



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Halley House School, Welcome back to the start of the Summer term! We hope you enjoyed a fun-packed Easter break and are feeling refreshed for the term ahead. We have another busy term ahead, including some exciting visitors in the next few weeks (including children from other BPET schools) and swimming lessons at the start of May. We will also be continuing with our efforts to develop our outdoor playground space – this will include another working party, hopefully in better weather! Children will be planting and tending to all sorts of seeds, including the ones we are expecting next week from space! We are also looking forward to trialling the use of the caged court on the Hindle House estate for some of children’s supervised playtimes during the school day – full details will follow. Please note the date of our next Open Evening; an informal chance for you to catch up on your child’s progress.

Claire Syms



Reception Admissions 2016

We are holding a further series of Open Mornings for families still looking to secure a Reception place for this September. Our next series of Open Mornings follow Primary National Offer Day on Monday 18th April 2016, and are on the following dates, from 9.30-10.30am:

- Monday 25th April
- Monday 9th May
- Monday 16th May

If any current parents would like to join the Open Mornings to share your positive experiences of Halley House to date, please let Ms Lim know.

Attendance & Punctuality

Asteroid Class	Comet Class
Attendance: 93.4%	Attendance: 94.6%
Punctuality: 100.0%	Punctuality: 96.4%

Diary Dates

- Monday 11th April**
 - First day back of Summer term
- Tuesday 12th April**
 - Little Stars Stay & Play 9-11am
- Thursday 14th April**
 - Forest Schools @ Butterfield Green
- Tuesday 19th April**
 - Owl Time! Real life owls come to visit Halley!
- Monday 25th April**
 - Open Morning for Reception Admissions 2016
- Friday 29th April**
 - Science Dome – Space & Dinosaurs!
- Monday 2nd May**
 - Bank Holiday
- Monday 16th May**
 - Parents’ Open Evening
- Friday 27th May**
 - End of Summer 1

SUPER STARS!

Our Super Stars of The Week are:

Asteroid Class:
Eleigh
Tyreese

Comet Class:
Darcy
Roux

Well done for working so hard and being such good role models!

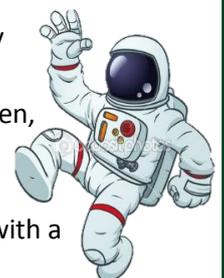
Monday Mission!

This half term’s Missions are all about using our imaginations for our topic ‘Let’s Pretend’. This week, we are imagining what could have been different in some of our favourite stories!

What if not...?

- What if **Cinderella** was not a girl, but a boy?
- What if the **troll** was not angry, but calm and friendly towards the **Three Billy Goats Gruff**?
- What if the **Three Bears** did not leave their house open, but locked the door instead?

Can you make up – or even write! – your own story with a twist?



Maths Homework – Problem Solving

This term the maths activities in the newsletters will be based on problem solving. The activities are designed to be carried out with adults. There are 4 stages of the problem-solving process:

Stage 1: Getting started

Stage 2: Working on the problem

Stage 3: Digging deeper

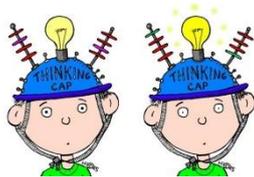
Stage 4: Concluding



By explicitly drawing children's attention to these four stages, and by spending time on them in turn, we can help children become more confident problem solvers.

Here are some useful problem-solving skills: (Each week the maths problem will focus on **one** of these skills and an explanation of each is provided in red before the activity is explained).

- Trial and improvement
- Working systematically (and remember there will be more than one way of doing this: not just the one that is obvious to you!)
- Pattern spotting
- Working backwards
- Reasoning logically
- Visualising
- Conjecturing



In order for children to develop their problem-solving skills, they will need to experience lots of contexts in which to practise each one and to be given lots of opportunities to talk about each one. One of the main ways to help children become confident and competent problem solvers is by offering them plenty of opportunities to practise key problem-solving skills and, importantly, to talk about the skills in context.

For more information, problems to solve and articles related to problem solving please visit:

<http://nrich.maths.org/11082>

Please see the attached 'Heads & Feet' activity to try at home using Trial & Improvement this week.

Scholastic Book Fair



The Scholastic Book Fair proved to be hugely popular and we are delighted that so many families are now enjoying lots of lovely new books together! We managed to exceed our target of £300, which is excellent news and means we will be getting some books for the school, too! These will be for our library on the first floor, which will be taking shape during the course of this term.

Friends Meeting postponed tomorrow

Unfortunately, Ms Duarte has had to postpone the Friends meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. We will send a separate message advising of the rearranged date and time later this week.

New staff members

We are delighted to welcome a new part-time teaching assistant, Miss Connie Ioannou, to the Halley House School team. Connie is an experienced and passionate teaching/learning support assistant and has previously worked in schools in the borough. She will be working with both Comet and Asteroid classes. Connie is due to start with us on Wednesday this week, and I am sure you will join us in making her feel part of the HHS community. We are also in the process of recruiting new staff members to join our team from September 2016, as we prepare to welcome a new cohort of children. We have been very impressed with the calibre of applicants we have seen at interview, and will inform you of our appointments once they have been confirmed. There will also be opportunities – for children and adults – to meet new staff ahead of September as part of transition arrangements.

Parent Pay

ParentPay is now up and running correctly – thank you to everyone for your patience and for using the new system successfully! All payments to the school should be made using ParentPay from now on; we *only* take cash for charity events and fundraising.

Mislaid uniform

A number of items of uniform have been mislaid. Please can ALL parents and carers carefully check labels in any items of uniform and PE kit at home to ensure you have the correct ones, and return any that belong to someone else. Thank you!

Swimming lessons



We are in, what we hope are, the final stages of securing swimming lessons for children during the summer term. The lessons will be on Tuesdays at 10.30am, for 30

minutes, at King's Hall Leisure Centre on Lower Clapton Road. We hope to start on Tuesday 3rd May. Full details will be communicated to you in letters sent home with children. Children will be assessed on their water confidence and ability and put into small groups for the sessions, so please do not worry if this will be one of their first swimming experiences! **We will need parent helpers who can commit their time from 9.45am – 11.30am every Tuesday for 10 weeks – please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to assist.**

Incredible Years Parenting Group

The First Steps' Psychology Service will be running a 10 week 'Incredible Years' Parenting Group for parents of all children aged from 5-12 years, who could benefit with practical strategies to foster healthy and positive relationships with their children. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

When Zissou came to visit



Outdoor adventures at Clissold Park and Butterfield Green!

