Dear parents and carers,

The imagination of children knows no ends and we have benefitted from seeing that in action at club this term! Dens, elastic slime, mud pies, hairdressing, foot spa and total wipeout spring to mind!

**September 2017 breakfast and after school club**
For the new school year in September 2017, we will assume you would like to continue with the breakfast and after school club sessions your children currently do unless you tell us otherwise. If you would like to make changes please let us know as soon as you can so we can ensure there is a space on the day you would like.

**Holiday clubs 2017/18**
The holiday clubs for all of next school year are available to book now. The booking form is attached to this email and is also available on the website. We do tend to get full early on so it is a good idea to book in advance if you can.

**Polling Day Thursday 8 June – holiday club day!**
On Thursday 8 June, 44 children from Halstow and Meridian went to Avery Hill Park. We had such a great day playing cricket, football, visiting the winter garden, playing in the playground and then back at The Bridge, where children from Millennium and St Mary Magdalene joined us, building dens, doing arts and crafts and water play. It was like having a huge play date! It was particularly lovely to welcome lots of new faces, thank you for coming!

**Summer holiday club: Monday 21 August to Wednesday 6 September 8am to 6pm**
We have a couple of new venues to add to our list of places for days out during the summer. Please see the attached trip information and booking form if you are interested. Costs are £35 from 9am or £40 from 8am with breakfast until 6pm. A 10% discount is applicable for four or more days booked or for siblings (one discount applies per family).
Grass ... at the Bell House! (left)

Some of us being creative during our annual 3 hour training session! (below right)
Welcome to Natalie, Agnes and Manpreet
At the end of last term we said a sad goodbye to Lucy Nisbet who is training to become a primary school teacher: ‘My time at THTC has been a great experience! From the very start the staff and children were extremely friendly. I have gained confidence in working with children and developed my knowledge in how children learn through play.’
We welcome Natalie, Agnes and Manpreet to our team as well as their children Nyla, Tymon and Kosma, and Sophie, who come to club too. Natalie: ‘To become a new member of such a welcoming and professional organisation, having just completed my university degree, has had such a positive impact on me already. I knew it would be a great place to work as my daughter attends THTC after school and loves both staff and children. The atmosphere is brilliant and no two days are the same’. Agnes: ‘I love taking on new challenges and it is great to see how the children grow and how much they enjoy their time at the club’. Manpreet: ‘It feels great to feel genuinely valued and to form relationships with the children and their parents. It’s lovely watching the children at circle time as they all want to participate and learn to try out new things’.

Celebrating our children’s cultures
We have been so happy to learn and celebrate some of the cultural backgrounds of our children: at Easter Sofia and Theo, Niamh and Orlaith taught us about Greek Easter and how it is celebrated; Mishika brought in some sweets for Diwali; Chloe some home-made daal, Olaf some Polish sweets and Uma a hibiscus drink from Mexico. Susanna told us that in Holland people celebrate Sinterklaas with presents on 5 December, instead of on 25 December. We love to hear about the children’s adventures and welcome postcards or other souvenirs for the children to show at circle time.

We can meet your last minute childcare needs
We have built-in capacity to account for last minute emergency childcare. All you need to do is text/call/email Holly on 07971 215411 (or email as below) and we will be happy to accommodate your needs as much as possible. However, as we will have reached or be close to approaching capacity in September, we will not be able to continue doing swaps eg. swapping a Thursday for a Tuesday as a one-off. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any dolls, tarpaulins, pop-up tents, mats, tunnels or other items that you are getting rid of, please consider us! We would gladly take them off your hands!

Please do get in touch if you have any feedback. We are always keen to do the best we possibly can for your children and for you!

Wishing you a super sunny summer, The Holly Tree Club

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