

Tuesday 24th November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

November Newsletter

Crikey it turned cold yesterday!! Christmas is well and truly on its way...

Good news on the Parent View front (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>); we are now up to 14 responses from parents. So thank you very much to those of you in that group! It would be greatly appreciated if more of you could join them...

Thank you!

1. Mrs Troth would like to thank everyone who came in on 4th November to talk about their jobs. The children (and staff!) found it really interesting and it was exactly the right inspiration for the letter writing that followed. You can see examples of these in the reading area outside Buds class. The originals have been sent off and we now wait to see whether anyone from Halstead was a winner!
2. Miss Buxton and I would like to thank everyone who came up to Coolings Green and Pleasant on 12th November to sing to the shoppers at their charity Christmas shopping event. The children sang really well. I should also like to thank anyone who bought something and nominated Halstead as their chosen charity. We were sent a cheque for £20 by Coolings last week as our proceeds from those sales.

Staff News

Mrs Dunkerley has handed in her notice and will be leaving Halstead at the end of this term. I should like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of the hard work she has put into the school and her expertise with supporting early readers, in particular, will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in the future.

PAFA Update

Following the PAFA AGM, the new committee is as follows:

Chair:	Rachel Fisher
Secretary:	Fay Hirst
Treasurer:	Katherine Stevenson

You will already have had notice of their first event. Watch out for more news in the coming weeks.

Governor News

Hello everyone, it's been awhile since I've written a newsletter to you all and unfortunately it's all about uniform, again. We've seen quite a few P.E. t-shirts in house colours appearing but you should know certain colours of both shirt and logo are incorrect. This is the one piece of uniform with our logo we must ask comes from our Tesco uniform site so that we're all just that, uniform in both appearance and colour. House colours are as follows:

Churchill - Royal blue

Darwin - Bottle green

Nesbit - Red

Please note P.E. shirts for district sports are still white. These shirts are all available on our uniform site at a cost of £3.50 for sizes 8 to 12 or £4.50 for sizes 13 to 16. There is also a hooded fleece jacket available with school logo which is perfect now that the weather is getting colder, these are available at £9 each also with our school logo. Orders from the website are taking anywhere between one and two weeks to arrive and some have received their order in as little as four days.

Now onto a little bit more about the Tesco uniform site, not only was a lot of time and work spent putting this together but it's beneficial for our school as well. 5% of what we spend as parents gets donated back to our school which is then put back into our children in the form of school supplies for the classroom. The more we use the uniform site, the more gets donated, the more our children benefit. Delivery costs are just £2 but if you spend over £15, which is quite easy to do, delivery is free directly to your home. Both embroidered and non embroidered items can be ordered at the same time and of course you get your clubcard points too. If you would like to see what any of the uniform looks like please come see me so you can have a look at Hannah or Rhys.

We have also been seeing incorrect uniform colours particularly with the girls dresses/skirts and socks/tights, including myself with my daughter wearing the wrong colour dress! Girls should be wearing navy blue dresses and skirts, socks are white or navy blue and tights are grey or navy blue. Sports kit should be a shirt in house colours, only from Tesco as stated above or white shirts for district sports. Joggers and/or shorts are navy blue and white or black trainers should be worn. For full uniform details please see our school website, the uniform guidelines are under the 'Parents' tab to the left of the home screen and there is a link to our Tesco uniform site at the bottom of the page.

This is all from me this time but if you have any questions or concerns please see myself or Mr Hawkins!

Holli Wiggins

Pick-Up and Drop-Off

Just another reminder from me that if you are not collecting your child(ren) in person, you must let the school know; preferably in writing but a phone call would be acceptable. Without either of these, teachers will not release children to other adults. Longstanding arrangements, where the school already have written notification, don not need new notices to the school.

Forthcoming dates

4 th Dec.	3.30-5.00 PAFA Christmas Crafts event
8 th Dec.	3.15-3.45 Parents invited to look at books/work and school displays
9 th Dec.	Christmas Lunch
10 th Dec.	Whole school pantomime trip – afternoon
11 th Dec.	OAK Class 'Race to Number 1' assembly/performance
15/16 th Dec.	Nativity performances (<u>both</u> during the school afternoon)
18 th Dec.	End of Term 2
19 th Dec.	Choir at 'The Three Horseshoes'
4 th Jan.	Staff INSET Day
5 th Jan.	Term 3 begins for the children
6 th Jan.	Flu vaccinations (nasal spray) Years 1 & 2
12 th Feb.	Term 3 ends

Best wishes,

Leslie Hawkins