

Newsletter: March 2016

Dear parents and carers,

What a wonderful start to the year! There is a craze for making paper planes at the moment: many of the children have displayed impressive skills at making the planes fly fast and furious, or spin in the air. It has been great fun watching them. At breakfast club, we have a makeshift ice rink on the playground, as the children (and the adults!) are having fun skidding around on the frosty surface. Another big love is skipping: the record (held by Noah) is over 600 skips. Kaitlyn skips with her eyes closed and spins around at the same time! Isobel is leading the plans to raise money for charity at The Bell House ... watch this space! There are so many things going on: robots being made, plays performed, new dens designed, castles and garages being built. We love to see children happily and freely playing and we welcome visits any time!

THE HOLLY TREE CLUB



Out of School
Childcare Specialists



Welcome Florence!

We are very happy to welcome Florence as our new deputy manager at The Bridge. Florence has a very successful background in sales and marketing as well as being a French teacher. Florence's daughter Lou is in year 1 at Halstow School. Bienvenue Florence!



February holiday club

We had six primary schools represented at our February holiday club! All the children got on very well with each other and it makes us so happy when new friendships are struck!

Over Monday and Tuesday of the February half term we were grateful for the hospitality of the National Maritime Museum. We made personalised crowns, globes with marbling inks, went on self-led trails and used the I Pads. We had our own dedicated workshops, facilitators and lunch space. We look forward to curators from the Museum coming to visit us at The Bridge and at The Bell House during our after school club time to run workshops based around current themes at the Museum. Thank you to the National Maritime Museum!



Holiday clubs in the Easter and summer holidays

Easter holiday club: Monday 4 April Friday 8 April 8am to 6pm

Summer holiday club: Monday 22 August to Friday 2 September 8am to 6pm

We are running our very popular holiday clubs over the Easter and summer holidays. We meet at The Bridge, East Greenwich Pleasaunce at 8am for breakfast or at 9am and we go on a day trip to a local area of interest, returning to The Bridge at 3pm for a snack provided by us and arts and crafts, sports, puzzles, games, den building and many other free play activities. We love paddling in the stream at Ladywell Fields, going on the zipwire at Mudchute Farm, setting up camps in Oxleas Woods and doing craft activities at the National Maritime Museum, without forgetting collecting stones and bones on Greenwich 'beach' and visiting the Winter Garden at Avery Hill Park. Costs are £35 9am to 6pm, or £40 8am to 6pm with breakfast. There is a 10% discount for 3 or more days booked or for siblings (one discount applies per family). If you would like to book a place at either holiday club, please download the registration forms here: <http://www.thehollytreeclub.com/holiday-club-registration-form/> and email them to Holly at thehollytreeclub@hotmail.com.



Snack menu

You may recall that we introduced a new two week snack menu last year; on careful listening to all our children, we have decided to adapt it slightly so as to accommodate all tastes whilst ensuring our menu remains healthy. We have two fruit and two vegetable options each day and all our sandwiches are made with wholemeal brown bread. We provide rice cakes, breadsticks and corn thins. Our new menu is attached to this newsletter.



If we collect your Halstow child following an extracurricular club eg. Spanish, cricket, drama etc and the club is not running, we will always make sure we collect your children at the end of the school day at 3.30pm. There is no extra charge for this service 😊

Parent feedback

Thank you so much for the feedback we have received from you so far. It really helps us to improve our practice. Recently one parent told us that she greatly appreciates being able to arrive at the gates to the Pleasaunce on Chevening Road to collect her children straight away. No waiting around to collect coats and bags! With that in mind, we think it may be helpful for parents if we continue to bring children down to the gate from The Bridge at their chosen pick up time: 4.30pm, 5pm, 5.30pm or 6pm even when the gates to the Pleasaunce are open. If you arrive early or wish to collect your child from The Bridge, please feel free to walk up! At The Bell House we are proposing getting the children ready to go a couple of minutes before your chosen pick up time. Please let us know if this is something you would like.

Attached to this newsletter is a newly designed feedback form and we would be very grateful for your comments. We are always striving to meet your needs and wishes as closely as possible!

Wishing you a very happy Spring, from all of us

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