in Years 1 and 2 there may be spellings to look at to establish patterns of learning key words which become so important later in the Junior School. We are happy to let parents know what the core content is for any subject so that should parents wish to work at home on their daughter's learning, they can. However I caution against over coaching. Young people, who work hard at school need some free time, some activity time and some social time if they are to mature into well rounded individuals.

A reminder to parents that girls should not be dropped off at school earlier than 8.00am in the mornings due to supervision. Girls must be collected from Senior School Reception promptly when after school activities taking place in Senior School finish after 5.00pm.

If your daughter has recently achieved success then please let us know so this can be mentioned on our website. Please email: Mrs Lucy Wilkins (Headmistress's Secretary & Registrar)
lucywilkins@hollygirt.notts.sch.uk