

Holbrook News

Holbrook Lane, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0PS
Telephone (01225) 753708 Twitter: @HolbrookPriSch
www.holbrooktrowbridge.co.uk



20th Dec 2018
Block 2, Week 5

From the Head Teacher

Christmas: It has been another wonderful time in school, leading up to the end of term and Christmas. Class parties have been held, the KS1 and EYFS play 'The Christmas Ball' was a big success and we had the Christingle service in the church on Tuesday evening led for us by pupils in Y3 and Y4 from Darwin, Kandinsky and Somerville classes. Our PTA held their annual Elfridges event for the children and pupils from different year groups visited the Mill Street club to sing for the club members. There is an air of good will as you expect at this time of year.

Christingle: Thank you to all the pupils from Y3 and Y4 who led our service on Tuesday evening and thank you to Mrs White, Miss Gough and Mr Percy for helping the children organise it.

Goodbye to colleagues: Mrs Wilson and Mr Percy leave us tomorrow so we must say goodbye. Mrs Wilson is retiring after many years at Holbrook (over 30) in many different roles. She will be missed but she goes into her retirement with our best wishes and the hope that she will stay in contact with Holbrook. Mr Percy is leaving us as he has been promoted to a deputy headship in Westbury. This is an exciting opportunity for him and he goes with our best wishes. I am sure he will be as committed to his new school as he was to Holbrook.

Mrs Hunt: We also say goodbye to our Chair of Governors who is stepping down after many years of service to the school on the governing body. Mrs Hunt served as Chair on several occasions, including when I first came to Holbrook over 12 years ago. Since then she has tried to step down from the governing body on several occasions only to be persuaded by me to stay on! I am grateful for her hard work behind the scenes building a school to be proud of. The whole school community has every reason to be grateful for her work which is the more remarkable for taking place behind the scenes.

The future: Holbrook is about to enter a new and exciting phase. The new headteacher, Miss Liddell, will be here in January excited about the prospect of leading the school into a new era. Mr Gifford returns to us to teach Darwin class and Mrs Hewson returns as a Learning Support Assistant. There is every reason to be optimistic about the future.

And finally... thank you to everyone for the kind words and warm wishes as I head off into the sunset. I will be spending some of my time working with unaccompanied child asylum seekers. It will be a new role for me after 25 years and 8 months as a headteacher over three schools. Holbrook has been the school where I served for the longest and it is the school of which I am the proudest. The sense of community here is strong: parents, governors and staff put children first and work hard to provide them with the best. I am grateful for all the support. Miss Liddell is a lucky person. I hope she will enjoy being head of Holbrook as much as I have. Good luck to you all.

Roger Whitewick

Message from Mrs Nunn

We would like to invite all Holbrook Parents and Pupils to join us for a cuppa and cake after school in the hall on Friday 21st December to say goodbye to Mr Whitewick.

Future TD Days

• 7 th Jan 2019	• 25th Feb 2019	• 3rd June 2019
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Celebration Certificates

Congratulations to all our pupils who received Celebration Certificates in last Friday's assembly.

Kingsley	Bethany	Nikki
Darwin	Bella	Luke
Somerville	Ophelia	Ziyad
Kandinsky	John	Grace
Zephaniah	Najd	Ewan
Nightingale	Jessica	Paul
Brunel	Madison	Rose
Redgrave	Jesse-James	Oliver

Dates for Your Diary

Fri 21 st Dec	Wake Up Shake Up on KS2 playground, 8.55am. *Weather permitting*
Fri 21 st Dec	Tea and cake in the Hall with Mr Whitewick, 3pm

Alzheimers Support Snowmen

The School Office will again be selling the hand knitted snowmen in support of Alzheimers Support, £1 each.

Recycling Bin

We have taken delivery of a recycling bin from Centre Parcs, Longleat, specifically for Christmas cards. The bin will be here until Thursday 10th January 2019.

Outdoor Clothing

Please can you ensure that your child has a named warm and waterproof coat with them in school at all times.

Whole School Project

We are looking for shoe boxes that have a removable lid for a whole school project. If you have any please bring them in to either Mrs White or Miss Blake. Thank you.

Belly Dancing Classes

You are invited to try Belly dancing for beginners at Holbrook for FREE.

Date: Tuesday 12th March

Time: 7pm

Cost: 1st session free. After that £7 on the night or £36 for 6 sessions.

Why: Belly dancing helps you tone your muscles, lubricate your joints, lift your spirit and give you a huge body confidence.

All while you are having fun. No dressing up required.

To book email: wafaa@dancingflavours.co.uk

Chair of Governors' Report to Parents and Carers December 2018

I'm pleased to provide you with my final report as I step down from the Governing Body at the end of this term. I'm also pleased to be able to tell you that Michelle Frisby, current Vice-Chair of Governors and a very experienced governor, will be taking on the role of Chair of Governors from January and that she will be very ably supported by Kathryn Amey as Vice-Chair.

The Governing Body met on 28th November, when we were pleased to welcome Dr. Paul Wilson as a new governor. Paul lives in Trowbridge and is a Senior Teaching Fellow in Organic Chemistry at Southampton University. I am sure he will very quickly prove to be an asset to the Governing Body. We were disappointed to note that no interest had been expressed in taking up the vacant parent governor position as parents' perspective is very important to our work. Do contact Madeline White, via the school office, if you would like to find out what being a governor involves.

.At the same meeting, the Governing Body scrutinised reports prepared by the school's English and Maths subject leaders in which they provided evidence of the impact of improvement actions implemented in this academic year. It was pleasing to see evidence of how pupils are improving their ability to reflect accurately on their work.

The Head Teacher provided us with a report which demonstrated the robustness of the School's safeguarding procedures and the effectiveness of our highly skilled Pastoral Support Manager. We endorsed this year's Safeguarding Action Plan put in place to address new expectations of schools and a revised Safeguarding Policy which had been amended to include new recommendations from Wiltshire Council. This policy can be found on the school website, along with other important school policies. We requested some minor amendments to the school's E-Safety Policy.

A reminder that the Governing Body's key roles are to:

- ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure its money is well spent.

Our work is also driven by the School's Strategic Plan which includes an ambition, agreed by staff and governors, to ensure that:

- all children from the local community are welcomed;
- diversity is valued and celebrated, all pupils and adults are treated with respect and 'pupils' voice' is a strength;
- we use our best endeavours to overcome barriers to learning;
- we develop and encourage excellence and effectiveness in teaching and strive to ensure that pupils from our school are not disadvantaged;
- we work with other schools and community partners to deliver good quality provision across all curriculum areas;
- we build trusting, collaborative relationships amongst staff, families and community members;
- our approach to the curriculum is creative and innovative, encourages critical thinking and addresses the interests of our pupils; learning is stimulating and challenging and pupils become lifelong learners;

- citizenship, the global dimension and sustainability are integrated parts of our school ethos.

Finally, I know that parents and carers will want to join me and my colleagues on the Governing Body in thanking Roger Whitewick for making Holbrook School such a special place during his time as Head Teacher and in offering him our best wishes for the future.

Margaret Hunt, Chair of Governors

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