

AUTUMN TERM

Excite, Explore, Excel

I am writing to you on behalf of all the staff here at Holyhead to thank you for such a good start to this academic year. It has been a busy but successful half term with many aspects of school life that have contributed to this but there are a number of highlights that particularly come to mind, including the arrival of our school chicks, year 2's research into our local history and year 5's art day, with all addressing for the occasion. Hopefully, your children have been sharing some of the knowledge, skills and experiences they have engaged in over the last 7 weeks. I'm very proud of the hard work, dedication and creative thinking observed in each and every classroom. The behaviour of all our children during visitors and trips have been exceptional and praised by all external staff. A big well done to our year 3 and 4 classes for enlightening us all this week during their first class assemblies. I would also like to thank all the families who have joined us during stay and play, working alongside, family forum, parents evening and assemblies. Your support is appreciated greatly.



Attendance

Nursery	— 92%
Reception	— 96%
Year 1	— 91%
Year 2	— 95%
Year 3	— 97%
Year 4	— 91%
Year 5	— 97%
Year 6	— 94%



Pastoral Update

Online Gaming

According to the latest McAfee study, 63% of children aged 2 – 17 have a game console, PC, or smartphone for online gaming and 62% of children that play games online are speaking to other people online during the game. Some will be friends that they are playing with, but the majority of the people they are chatting with, are strangers.

Most of these gamers have no malicious intent, but there are hackers, scammers and worse, predators online as well. All it takes is one of these people to exploit your child's naivety and innocence to take advantage of them.

Not only this they could also be exposed to their personal information being traced as well becoming a victim to cyberbullying.

Parents beware and be informed and educated. Set rules, check what they are playing and limit screen time. Most important, communicate and protect your children!

The SMART Rules for E-Safety – Education and Training UK

Halloween – Stay Safe!

Hard Fact: On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

As the spooky season approaches, we ask you to keep yourselves safe with a few simple tips:

1. Wear light or reflective colours to help children see and be seen by drivers in the dark.
2. Adults to join children under age 12 for trick-or-treating.
3. Adults - Slow down and be alert! Children are excited on Halloween and may dart into the street. Turn on headlights early in the day to spot anyone from further away.
4. Remind children to cross the street at crossings where possible.
5. Costume - make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls. Choose face paint over masks when possible. Masks can limit vision.



Anti-social behaviour

our local policing team are going to be working with schools in the area to educate the children on how to keep themselves safe and what to be aware of if they are out and about in the community.

anti-social behaviour is defined in law as "behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household".

more crimes are committed against young people than any other age group, but here are some things they can do to keep safe on the streets:

- stay alert, and keep music turned off, so they can hear what's going on around them
- stick to busy, well-lit roads, and avoid short cuts through alleyways
- if your child thinks someone is following them, they should cross the road or go to a place with lots of people around, like a shop
- if someone tries to take something from your child, tell them never to fight to get it back as they could be seriously injured
- tell them to keep mobile phones and other valuables out of sight
- encourage your child to speak up if they are being targeted or feel they might be in danger

We are aware from our PCSO team that often there is gatherings of older children in local parks, being rowdy or using off road bikes for example. If you are allowing your child out after school, please encourage your child to stay away from these groups. Young children are particularly vulnerable to gang related activity and therefore at risk of exploitation.

Vouchers

This half term, Sandwell council are offering a £15 supermarket voucher for children eligible for free school meals and for families who have no recourse to public funds. School will be contacting families that are eligible and will send the details out on how to claim it.

For those unable to access online, school can provide a printed paper copy.

Please call us on 0121 556 0114 if you have any queries.

Further information for services available during half term can be found at

www.sandwell.gov.uk/half

Please have a wonderful break and we look forward to welcoming you back after half term!



