



Great Hollands
Primary School

Wordsworth, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8YR
Web: www.greathollandsprimary.co.uk



Tel: 01344 424911
Headteacher: Richard Ferris

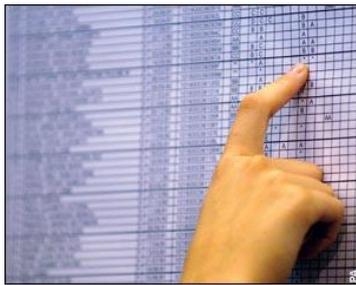


Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter...

19th December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe that it is the end of term already and that we are nearly at the end of 2017! This year has been full of new challenges and changes for everyone at Great Hollands and we are all looking forward to the New Year and to continuing our journey of growth and improvement.



League Tables

Last week the Government released the league tables for Primary Schools.

If you don't have the time to explore them I can tell you that Great Hollands Primary sits very securely in the middle of the league table for schools across Bracknell Forest. I see this as an important milestone on our school journey. I would like to be number one in the list and that is my vision for the school, but for now we should be proud of the progress made to get to the middle. We are aiming for the top and with your help I know we can reach it.

You can see the interactive tables here:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=867&geographic=1a&phase=primary&for=primary&basedon=Overall%20performance&show=All%20pupils&datasetFilter=final>

I would like to take this time to thank all of the staff who work so hard to support your children at school. It is through their dedication, your support and the children's efforts that we are making our GREAT improvements.

Important News!

This term we have been looking into ways to improve our Phonics, Reading and Writing across the school. There is a highly regarded programme called Read Write Inc., which is very expensive when you take into account all the resources we would also need. We applied for a grant and I am very pleased to say that we heard back today and we have been approved. This means that the school will receive very high quality training and resources which will support your child's development in English.

In order to secure this training we are using our planned INSET day on 16th April and adding in one **additional INSET day on the 9th February** – this is the last Friday before half term. Please add this date to your diary!

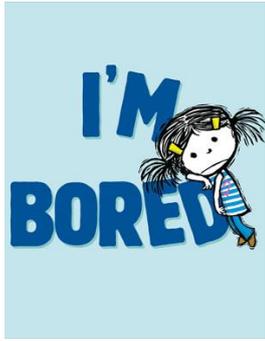
Academies are able to add additional INSET dates if required and I feel that this excellent training opportunity for all our staff will have a big impact on the children's learning. I understand the difficulties that INSET days can cause working families, which is why I am letting you know as soon as possible to enable you to make arrangements for the 9th February.



Bye-Bye Builders

Over the break the builders will be moving out and we will have our school back! We have been incredibly lucky to have this huge investment in the school buildings. The construction team from Beard have been amazing throughout the process and I would like to thank them for providing us with such a high quality finish to our school. However, I do have to say that I will be looking forward to Great Hollands being a builder-free zone from January.

Don't let the hard work go to waste



Finding ways to keep children occupied during the holidays can sometimes be a challenge. Fortunately, there are many engaging activities that will keep children both entertained and learning. The children have all worked so hard during the term, we hope that you will continue to allow them to access Bug Club and Mathletics over the holidays to practise their skills, so they can return to school confident and ready to tackle next term's learning.



Of course, learning does not have to be online and we hope that you can find time over the Christmas break to keep reading together and finding opportunities to write or solve maths problems ... how long do you need to cook the turkey for?



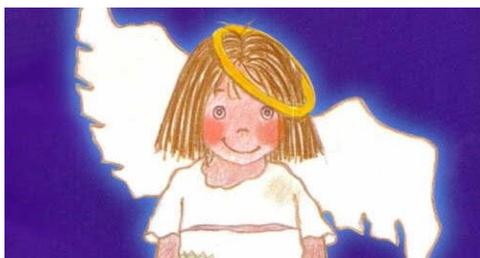
School is only a part of your child's learning journey and as parents and carers, you have the biggest impact on whether your child succeeds at school or not. Learning opportunities are everywhere around us!

Church Visit

On Monday 18th December, the children in Years 1-6 went to St Michael's Church in Easthampstead for our annual Carol Service. They all had a lovely time and we were fortunate that the weather was dry (although it was a bit chilly!) We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who came along with us and helped out. It seems that not all parents received the letter about this visit and we believe there was a bug in our email communication system which has now been resolved.



Christmas Performances



We have enjoyed some outstanding productions both in Early Years and in Key Stage 1. The children in Year 1 and 2 put on three fantastic performances of 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel' last week to packed-out audiences in Silver Hall. All the children thoroughly enjoyed having their grown-ups coming in to watch them and they should all be very proud of themselves for a terrific Christmas performance.

The Early Years children enjoyed separate sing along sessions for Reception and Nursery. They have been spending time over the past few weeks learning their Christmas songs and it was brilliant to see so many parents and carers come in and join in the festive fun!



Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 15th December, the children enjoyed their Christmas Lunch and wore non-uniform to raise money for Save the Children's

Christmas Jumper Day. The atmosphere in the newly extended Gold Hall was superbly festive and all the staff and children had an enjoyable lunch together. Thank you all for your continued support and for helping us to help make a difference to children no matter where they are from.

During the last few days of term, children from all across the school have enjoyed their end of term Christmas parties. The donations of food and drink have been incredibly generous, and it was lovely to have so many parents coming in to help with the festivities.



Don't forget, school starts on Thursday 4th January doors open from 8:40 and close PROMPTLY at 8.50am. Nursery return on Monday 8th January.

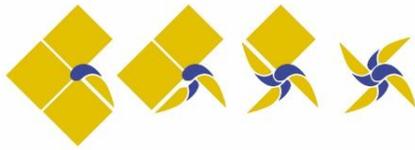
On behalf of the whole team here at Great Hollands I would like to wish you all a happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year! Enjoy the time with your family and friends and get ready to make 2018 the best year ever!

Richard Ferris
Headteacher

Diary Dates



January 2018	
Wednesday 3rd	INSET DAY
Thursday 4th	Start of Spring Term – School starts at 8.50am, doors open at 8.40am
Friday 5 th	Year 4 Roman Dress-up Day
	Year 1 & 2 Bring Your Wheels to School Day
	Reception (FS2) Pyjama Day
Monday 8th	Nursery Start of Term
Wednesday 10 th	Open Morning for FS2 2018 Intake – 9.30am
Friday 12 th	Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics Tournament
Tuesday 16 th	Year 3 Maths Make and Take Session – 9.00am-10.30am
Wednesday 17 th	Year 3 Maths Make and Take Session – 9.00am-10.30am
February 2018	
Wednesday 7 th	Year 3, 4 and 5 Chinese New Year Workshop – details to follow
Thursday 8 th	Reception (FS2) Sharing Assembly
	FRoGS Valentine Disco – timings TBC
Friday 9th	INSET DAY
Monday 12th – 16th	HALF TERM
Monday 19th	Start of Term – School starts at 8.50am, doors open at 8.40am
Thursday 22 nd	Year 5/6 League Football Match at Meadowvale
Friday 23 rd	Year 3/4 Indoor Athletics Tournament
Monday 26 th	Year 4 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum – details to follow
March 2018	
Thursday 1 st	Year 5/6 Football at St Michaels, Sandhurst
Monday 5 th	Year 4 Exhibition – 2.30pm-3.00pm
Tuesday 6 th	Year 4 Party exploring foods from Roman and Saxon times
Wednesday 7 th	Year 5/6 Girls Football Tournament
Thursday 8 th	Year 3 Trip to Highclere Castle to see the Egyptian Exhibition – details to follow
	Year 5/6 League Football at Wooden Hill
Wednesday 14 th	Year 5/6 Hockey Tournament
Thursday 15 th	Year 5/6 League Football at Wildridings
Thursday 22 nd	Year 5/6 League Football at Binfield
Wednesday 28 th	Reception (FS2) Teddy Bears Picnic – more info to follow
Thursday 29th	END OF TERM – School finishes at 2.15pm
Friday 30 th	FRoGS Easter Egg Hunt – timings TBC



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Feedback Form

Please let us know your thoughts on school life... You can tell us anything, for example:

Well done, I really like...

Please pass on my thanks to...

My child says it is really good when...

I would like more information on...

Can I have some help with...

I am unhappy about...

Please try to improve by...

I can help in the school with...



My child is in Year _____

Name: _____ (optional)