

# Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School

## Newsletter 2023

### Spring 1 Week 5



## News

### Dear Holtsmere families,

Despite January feeling like it would go on forever I can't quite believe that here we are at half term already; half way through the school year. It has been a busy but enjoyable half term.

It has been Children's mental health week' this week and the children have enjoyed a host of activities in school, focusing on well-being. The week also coincided with Safer Internet day and its theme of 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations for about life online' Thank you to those parents who attended the parents workshop, I hope that you found it useful. The internet plays a huge part of our lives and much of the children's time using the internet can be positive but I'm sure that we all know that there are huge safeguarding concerns.

If you would like to find out more information about the measures you can take at home in order to keep your children safe online, particularly when they are unsupervised please go to <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> for more information.

**Zoo trip**—Mrs Stedman in our nursery has kindly made me aware that there are reduced cost tickets to London and Whipsnade zoos, at £3 per ticket until the end of March. It may be something for half term!

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3274545736189805&extid=WA-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN\\_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=2Rb1fB&ref=sharing](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3274545736189805&extid=WA-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=2Rb1fB&ref=sharing)

**Items from home**—An increasing number of children, particularly in Reception are bringing items, such as lip gloss and fancy hairbands into school. Unfortunately children are becoming upset as their items are lost or broken throughout the day. Please ensure that your child does not bring in anything from home.

### Parent representatives meeting

Thank you to our parent reps who met with me on Wednesday morning. After discussing a number of topics I would like to reiterate that if you have any issues which you would like the school to address please do see your class teacher in the first instance. We have a very good internal communication system and everything is dealt with quickly and according to our policies.

On the subject of homework, all homework activities follow on from learning in the classroom so that the children can further consolidate their learning.

We do not use worksheets in school, this is not in our view good practice and that is why we do not send them home. We feel that the videos, which obviously teachers have to film in their own time, are a good way of showing you what the children do in school and enticing the children to learn at home.

### Assembly

We held a whole school assembly yesterday using the picture book 'What if we were all the same'

Sharing a strong message about diversity and inclusion. It would be great if you could reinforce this message at home by sharing it again with your child. The world would indeed be a poorer place if we were all the same.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_Dum-OUpXg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_Dum-OUpXg)

**Strike day**—please find letter attached.

I hope that you all have a lovely half term. If you do need to get in touch during half term please email [head@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk). The inbox will be checked daily.

*Nicola O'Connell Headteacher*

# Happy learners. Aiming High.

## *Attendance Matters*

<i>Chestnut</i>	<i>Maple</i>	<i>Hazel</i>	<i>Oak</i>	<i>Beech</i>	<i>Pine</i>
96%	96%	91%	94%	94%	93%

*Well done to Chestnut and Maple classes !*

Our target is 96%. Being in school each day, if well, gives your child the best chance of learning and making good progress both educationally and socially.

*Happy Birthday!*



## *School Diary*

<b>Monday 20th Feb</b>	All children return to school
<b>Friday 3rd March</b>	World Book Day celebration—Circus performer visit
<b>Friday 10th March</b>	Mental Health—Parents workshop 2.30
<b>Monday 13th March</b>	Nursery Applications close 9am

**Happy learners. Aiming High.**

### Strike day—1st March

As you will be aware from the media the National Education Union is planning another teacher's strike day on **Wednesday 1st March**. This is obviously the week after we return after half term and I wanted to give you as much notice as possible about our plan.

If the government does not engage with the union and the strike goes ahead, all but one of our teachers have informed me that they will be striking on WEDNESDAY 1st March.

As we will have 1 teacher in school on that day we will be able to open for children in years Reception to Year 2 ONLY who meeting the following criteria:

**Children whose parents are employed by the NHS, Nursery and teaching staff, Social workers, Police and support staff, fire and rescue, justice system, food – including production and sale, waste disposal workers.**

Nursery will be closed.

School will be open 8.40- 3.10.

The kitchen will provide sandwiches, fruit etc. for lunch and entrance and exit will be by the main entrance at the front of the school. Bagels will be provided in the morning in the classroom.

We will have to limit places to **30** in line with DFE guidelines on class sizes. I kindly ask that you do not abuse this offer and only use it if **BOTH** parents are working that day and CANNOT take time off.

As I have said previously this is not an ideal situation for anyone and our teachers do not wish to strike, they do not get paid whilst striking but they feel that they need to make a stand in securing better pay and funding for schools and I support them in doing that.

The booking system will open on Arbor at 6pm this evening and close on Tuesday 21st February at 9am.

It is worth noting that if you have difficulty using Arbor on a mobile phone switch to using a web browser on a laptop.

Any problems please do let us know via [admin@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk)

I will of course keep you updated of any changes but if the strike goes ahead this will be our plan.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Nicola O'Connell**

**Headteacher**

**Happy learners. Aiming High.**